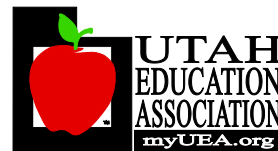




2022 UEA Legislative Summary



'Year of the Educator' ends in significant new public education funding, defeat of bills targeting educators

Despite a turbulent beginning, Utah educators have much to celebrate from the 2022 General Legislative Session. Legislators passed a record Utah public education funding increase for the second straight year. Educators will now be paid for a portion of their work performed outside contract hours. Attempts to widely expand private school vouchers and to make educators publicly post all curricula failed.

Some are calling it 'the year of the educator,' not only because of what was accomplished to support public education, but also because of the influence educators had on outcomes.



Rep. Jefferson Burton and members of the Nebo Education Association at UEA Educator Day on the Hill.

The session began with legislators referring to 2022 as 'the year of the tax cut.' Yet early in the session it became clear tax cuts would take a back seat to legislation targeting educators and public education. After legislators introduced several curriculum 'transparency' bills, private school vouchers, bills affecting our most vulnerable students, and legislation calling into question educator professionalism, educators decided enough is enough.

"Even though continuing COVID restrictions limited our ability to participate at the Capitol, we saw a significant level of UEA member legislative engagement," said UEA President Heidi Matthews. "Educators attended Educator Day on the Hill, participated in local town hall meetings, signed

petitions, rallied at the Capitol and engaged with legislators on a level we've not seen in recent years. It all made a huge difference. It truly was the year of the educator."

Indeed, educators played a considerable role in legislative efforts this year:

- More than 200 educators representing nearly every Utah school district volunteered their time to meet with legislators and share stories about their classroom during [UEA Educator Day on the Hill](#) events held each Friday.
- Nineteen educators volunteered to train and write articles about their experiences as 2022 UEA Policy Ambassadors and eight more participated as the inaugural class of UEA Advanced Policy Ambassadors ([see their articles here](#)).
- Nearly 35,000 signed a petition against a damaging curriculum bill.
- Hundreds braved cold temperatures on the steps of the State Capitol on February 22 "in support of Utah students, educators and families" at a rally organized by the Salt Lake, Granite, Park City, Jordan and Canyons Education Associations.
- Thousands more wrote their legislators to oppose private school vouchers.



Educators, parents and public education supporters rallied at the State Capitol on Feb. 22.



In the end, legislators responded. Bad bills didn't move forward or were substantively changed, and education funding was substantially increased. Following are a few highlights:

Public Education Budget—

The increase in public education funding started even before the 2022 Session began. In December 2021, the Executive Appropriations Committee passed a Base Budget for education that included funding for growth and inflation, amounting to a 2.6% increase in the Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU), the basic funding unit of public education. It also set aside \$72 million for an additional WPU increase. As the session unfolded, UEA advocated for additional funding on the WPU and other funding priorities. The outcome was the second straight year with an overall 6% WPU funding increase.



UEA Legislative Team member Jay Blain and Rep. Dan Johnson present the UEA's request to fund educator-directed time

Funding for Educator Time—

The UEA approached Legislators early in the session asking \$57 million for Educator-directed Flexible Time. Over the last several years educators have expressed frustration with high stress, low morale and lack of time. The UEA collaborated with Rep. Dan Johnson and Rep. Jefferson Moss to create a bill (HB396) for which the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee initially prioritized \$25 million. By the end of the session, this was increased to \$64 million. The increased allocation will equate to about 32-40 paid hours for each licensed educator to be approved by a supervisor for most work-related duties performed outside contract hours. "Since when does the UEA ask for something and the legislature gives us more?" said Matthews. "This result is another testament to the influence of our hard-working educators and a welcomed acknowledgment by the legislature of the stress educators are experiencing."



Rep. Kelly Miles meeting with members of the Weber Education Association.

Private School Vouchers—

A private school voucher bill (HB331) proposed creating a \$36 million voucher program to provide "scholarships" for students to attend private schools, online schools or home school expenses. The UEA expressed strong opposition to the bill because of many structural problems with the design of the program but also because of the fundamental concern about public tax dollars going to private schools with little to no accountability. The bill narrowly passed out of committee on a 6-5 vote, signaling the difficulty the bill would face when voted on by the entire House. Although several substitute versions of the bill were introduced to build support among House members, ultimately it failed on a vote of 22-53. A bill to expand special needs vouchers (SB62) ended up passing both houses. The UEA is asking Gov. Spencer Cox to veto this bill.

Transparency and Curriculum—

On the heels of a resolution to prohibit critical race theory passed in the May 2021 Special Session, numerous bills addressed curriculum "transparency." At least seven bills were introduced, though at the end of the day only one passed and most never even made it out of committee. Proposals ranged from requiring districts to implement a standard process for adopting instructional materials (SB114), to creating new allowances for parents to sue or bring licensing challenges against educators (SB157, SB257) to requiring educators to post syllabi online and inform parents when they deviated from the public syllabus (HB234) to applying "individual liberty" to everything from teacher training to "programs" (HB366). The one bill that did pass (HB374) did so only after being significantly scaled back from the original proposal.



The bill prohibits “sensitive materials” in schools, pornographic materials as already defined in state statute, and requires the State Board of Education to report to the Legislature on complaints about any violations of this prohibition and how districts resolve those complaints.



Nineteen educators volunteered as 2020 UEA Policy Ambassadors and eight more participated as the inaugural class of UEA Advanced Policy Ambassadors.

Early Learning—

Two important early learning bills were a policy focus of the UEA this session. One (HB193) sought to make full-day kindergarten available by 2025 to every family who wanted to participate. After successfully passing the House, a substitute version adopted in a Senate Committee gutted the bill. Ultimately, a fifth substitute version was passed that requires the state board to prioritize new funding for full-day kindergarten to those districts with the greatest need, based on geography, socioeconomic need and several other factors. Another (SB127) creates a coordinated, comprehensive statewide early literacy program. The program incorporates everything from teacher preparation requirements to literacy coaching and professional learning to collecting and disbursing best practices in the science of reading through ULEAD.

Equity and Racial Justice—

With the conversation nationally regarding equity and racial justice, the Legislature addressed several issues. To address “period poverty,” legislation

passed requiring public schools to provide menstrual products free of charge in female or unisex restrooms. The bill (HB162) appropriates about \$4 million over two years and then requires schools to incorporate ongoing costs into their capital budgets by 2025. The International Refugee Committee worked with Rep. Dan Johnson to pass two bills (HB230, HB302) to improve services for refugee students in public schools. These bills improved enrollment procedures and streamlined the process for educators to find translators when having conversations with refugee families. Legislation also passed (SB244) creating a legislative Ethnic Studies Commission to make recommendations to the State Board on incorporating ethnic studies into the core standards. The legislation opens up opportunities for students to learn diverse voices and histories.

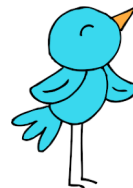
After failing to pass legislation last year addressing trans-athlete participation in sports, Rep. Kera Birkeland tried a new approach. The original bill (HB11) that passed the House early in the session created a commission to determine if a trans athlete could participate in a gender-designated interscholastic activity. A substitute bill, proposed on the Senate floor late in the evening on the Session's final day, creates a total ban on transgender female students participating on girls' sports teams. The Senate passed the substituted bill on a vote of 16-13. The House then concurred with the change on a vote of 46-29 despite Gov. Spencer Cox indicating he will veto the bill.



UEA President Heidi Matthews conducted dozens of media interviews during the Legislative Session.



15 Year Summary of Legislative Victories



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Legislative Victories

TIMELINE OF LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES 2007 – 2022

2007 – Voucher bill was passed but defeated by referendum in November. (4% WPU increase)

2008 – (2.5% WPU increase)

2009 – (0 WPU increase) start of great recession/economic downturn

2010 – HJR 3 Performance Pay Resolution Passed that contained very favorable elements Poulson/H. Stephenson (0 WPU Increase)

2011 – HB 92 created Regional Service Centers. These Centers provide services for many rural districts and some charters. WPU was artificially increased by 9.27% by rolling into it the Social Security and Retirement line item to give local districts flexibility in dealing with budget downturns. WPU was also split into two rates.

2012 – Senator Osmond passed SB 64 Public Education Reform. Collaborative work with all education stakeholders. We also stopped payroll deduction for dues and anti-collective bargaining bills. (0.92% WPU increase)

2013 – HB 362 sponsored by Rep. Dan McCay making negotiating meetings subject to the open meetings law was defeated in committee. (2% WPU increase)

2014 – Establishment of the School Institutional Trust Fund Office; Resolution on Minimizing Testing and its Negative Impacts on Children passed. (2.5% WPU increase)

2015 – Senator Osmond passed SB 97 Property Tax equalization of \$75 million fixed amount. Huge rally for 6.25% was held, filled entire rotunda and all the floors of the Capitol, helped push WPU from 3% to 4%. (4% WPU increase)

2016 – HB 201 Poulson. Cannot use end-of-level assessments for the primary tool for evaluation and compensation of teachers. SB 38 by Howard Stephenson was a big charter funding bill we helped shape. It created a district levy and put it on county tax notices. WPU was brought back to one rate again. (3% WPU increase)

2017 – Defeated a bill sponsored by Sen. Millner, SB 78, that would have required a pedagogical assessment for licensing. (4% WPU increase)

2018 – Our School now funding compromise passes adding property tax equalization and TSSA funding to the basic rate, HB 293. (2.5% WPU increase) Gas tax proposal to the ballot but was soundly defeated.

2019 – Defeated major tax reform bill, HB 441, Rep. Quinn, and tax reform task force was formed. (4% WPU increase)

2020 – HB 357 sponsored by Rep. Spendlove with funding distribution guarantees, growth and inflation, passed. SJR 9 puts 'amendment G' on the ballot to change constitutional guarantee. Regional Service Centers became Agencies so they can receive grants and other items like other LEA's can. (6% WPU increase, later changed to 1.8% during special session due to COVID, every other state saw cuts to education funding)

2021 – At-risk student funding moved to "above the line" and now funded with WPU's. (5.9% WPU increase)

2022 – Stopped bad curriculum bills and a voucher bill. Passed professional paid hours bill (6% WPU increase)

What goes up when the rain goes down?

[Umbrellas.](#)

Membership Update



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We thank **all** AEA members for their efforts and hard work in having conversations with our non-member friends about the many benefits of AEA membership. Your efforts are making a huge difference. As of the publication of this edition of Bookmark, **58 educators have joined the AEA since January 1st. That's right, 58!** Our association is stronger as more educators join with us in advocating for the very best working conditions, which are our classroom conditions.

Have a great Spring Break.

Tom Stauss
UniServ Director
AEA



Membership Is Everybody's Business!



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Brandon Mooradian: Engaging Students and Organizing Educators

Brandon Mooradian is a high school social studies teacher in Zionville, Indiana, and Secretary of the Zionsville Educators Association.



I caught the education bug at an early age. My mom ran a daycare through our church, and when I was still young, I spent time working with the elementary-aged students, helping them learn how to read, write, and do basic math. That's what drew me toward education.

I've been a teacher for 13 years now—eight years as a special education teacher and five years as a social studies teacher. I teach world history and AP U.S. history. As a social studies teacher, the most rewarding part of my day, as cheesy as it may sound, is making history come alive for students. When I teach world history, I want my students to understand that it's the story of all humanity.

I think education is one of the noblest occupations that anyone can pursue, but it takes a certain kind of person to do it. With the support of my unions — I've been able to see the benefits of engagement for both myself and the local community. And I think that's an important takeaway.

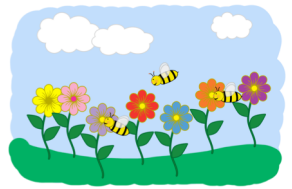
Being in a union is not just about helping ourselves, but about helping everyone.

My dad, grandfather, and uncle were all members of the United Auto Workers, and I grew up in a community in Michigan where I saw firsthand how being a part of the union benefited my entire family. So, going into education, it was a no-brainer for me to join the union. When I started working at my current, I saw the number of hours that went into negotiations and the relationships that were built between administrators and teachers because of the union. I'm lucky enough to be part of a community where the administration and the union work very well together. It's not collective bargaining; it's collaborative bargaining. We do a darn good job of it, and it really impacts everyone in the community in a positive way.

Right now, I'm ZEA's secretary and I'm also on their bargaining committee. I also help our state union, ISTA, with member organizing. That entails knocking on doors, having conversations, and building relationships with fellow educators.

When I have a conversation with someone, it doesn't always end with them instantly joining the union or seeing the benefits of it. But getting to know someone by listening to their perspective and having them listen to mine usually creates common ground over time. While they might not join the union for a year or two, one day they'll come to knock on my door and say, 'I'm ready to join, I'm starting to see the benefits of it for me.'

Why did the farmer bury his money?
To make his soil rich!



EEL Spring Campaign has started! April 1 – August 10, 2022 all non-members can join for **free dues** until September. Any AEA member who brings in a member can earn a **\$50 Amazon gift card (from UEA) and a \$25 check (from AEA)**. That's \$75! If you would like an EEL membership form or more information please email:

Tom Stauss at tom@alpineuniserv.org

or

Angie Chipman at angie@alpineuniserv.org



SPRING CAMPAIGN

2022

**RECRUIT TODAY!
BELONG NOW**

*Earn a \$50 Amazon gift card for
each new member you recruit
through Early Enrollment
(April 1) by Aug 10, 2022*

Rules & Eligibility:

- ALL ORIGINAL applications must be in to UEA Headquarters by Aug 10. Amazon gift cards will be e-mailed directly shortly after.
- Make sure we have your updated email address!
- Recruiters must be UEA members.
- Early Enrollment signups are eligible. Active Educator 2022 Applications received from April 1 – August 10, will also qualify!
- Only ONE name may be entered as the recruiter - UEA will not split \$50 gift.

For additional information and eligibility requirement visit www.myuea.org/RecruitToday



What did the tree say when it first saw spring?
What a re-leaf!



My Grandma's Orange Rolls

5 boys baker

Time: 20 minutes

INGREDIENTS

Dough:

- 1 1/2 tablespoons yeast
- 1/4 cup warm water
- 1 1/4 cups milk
- 1/2 cup butter, cut into chunks
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 tablespoon salt
- 5 cups flour

FILLING:

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- Zest of 1 orange

FROSTING: (optional, but highly recommended)

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 2 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 1/2 to 1 tablespoon orange zest, depending on how strong you want the orange flavor
- 4 to 5 tablespoons half & half
- A squeeze or two of fresh orange juice

INSTRUCTIONS

Dough:

In a small bowl, mix yeast and warm water. Set aside.

In a small saucepan, heat milk and butter over low heat until butter is mostly melted and milk is warm (don't let it get too hot or begin to simmer).

Pour milk mixture into the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the dough hook.

Add eggs, sugar, and salt to milk mixture and mix until combined. Add yeast and flour, one cup at a time. Mix until combined and smooth. ***You might not use all the flour or you might need to add a little more. You want a soft dough, but not super sticky.**

Divide dough in half. On a floured counter top, roll out each half into a rectangle (about 14 x 10) and spread each half with half of the orange filling. Starting with long edge, roll up dough tightly without stretching the dough too much and pinch the seams to seal. Cut into 10 to 12 equal pieces (I like to use dental floss or a piece of thread to do this). Repeat with other half of dough. Place rolls into a greased muffin tins and let rise for 3 hours.

Bake at 375 degrees for 10-12 minutes or until they start to turn golden brown.

Let rolls cool for about 5 to 6 minutes and frost with orange frosting if desired.

FILLING:

In a bowl, combine the softened butter, sugar and orange rind. Mix until well combined and then spread on top of rolled out dough.

FROSTING:

Combine all ingredients and mix with a hand mixer until smooth. You can adjust half & half to get it to the consistency you like.





Chocolate Marshmallow Cookies

Life In The Lofthouse
Total Time 24 minutes
Servings [24](#)

Ingredients

1/2 cup butter-flavored shortening
3/4 cup granulated sugar
3/4 cup milk (I use 2%)
1 large egg
1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract
1 ¾ cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
12 large marshmallows, halved



Frosting:

3 Tablespoons salted butter, softened
2 cups powdered sugar
2 Tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
tiny pinch of salt
1/4 cup milk

Instructions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper; set aside. Place the shortening and sugar in a large bowl. Using an electric hand-mixer, beat together on medium speed until combined and fluffy. Slowly beat in milk, egg and vanilla extract until just combined. In a separate medium bowl, combine flour, cocoa powder, salt and baking soda. Whisk to sift together. Slowly add this dry mixture into the wet mixture until combined. Scoop heaping tablespoons of batter onto the prepared baking sheets. You should get 24 cookies total. Bake for 7 minutes.

Remove from oven and place one half marshmallow, cut side down, onto each warm cookie. Place cookies back in oven and bake another 2 minutes. Remove from oven and let cookies cool on the baking sheets.

Frosting: Place the butter and powdered sugar in a medium bowl. Using an electric hand-mixer, beat until combined. Beat in the cocoa powder and salt until smooth. Slowly mix in the milk until frosting reaches a thin, pourable consistency.

Pour one tablespoon of frosting over each marshmallow on the cooled cookies. Serve and enjoy!