

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated January 2016

Question: How is the USOE's Annual Report related to School Trust Lands?

Answer: It is not; the Legislature requires the Annual Report.

Question: We understand there is a Utah Association for School Community Councils (UASCC). How will the UASCC training be different from SITLA training offered by the USOE?

Answer: UASCC training will go more in depth, and it will be a good opportunity to network with other SCCs to see what works for them. See UASCC training options at <http://tinyurl.com/UASCC2016>

Question: How should boards lobby for more funding in the Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU)?

Answer: School boards and school employees don't really "lobby" but they advocate. Make sure you know the role of Trust Lands and can ensure that School Community Councils are operating and allocating funds correctly.

Question: What about the needed constitutional amendment change on how the investment provides money for schools? What will its effect be?

Answer: The constitutional change is more of a language change than anything. "Distribution" will now be defined as "other income". It also adds cap to distribution formula up to 4%. Allows fund to grow, as currently we are only using about 2%.

Question: Do unused funds stay in the Trust?

Answer: Yes

Question: Is there a way to protect Trust Lands from becoming federal lands?

Answer: Right now, there are no guarantees. Congressman Rob Bishop works hard to try to protect Trust Lands and tries to trade them for fair value land rather than have them subsumed under federal lands. SITLA's job is to protect Trust Lands and get usable lands in exchange if exchange is necessary.

Question: Previously the USOE provided more of the checks and balances related to Trust Lands plans. Is that still the case?

Answer: No, recently Trust Lands "governance" was changed to put more responsibility on local school boards. The USBA's Master Boards Award (MBA) requirement of annual training will help to ensure good governance.