

UEA Priorities for the 2022 Utah Legislative Session



Education Funding

After fulfilling statutory education funding requirements, **address the following funding priorities:**

- Provide at least a **5% increase on the WPU** (est. \$175 million), for a total WPU increase of approximately 7.5% after inflation.
- Enhance funding for students at-risk of academic failure by **increasing weights on the At-Risk Student line item** (est. \$44.2 million).
- Expand optional full-day kindergarten, over three years (est. \$20 million annually).
- Fund **educator-directed flexible preparation and collaboration time** for all licensed educators (est. \$57.5 million).
- **Enhance Special Education funding** by improving the add-on WPU formula used to fund students with disabilities (est. \$3 million).
- **Oppose schemes** that funnel funds intended for public education to personal student accounts or privately-run entities **where taxpayer accountability is lost**.
- Establish a tax system that will deliver **sustainable and growing long-term revenue** to address the chronic underfunding of public education.

Quality Instruction and Student Equity

- Ensure each classroom has an effective teacher by funding strategies to identify and address the root causes of **Utah's critical educator shortage**.
- Invest in **programs that develop a pathway for diverse educators** to the teaching profession, including in rural areas or hard-to-staff subjects and schools.
- Improve teacher retention through comprehensive **educator induction and mentoring programs**.
- Increase resources for **student social and emotional well-being** such as school psychologists, social workers and counselors.
- Invest in educator salaries to **attract the best and the brightest to remain** in the teaching profession.
- **Reduce class sizes** to allow teachers the time needed to reach and inspire individual students and meet **every student's unique learning needs** are met.
- Maintain **high standards for teacher licensure** to ensure that every student has a teacher prepared and qualified to teach on day one.

Education Policy

- Strengthen **accountability standards for charter and online schools** consistent with neighborhood schools, including student performance, governance, educator evaluation and financial accountability.
- Eliminate the overuse of standardized testing and the **misuse of student test scores** to grade schools and impose consequences on schools.
- Ease the **overwhelming workload** heaped on Utah teachers by **reducing the number of education bills** and limiting the number of mandated initiatives.
- Develop a plan for **maintaining investments, programs and progress made** with federal COVID funds.
- **Recognize teachers as experts** on public education issues and consult with them before establishing laws.
- Support the **direct, non-partisan** election of school board members.