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**GREEN SCHOOLS JOINT RESOLUTION**

2010 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Mark A. Wheatley**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This joint resolution of the Legislature encourages the Utah State Board of Education and Utah's school districts to consider ways to establish green schools in the state of Utah.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ encourages the Utah Board of Education to consider the broader application of the design and construction practices for green schools, both for new construction and major renovation projects undertaken with school district funds; and
- ▶ encourages school districts to consider seeking application for certification of green schools under the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system (LEED), or certification under a comparable system with requirements at least equivalent to the LEED Silver certification for new or retrofit construction, or other building performance systems like the United States Department of Energy's ENERGY STAR Program.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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

WHEREAS, deteriorating school infrastructure and poor indoor environmental quality



28 threaten the health, well-being, and achievement of students and staff in the state's public  
29 schools;

30 WHEREAS, current climate and energy challenges compound the structural and  
31 resource deficiencies in many school districts in the state;

32 WHEREAS, green schools are schools that create a healthy environment that is  
33 conducive to learning, while saving energy, resources, and money;

34 WHEREAS, green schools create an environment that supports student learning  
35 through improvements in site selection, daylighting, indoor air quality, thermal comfort,  
36 acoustics, and classroom design, all of which have an impact on a child's ability to learn and a  
37 teacher's ability to teach;

38 WHEREAS, the benefits of superior air quality, a key emphasis of green schools, have  
39 been linked to lower asthma rates, fewer allergies, reduced absenteeism, and increased teacher  
40 retention rates;

41 WHEREAS, according to the United States Green Buildings Council, green schools  
42 consume an average of 30% to 50% less energy compared to conventional schools;

43 WHEREAS, green schools cost less to operate, utilize durable materials, and greatly  
44 reduce water and energy use, which generates significant cost savings;

45 WHEREAS, green schools provide an educational experience that transcends the  
46 classroom by creating a host of opportunities for curriculum innovation and hands-on,  
47 project-based learning in which the building itself becomes an interactive teaching tool;

48 WHEREAS, new schools currently under construction are on track to be among the  
49 first energy net-zero K-12 schools in the nation; and

50 WHEREAS, there are now 30 commitments for green schools working groups and  
51 caucuses as a result of the United States Green Building Council's state legislative conference  
52 in October 2009:

53 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah  
54 encourages the Utah Board of Education to consider the broader application of the design and  
55 construction practices for green schools, both for new construction and major renovation  
56 projects undertaken with school district funds.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages school districts to  
58 consider seeking application for certification of green schools under the United States Green

59 Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system (LEED), or  
60 certification under a comparable system with requirements at least equivalent to the LEED  
61 Silver certification for new or retrofit construction, or other building performance systems like  
62 the United States Department of Energy's ENERGY STAR Program.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the United  
64 States Department of Energy, to the United States Green Building Council, to the Utah State  
65 Board of Education, and to the local school boards of the state's 41 school districts.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
**as of 2-2-10 10:10 AM**

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

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**H.J.R. 20 - Green Schools Joint Resolution**

**Fiscal Note**

2010 General Session  
State of Utah

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**State Impact**

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations.

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**Individual, Business and/or Local Impact**

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.

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