

**RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING SCHOOL BREAK  
FOR 2002 OLYMPICS**

1998 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Sponsor: Gary F. Cox**

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE ENCOURAGING UTAH SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ARRANGE A SPECIAL RECESS FOR STUDENTS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO ALLOW THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HISTORIC 2002 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES.

*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

WHEREAS Salt Lake City is the host city for the Olympic Winter Games scheduled for February 8-24, 2002, a time period falling within the school year for Utah's public schools;

WHEREAS the XIX Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City will be an historic event, and will present a unique, chance-of-a-lifetime opportunity for residents of Utah and surrounding areas;

WHEREAS the potential educational significance and impact of the Olympic Games is enormous as tens of thousands of Utah's school children see the greatest athletes in the world converge to compete in the Games;

WHEREAS ways could be found to permit Utah's school children to experience this historic event firsthand;

WHEREAS Utah's school children should be afforded the chance to attend activities associated with the XIX Olympic Winter Games without missing any school days;

WHEREAS the special educational opportunities afforded by the Games should be made available to all students regardless of economic status;

WHEREAS Utah's public school personnel should be afforded time to attend activities associated with the Games without missing any contract work days;

WHEREAS since some events will rely on nearby school facilities for parking, holding classes during this time would create significant traffic congestion and other logistical problems interfering with the smooth, professional presentation of the events;

WHEREAS Utah's young workforce may be made available for special student olympic volunteer opportunities during this time period, decreasing the need to import a workforce from other states; and

WHEREAS making the Games accessible to Utah's school children will allow them to participate personally in the history to be made in their home state:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah encourage the State Board of Education to provide flexibility in the number of days school must be held during a week, or the number of hours school must be held during a day in the 2001-2002 school year so that local boards of education can structure school schedules which allow students to participate in activities associated with the Olympic Winter Games and still complete the fulfillment of all education requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourage the Salt Lake Olympic Committee, the State Board of Education, and local school boards to inform parents, teachers, businesses, and communities well in advance of school schedules in order to prepare for the health, safety, welfare, and education of Utah's children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourage the Salt Lake Olympic Committee to work with the state school board, local school boards, parents, and communities to plan and provide educational opportunities designed to encourage Utah's school children to participate in the Olympic experience.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah Board of Regents, the Utah Office of Education, and to each school district in the state of Utah.