

**2015 Legislature
Summary of Bills
USBA/USSA/UASBO Positions**

Bill	Position Taken	Outcome
HB30 Math Teacher Training Program Amendments R. Edwards Expands the grant program for teacher training in math by allowing a grant to be used to provide a stipend, professional development, and leadership opportunities to an experienced mathematics teacher to assist the teacher in becoming a teacher leader. No request for funding http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/hbillint/HB0030.pdf	HOLD	
HB33 American Indian-Alaskan Native Education Amendments J. Draxler Enacts a chapter providing for an American Indian-Alaskan Native Education State Plan and providing for a liaison appointment by several state agencies and the State Board of Education, as well as creating the American Indian-Alaskan Education Commission (including specific membership) and establishing the duties of the Commission. State plan shall address the educational achievement gap of the state's American Indian-Alaskan Native students and the bill specifies the conditions of adoption of the plan by the State Board. The liaison will work under the direction of the State Superintendent in the development and implementation of the state plan. The Commission shall be dissolved on December 31, 2015 following development and initiation of the plan. No request for funding http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0033.html		
HB49 S1 Clean Fuel School Buses and Infrastructure S. Handy Allows State Board to appoint a committee to review applications and make recommendations to grant awards to replace school buses manufactured before 2002, install an alternative fueling station, and retrofit a bus shop to service alternative fuel buses. Reporting requirements, qualifying criteria, and matching funds must be met by local schools and districts and buses must be purchased within two years of receiving grant. Replaced buses must be made permanently inoperable. The State Board shall facilitate training for bus drivers and shop technicians on buses that use alternative fuel. Education Fund request, one-time: \$20,000,000 http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/hbillint/HB0049.pdf	SUPPORT	
HB54 S1 Public Education Increased Funding Program J. Draxler Increases the income tax rate imposed on an individual's state taxable income from 5% to 5.5% and creates the Income Tax Growth Account within the Education Fund for deposits from new taxation. Subject to legislative appropriation, requires the State Board to distribute new funding to LEAs through the Pay for Performance Incentive Pay Program (50%) and the Digital Teaching (25%), Learning Technology Program, and to fund salary increases for educators under an existing salary adjustment program (25%). The board shall distribute money appropriated for the Pay for Performance Incentive Pay Program to an LEA in proportion to the number of full time equivalent classroom teacher positions in the LEA as compared to the total number of full-time equivalent classroom teacher positions in LEAs statewide. The Digital Teaching and Learning Technology Program fund distribution shall be based upon the October 1 count in charter schools and USDB, and a \$50,000 base plus formula for district schools. Bill's intent is to generate new funding http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/hbillint/HB0054.pdf	SUPPORT	

HB67 Grants for Digital Learning J. Anderegg

Provides grants for LEAs for the purchase of digital content and hardware, professional development for educators, and peripherals and networking equipment. LEAs must provide 25% of the grant award in matching funds. Establishes participation and reporting requirements. Sets a repeal date of 2025.

Education Fund request, ongoing: \$10,000,000

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/hbillint/HB0067.pdf>

HOLD

HB68 Student Privacy Act J. Anderegg

Creates the Student Privacy Act, allowing a student or the student's parent to authorize the collection and release of certain student data. Prohibits LEAs from releasing certain information from students under certain circumstances. Requires an LEA to provide a student data disclosure to parents and students at the beginning of each school year or at the time of enrollment. Requires the State Board to establish data collection and release requirements and to designate a student privacy coordinator to oversee the protection of student data. Requires an education entity or third party contractor to collect, use and store data in accordance with certain security measures and establishes related penalties.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/hbillint/HB0068.pdf>

HB69 S1 English Language Arts Instructional Tool C. S. Moss

Requires State Board, through an RFP, to select one or more technology providers (that collectively meet all the established criteria) of an English language arts instructional tool (for reading and writing) to be used as a supplement to English language arts instruction. Provider must meet certain criteria outlined in bill. Provides for the competitive distribution of licenses. State Board must report on the tool, including student learning gains on statewide achievement tests attained as a result of using the tool.

Education Fund request, ongoing: \$1,000,000

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0069.html>

HOLD

HB70 Posting Political Signs on Public Property B. Daw

Provides that a local government entity, a local government officer, a local government employee, or another person with authority or control over public property that posts or permits a person to post a political sign on public property shall permit any other person to post a political sign on the public property, subject to the same requirements and restrictions imposed on all other political signs posted on the public property, and prohibits same from imposing a requirement or restriction on the posting of a political sign on public property if the requirement or restriction is not politically neutral and content neutral. The bill includes institutions of higher education, school districts, public schools, including charter schools.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0070.html>

HB73 Nepotism Amendments B. Cutler

Prohibits a public officer from employing a relative, which includes a grandparent, stepchild, and grandchild.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0073.html>

HB77 Post Retirement Employment R. Cunningham

The Utah Retirement Office may not cancel the retirement allowance of a retiree who is reemployed with a participating employer after 60 days of the retiree's retirement date if the retiree does not received any of the following employer provided benefits for the reemployment: retirement benefits including any retirement related contributions from a participating employer, or paid time off, including sick, annual, or other types of leave; and the employee is reemployed by a different agency. The reemployed employee may receive medical and dental and other insurance benefits, including workers' compensation and there is no cap on reemployment wages.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0077.html>

SUPPORT

HB81 S2 Local School Board Meetings Requirement C. Hall

Requires a local school board to hold the local school board's public meetings within the geographic boundary of the local school board's school district, unless it is necessary for the local school board to hold a meeting during a disaster or local emergency or for a site visit that relates to the board's responsibilities and where no vote or other action is taken. Charter schools are exempted in the bill.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0081.html>

UNNECESSARY, LOCAL ISSUE

HB93 School District Amendments C. Hall

Provides that a qualifying city or interlocal agreement participant may not submit for voter approval a measure to create a new school district if the results of a feasibility study (components stipulated in the bill on lines 311-327) show that the five-year projected average annual revenue of the proposed new school district exceeds the five-year projected average annual cost of the proposed new school district by more than 5%.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0093.html>

HB109 Expungement of Administrative Action B. Greene

Records created or maintained at an agency for an investigation of an individual, resulting from a complaint, may be expunged upon petitioner application, if the investigated individual has not committed a legal violation. The agency must respond in writing within 30 days. Notwithstanding these provisions, an expunged record in this part may be used internally by the agency, shared by the agency with the law enforcement or a court, shared with another agency if that agency agrees to prevent public access to the record or distributed by the agency as directed by court order.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0109.html>

NO POSITION

HB113 Dual Enrollment Amendments D. Sanpei

A dual enrollment student means a student who is enrolled in a private or a home school; and a public school. A dual enrollment student is subject to the same rules and requirements that apply to other students' participation in the activity or program. For activities or programs that are designated as full-time, a dual enrollment student may participate on a part-time basis.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0113.html>

HOLD

HB114 Test Preparation Resources B. Last

Requires the State Board, through an RFP process, to provide an online program to prepare students to take AP exams and the college placement test most commonly used in higher education institutions. AP online prep shall be available to students who take AP courses and college placement test prep shall be available to students who are admitted to a higher education institution and are required or elect to take a college placement test.

Education Fund request, ongoing: \$1,000,000 (50% to public ed; 50% to higher ed)

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0114.html>

HB118 Public Education Human Resource Management Act Revisions B. Last

Modifies definition of “unsatisfactory performance” for career employees to include insufficient or undeveloped skills, lack of knowledge or aptitude and exclude “poor attitude, and insufficient effort”. Modifies remediation types to include training, study, mentoring, or practice and exclude “or greater effort”. If a career employee exhibits both unsatisfactory performance in skills, knowledge or aptitude, and conduct, an employer may dismiss the career employee for cause and is not required to develop and implement a plan of assistance for the career employee.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0118.html>

HB119 Charter School Finance Amendments B. Last

Requires a school district to allocate 25% of district per pupil revenues for each student of the school district who is enrolled in a charter school regardless of the charter school students’ average local revenues. This bill eliminates language that allowed 25% “or the lesser of district per pupil local revenues or charter school students’ average local revenues.”

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0119.html>

HB124 Education Background Check Amendments S. Handy

With a signed waiver from the person whose fingerprints are being registered, Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI) may register fingerprints with the eight-state Western Identification Network (WIN) database and with the rap back system (ongoing status notifications of any criminal history reported) of the FBI. An LEA, the State Board, or private school that enrolls Carson Smith Scholarship students, shall require criminal background checks and ongoing monitoring as a condition for employment or appointment for non-licensed employees, contract employees, a volunteer who will be given significant unsupervised access to a student in connection with the volunteer’s assignment, and a charter school governing board member. Additionally, the school shall collect personally identifying information (see lines 563-570).

An LEA or qualifying private school may not require an individual to pay the background fee unless the individual has passed an initial review and is one of a pool of no more than five candidates for the position.

By September 1, 2018, information shall be collected from individuals who were employed or appointed prior to July 1, 2015.

The State Board shall notify the employing LEA or qualifying private school up receipt of any criminal history information reported on a licensed educator employed by the LEA or private school. The authorized entity shall provide an individual an opportunity to review and respond to any criminal history information received. If an authorized entity decides to disqualify an individual as a result of criminal history information received, the individual may request a review of information received and the reasons for disqualification. An entity may only consider certain types of matters to the extent that

they are job-related (see lines 701-710). Individuals subject to background check must self-report conviction, arrest, or offense information.

On or before September 1, 2015, the State Board and LEAs must update policies related to this bill. After the conclusion of the 2018-19 school year, the Legislative Auditor General shall conduct a review of matters related to this bill.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0124.html>

SUPPORT

HB128 Maintenance of Student Records G. Froerer

A school shall maintain a record that verifies that a parent was notified of an incident or threat to their child at school.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0128.html>

HB134 Tax Credit for Home-Schooling Parent D. Lifferth

Provides a nonrefundable tax credit (from state income tax calculation) for a home schooling parent/guardian of up to \$500/home-schooled child. Requires the Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee to study the tax credit. Retrospective operation beginning January 1, 2015.

No request for funding.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0134.html>

OPPOSE

HB150 Prohibition on Electronic Data Collection Assistance M. Roberts

Directs state political subdivisions, their employees and contractors, to refuse support to any federal agency that collects electronic data within Utah, with penalties of loss of state funding. Provides that any citizen may bring an action to enforce the refusal.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0150.html>

HB163 Student Data Breach Requirements J. Knotwell

Requires the State Board, a local board or charter school governing board, a school district, a public school, or the USDB to notify the parent or guardian of a student if there is a release of the student's personally identifiable student data due to a security breach.

No request for funding.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0163.html>

SUPPORT

HB180 Teacher Salary Supplement Program R. Edwards

Allows a teacher with a bachelor's degree minor in secondary math, integrated science, chemistry, physics, physical science, or general science to qualify for the Teacher Salary Supplement Program.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0180.html>

SUPPORT

HB186 State School Board Membership and Election F. Gibson

Repeals the nominating and recruiting committee and provides that an individual may be placed on the ballot as a nonpartisan candidate for the office of State Board of Education by filing a declaration of candidacy, obtaining at least 2000 signatures of registered voters who reside in the same State Board of Education district as the candidate, including from each school district within that State Board of Education district, at least 300 signatures from registered voters who reside in that school district. signatures, and submitting signatures by the second Friday in April. Election officers shall check

signatures for compliance with law. If more than two candidates qualify to be placed on the ballot for one State School Board district, they shall be placed on the regular primary election ballot. The election officer shall place the names of the two candidates who receive the highest number of votes in the primary election on the general election ballot. Removes the nonvoting members from the State Board of Education and stipulates the Board at 15 members.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0186.html>

SUPPORT

HB197 Educator Licensing Amendments K. Coleman

The State Board shall make rules for an administrative/supervisory license that allows the board to license applicants from a variety of professional backgrounds. The Board may not require that an applicant have a particular graduate degree, hold a teaching license, complete an education leadership graduate program, obtain a professional recommendation solely from a school with an approved preparation program, or have experience in an education field.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0197.html>

OPPOSE

HB198 Strengthening College and Career Readiness P. Arent

Creates the Strengthening College and Career Readiness Program, a competitive grant program for LEAs to enhance the skill level of school counselors to provide college and career counseling. The State Board, in consultation with the Board of Regents, shall develop a identify courses and develop a certificate for school counselors that certifies that a school counselor is highly skilled at providing college and career counseling. Grants shall be used to pay for course fees for courses required to earn the certificate.

Funding request from Education Fund, one-time of \$440,000

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0198.html>

SUPPORT WITH COMMENTS

We need the word “competitive” changed to “qualifying” as it relates to grants so that even our smallest school districts (with no district staff to write grants) can access this training for counselors throughout the state to have the training opportunity. Competitive means that only some children will benefit by this outreach training.

HB203 Teacher Salary Supplement Program Amendments B. Last

Includes computer science or special education teachers as “eligible teachers” for the Teacher Salary Supplement Program. Increases payment to eligible teachers by \$1000 each year through 2021 at which time it tops out at \$10,000. The beginning year will be 2016 which is set at \$5,100 annually for a full-time eligible teacher. Moves the program operation to the State Board.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0203.html>

HB207 Educator Tax Credit S. Eliason

An eligible educator (teacher, instructor, counselor, principal, aide) employed in a qualified school (public elementary or secondary school in Utah, grades K-12) may claim a nonrefundable tax credit against a tax for a qualified expense (materials or equipment used in a classroom). The qualified expense must be included in the educator’s adjusted gross income, not be reimbursed by another person, and the educator must work at least 900 hours during the school year in a qualified school. The tax credit is equal to the lesser of the qualified expense or \$50 per eligible educator. Receipts for qualified expenses must be kept by the educator. Educators may not carry forward or carry back a tax credit. The bill is retroactive to January 1, 2015.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0207.html>

SUPPORT

HB208 School District Postemployment Health Insurance Benefits S. Eliason

Prohibits a school district or charter school from offering postemployment health benefits to new employees who begin employment on or after July 1, 2015. Allows postemployment health care insurance to employees if the district or charter school:

calculates the liabilities associated with postemployment benefits by applying GASB standards

recognizes current payments and all liabilities associated with postemployment benefits

fully funds the annual required contributions associated with the benefits

establishes and implements a plan approved by the school board or governing board to catch up on any unfunded liabilities within no more than 20 years, and

provides for ongoing payments against the postemployment liabilities as employees qualify for postemployment benefits

If a district or school fails to provide these stipulations, the offering of postemployment benefits must cease beginning on the first day of that fiscal year.

No request for funding.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0208.html>

UNNECESSARY

The Utah State Board already monitors this through their rules.

HB210 Early College High Schools V. Peterson

Exempts Early College High Schools that are charter schools with missions to provide a learning program emphasizing advanced science, technology, engineering, and mathematics from the 180 school day requirement. Allows for up to two and one-half of the subject-specific credit hour graduation requirements to be changed to elective credit for a student if the modification is consistent with the student's individualized education program or student education occupation plan and in for credit earned in a science, technology, engineering, mathematics, advanced placement, concurrent enrollment or early college course. Ten weighted pupil units shall be computed for these exempted schools that conducts approved programs in only one career and technical education area.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0210.html>

HOLD

HB213 Safe Technology Utilization and Digital Citizenship in Public Schools K. Stratton

Requires a school district or charter school that purchases educational technology to ensure that adequate on and off campus Internet filtering is in place. Directs a school community council to include safe technology utilization and digital citizenship in its school improvement plan and create a subcommittee to provide education that helps students and parents make smart media choices. The School Community Council may partner with one or more non-profit organizations to fulfill the safe utilization duties. Up to 10% of the school's annual allocation of School LAND Trust Program money may be used to promote safe technology utilization and digital citizenship.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0213.html>

HB231 School Board Levy Amendments K. Powell

Provides that all school districts are subject to the same property tax rate cap for the board local levy, which may not exceed .0025 per dollar of taxable value in any calendar year, retrospective to January 1, 2015.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0231.html>

SUPPORT

HB237 Vision Screening Amendments M. Brown

Requires the Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired to issue a certificate to a volunteer vision screener who successfully complete training provided by the division. Requires a school district or charter school to ensure that a volunteer vision screener holds a certificate issued by the division as a condition of providing vision screening services.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0237.html>

SUPPORT WITH COMMENTS

Some former PTA leaders indicated that it has been difficult to find willing volunteers for vision screening. The training program presents an additional challenge, though, of course, screening takes sufficient ability and schools are willing to check for certificates of training.

HB257 Educator Licensing Modifications N. Thurston

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0257.html>

Changes the language describing educational personnel preparation programs from “approved” preparation programs to “eligible” preparation programs. Defines eligible programs as those that meet Section 53A-6-107 which calls for standards that meet or exceed recognized national standards for preparation of educators, such as those developed by the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education. A level 1 license applicant shall complete an eligible program but the Board may “for good cause” grant a level I license applicant as an exception to such completion. The Board may not require that a higher education or postsecondary institution become Board approved or Board accredited for the institution to offer an eligible preparation program.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0257.html>

HB263 State School Board Powers Modifications N. Thurston

“General control and supervision” as used in the Utah Constitution to describe the State Board’s powers means that the State Board shall direct and manage the public education system as the Legislature defines the public education system; and in accordance with laws made by the Legislature. The Board may interrupt disbursements of state aid to a school district or charter school that fails to comply with state law or rules made by the Board.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0263.html>

HB264 Competency Licensing for Educators D. Lifferth

The Board shall approve at least one competency-based teacher certification program that has issued at least five thousand teaching certifications nationally; or is approved for competency licensing by at least ten other states. The Board shall issue a license if the applicant meets those criteria and holds a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited higher education or postsecondary institution and is certified in at least one subject area in a competency-based teacher certification program. Candidates must also pass a background check. The district or charter school shall monitor and assess the

performance of each teacher holding a competency-based license and may recommend that the holder's training and assessment be reviewed by the Board for a level 1 license.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0264.html>

SB1 Public Education Base Budget Amendments H. Stephenson (Per last official legislative action taken on February 6, 2015.)

Sets the WPU value initially at the same WPU value set for the 2014-15 fiscal year with \$2,726 for the special education and career and technology add-on programs and \$2,972 for all other programs. Sets the estimated minimum basic tax rate at .001416 for fiscal year 2015-16. Takes away funding from several programs:

Year-Round Math and Science (USTAR)	(6,200,000)
To and From Pupil Transportation	(6,000,000)
School Districts Contribute to Higher Percent Of Per Pupil Revenues (property taxes diverted to charter schools at 50% per student)	(20,555,400)
K-3 Reading Improvement	(2,600,000)
Flexible Allocation	(23,106,000)
Concurrent Enrollment	(3,000,000)

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0001.html>

OPPOSE

- The *USTAR* cut directly impacts teachers and students in math and science classrooms. This program is stimulating our economy in every right direction and follows the lead of the Legislature and the Governor in working toward greater student excellence in math and science.
- The cut in *To and From Transportation* diminishes our best, first strike to help student learn by getting them to school.
- The shift of *district property tax revenue to charter school revenue* is a major shift in policy and should be handled by bill, not in budgets. With the shift of revenue going away from generally-elected board members, there is no transparency or accountability to taxpayers in how those revenues are spent. The revenue shift may also cause increased local taxation and it continues to exacerbate public school system division that could be resolved in more positive ways that have been suggested to the State Board by a united group of charter and district leaders.
- The state's *K-3 Reading Program* is directly connected to recent increasing high school graduation rates, as the K-3 Reading program is now bearing the fruit of 10 years of implementation. When students can read by the end of third grade, their likelihood of performing well in academic studies and of graduating thereafter multiplies significantly.
- *Flexible Allocation* was the last designated line item that could help schools pay for retirement and Social Security costs.
- The Legislature embraces increasing graduation rates and college and career readiness for high school students. Year after year, the data on students who have participated in *Concurrent Enrollment* indicate that significantly higher numbers of students who have taken CE move onto college than those who have not taken CE. This cut goes against our best efforts to increase high school graduation rates and enroll more college and career ready students.

SB29 School Planning and Zoning Process E. Vickers

Requires a school district or charter school to meet with a local governmental entity about a proposed acquisition and submit a rough proposed site plan to a design review committee who shall be required to provide comments on the proposed site plan. In certain circumstances, authorizes the local government entity to request a traffic study.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/sbillint/SB0029.pdf>

HOLD

SB33 S1Public Education Graduation Amendments A. Osmond

Requires a public school to prepare a sample early graduation schedule and a sample college-ready schedule to provide to an eighth grade student and the student's parent or guardian. Materials provided must include notification of early graduation requirements, the Centennial scholarship requirements and college-ready courses taken in high school to reduce the need to enroll in a college remediation course, including concurrent enrollment and AP courses. Increases the Centennial scholarship amount for students who graduate from high school from \$1000 to \$2000. As many students as qualify will receive the scholarship. No funding is necessary as the bill is deemed revenue positive (no senior year is needed and thus money is saved overall).

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/sbillint/SB0033.pdf>

OPPOSE with comments. Students can already graduate early from any Utah high school. The costs of providing 24 units of credit holds steady for districts, whether the student completes those credits in three years (through summer studies) or four years. Parents and students must have the right to choose the schedule that best fits their child, of course, but educators see great growth in students who are able to take a variety of elective courses and who participate in senior year experiences.

SB34 Charter School Authorization Amendments A. Osmond

Subject to the approval of the State Board, allows a municipal legislative body to authorize a charter school located within the municipality's boundaries. Allows the municipal legislative body to impose a fee for costs of oversight of, and technical assistance to, a charter school, and prescribes the body's responsibilities to authoring a charter school. "Municipal legislative body" means the council of a city or town in any form of municipal government.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/sbillint/SB0034.pdf>

OPPOSE The empirical evidence about student achievement in charter schools does not support expansion. Charter school performance is no greater than traditional public schools, and in some cases, far worse. Teacher turnover is greatest in charter schools in the state. Governing boards are not elected officials yet have oversight for millions of taxpayer funds. There are no legislative requirements for School Community Councils in charter schools and thus, no requirements that are associated with the many legislative requirements for work of the School Community Council. Charter schools, to date, are not required to work with cities and towns in construction and site placement of charter schools, and are under large burdens associated with their leases with charter management companies.

Expanding the authorization of charter schools is particularly troublesome in that, already, the accountability for charter schools needs improvement (per State Charter School Board discussions) and this particular model in SB34 is without any remedy or improvement in accountability and may introduce a model that is far less accountable to the State Board of Education and the State Charter School Board, not to mention the Utah taxpayer.

SB37 Data Reporting Regarding Front-Line Teachers A. Osmond

Requires the State Board to report data to the Education Interim Committee on the allocation of resources front-line teachers, who are defined as licensed teachers who have an assignment to teach kindergarten, elementary, secondary, or special education courses. Does not include prekindergarten, subject specialists or classroom aides. Specifies the type of data to be included in the report.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/sbillint/SB0037.pdf>

SB38 Behavioral Testing and Tracking Restrictions A. Osmond

Eliminates references to behavioral testing or tracking in public schools.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/sbillint/SB0038.pdf>

SB48 Evaluating Federal Land A. Osmond

Directs the State Tax Commission to identify federal land and to make calculations of property tax and other revenues that would be generated if that land were privately owned; and requires the State Tax Commission to report to an appropriations subcommittee of the Legislature.

No request for funding.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0048.html>

SB58 Municipal and County Officials Attendance at School District Board Meetings W. Harper

Allows a mayor or county executive or county manager, or designee, to attend and participate in board discussions at school district meetings that are closed to the public if the closed meeting is held for the purpose of discussing the board's disposition or acquisition of real property, or is held for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of the present or a proposed school district superintendent or deputy superintendent, and the school district board invites the interested mayor or interested county executive to attend the closed meeting.

No request for funding.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0058.html>

HOLD

SB60 American Civics Education Initiative H. Stephenson

Effective January 1, 2016, a high school student or an adult education program student must pass a basic civics test as a condition for receiving a high school diploma or an adult education secondary diploma. The test must consist of 100 questions and is passed only when 60 or more questions are answered correctly. The bill requires the State Board to make rules to pass the test, but not to create the test.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0060.html>

UNNECESSARY

Civics and American History courses already require these skills in order to receive credit for the courses. In addition, the new SLO's in noncore classes emphasize these skills and provide the assessment needed to measure competency. Finally, the State Board is currently reviewing Social Studies, and where additional information/requirements/competency may be needed in American Civics, it can be provided in the State Board review process. It is also very unclear who will provide the tests, at what costs, with what type of administration, etc.

SB62 Certified Tax Rates Amendments W. Harper

Requires the State Tax Commission to adjust a school district's certified tax rate to offset a change in revenues that may result from the repeal of Section 59-2-924.3 on December 31, 2016 affecting the calendar year January 1, 2016-January 1, 2017. A school district is not required to comply with the notice and public hearing requirements of Section 59-2-919 for an offset to the certified tax rate resulting from the repeals.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0062.html>

SB64 Utah Educational Savings Plan Amendments T. Weiler

An owner of an UESP account may claim a nonrefundable tax credit equal to the amount of the qualified investment into the account and made during the taxable year.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0064.html>

SB75 Elementary Arts Learning Program Amendments C. Bramble

The State Board shall consult with endowed chairs from higher education and with integrated arts advocates (no longer with the Utah Arts Council) to administer the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Elementary Arts program. Participating LEAs must partner with an endowed chair that will provide professional development. Eliminates the stipulation of 50 schools but allows for hiring art coordinators by providing up to \$10,000 in one-time funds for each new school arts specialist. LEAs that receive a grant must provide 20% match (up from 10%) for actual salary and benefit costs per full-time equivalent position. An LEA may not include administrative, facility, or capital costs to provide matching funds or use the learning arts funds to supplant funds for existing programs. LEAs shall design and construct research on the program, implementation and evaluation, and the effectiveness of professional development, and shall provide the public with integrated elementary arts education resources.

From money appropriated to the program, the State Board shall administer a grant program to fund activities within arts and the integrated arts programs at an endowed university in the college where an endowed chair resides.

"Endowed university" means an institution of higher education in the state that awards elementary education degrees in arts instruction, has received a major philanthropic donation for the purpose of arts and integrated arts instruction, and has created an endowed position as a result of such donation.

"Endowed chair" means a person who holds an endowed position or administrator of an endowed program for the purpose of arts and integrated arts instruction at an endowed university.

No request for new or additional funding. The bill is slated to be heard in the Senate Business and Labor Committee.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0075.html>

SB78 School District Property Tax Amendments H. Stephenson

A newly created district and a remaining district shall continue to impose property tax levies that were imposed by the divided school district in the taxable year prior to the qualifying taxable year.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0078.html>

SB84 Federal Nutrition Standards Exemptions A Osmond

Allows the State Board to make exemptions for school-sponsored fund-raisers, including a fund-raiser for a career and technical education program, which is not required to meet federal nutrition standards. Sets the maximum number of allowable exempt fund-raisers of no less than 25 exempt fund-raisers per site per school year, with a maximum duration of each exemption as five consecutive school days. The exempt fund-raiser may include competitive foods sold by a school-sponsored club or activity or a career and technical education program.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0084.html>

SB97 Property Tax Equalization Amendments A. Osmond

Amends the calculation of the school minimum basic tax rate to allow for greater revenues due to property valuation. Requires a certain amount (increases by \$15,000,000 in upcoming years to \$75,000,000) of that revenue to be deposited in a newly-created Minimum Basic Growth Account from which money will be distributed to “equalize” property taxes in the state through the Capital Outlay Foundation Program (25% of funds) and the Capital Outlay Enrollment Growth Program (75% of funds). The bill has retroactive effect to January 1, 2015.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0097.html>

SUPPORT with comments. The Capital Outlay Foundation Program and the Capital Outlay Enrollment Growth Program should each receive 50% of the new distributions.

SB104 Education Elections and Reporting Amendments A. Jackson

Provides that members of the State Board of Education and local school boards are elected through partisan election and removes the nominating committee for selecting candidates. In order to be a candidate of the party, a local school board candidate must obtain signatures from 3% of the registered voters who are residents of the area permitted to vote for the office and permitted by the party to vote in the primary election. Filing must occur at least seven days before the candidate’s political convention or May 15, if the candidate is not affiliated with a political party. Midterm vacancies shall be filled by the local school board or State Board by appointing an individual from a list of names submitted by the same political party as the individual whose vacancy is being filled. Stipulates how to replace a member who is not affiliated with a political party (see line 401). Provides for a tie vote resolution (see line 608).

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0104.html>

OPPOSE

SB106 Class Size Reduction Program Amendments W. Harper

Amends the distribution formula for the Class Size Reduction Program to distribute to qualifying LEAs (an LEA that has a median class size in kindergarten through grade 8 above the statewide median; levies local property taxes; and is below the statewide average property tax base per ADM. The Board shall distribute the first \$115,000,000 to LEAs based on prior year average daily membership in K-8 plus growth. Of the remaining money, 20% shall be distributed to each qualifying LEA in proportion to student enrollment in each qualifying LEA as compared to total student enrollment in all qualifying LEAs, and 80% in the same manner as is currently distributed. A receiving LEA may use up to 20% of the money for capital facility projects if the capital facility project will reduce class size. If an LEA’s student population increases by 5% or 700 students from the previous year, the LEA may use up to 50% of the LEA’s program money for capital facility projects.

Requests from the Education Fund, ongoing: \$10,000,000 to the Class Size Reduction Program

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0106.html>

HOLD

SB107 Computer Science Initiative for Public Schools H. Stephenson

Requires the STEM Action Center Board and the State Board to develop an online repository available to all LEAs and student in all grades, of computer science instructional resources, professional development on teaching computer science, and an RFP for a comprehensive computer coding instructional software solution. LEAs submit grant requests to the State Board for licenses for the coding instructional software. An independent evaluator shall evaluate the software using criteria established by the Board. If approved by 2/3 vote of each house, the bill takes effect upon the Governor's signature.

Requests from the General Fund, ongoing, to the STEM Action Center: \$2,070,000 (of which \$1.5 million should be for licenses; \$320,000 for professional development; \$150,000 for administration, and \$100,000 for evaluation.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0107.html>

OPPOSE WITH COMMENTS

This appears to be a vendor bill. There are open source materials available free of charge or at low cost for this purpose and many high schools in Utah already teach coding. This type of bill pulls money away from an overall WPU increase and it diminishes local control.

SB116 Public School Dropout Recovery A. Osmond

Requires an LEA to deposit 30% of the value of one WPU for each student who is "eligible" (up to 18 years of age who has withdrawn from a secondary school prior to earning a diploma with no legitimate reason for departure or absence from school and has been dropped from Average Daily Membership [ADM] under the 10-day rule). The funds shall be in a restricted account and shall provide recovery services for eligible students. Services shall include open enrollment, mitigation of social barriers to attendance, individual learning plans with attainment goals, monthly progress monitoring, and tiered interventions. An LEA may contract with a dropout recovery provider with certain criteria for provider payment (see line 96+). The eligible student may count on ADM count. The Board shall audit LEAs for fund use and ADM count. The bill includes charter schools.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0116.html>

HOLD

SB117 Interventions for Reading Difficulties Pilot Program A. Osmond

Creates a pilot program to provide professional development for educators and evidenced-based, tiered literacy interventions to students in grades K-5 who are at risk for, or experiencing reading difficulties, including dyslexia. LEAs shall submit proposals to participate that must include a range of current benchmark assessments used to determine reading abilities, a description of existing reading programs, and tiered approaches, and other information as specified by the Board. The Board shall define criteria for selecting an LEA with five LEAs selected on a competitive basis for fiscal year 2016. LEAs shall be provided up to \$30,000 per school within the LEA. In fiscal years 2017-2019, if funding allows, the Board may select additional LEAs to participate in the program. Each participating LEA must select at least one school to participate with specific annual reporting requirements of participants. Provides for a third party evaluation with specific criteria to examine upon evaluation.

Requests from Education Fund, one-time \$750,000

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0117.html>

SUPPORT

SB145 Physics Education Pilot Program H. Stephenson

Requires the STEM Action Center Board to prequalify one or more physics education consultants to provide high quality professional development, physics curriculum materials, and support for physics teachers. Specifies criteria for the STEM Board in selecting consultants and LEAs for pilot program. Requires the STEM Board to hire an independent evaluator and report to the State Board, Governor's Office and Education Interim Committee.

Requests from General Fund, one-time \$5,000,000

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0145.html>

OPPOSE

This appears to be a vendor bill.

SB151 National Board Certification Scholarships for Teachers A. Osmond

Creates the National Board Certification Scholarship Program, requiring the State Board to award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible teachers to attain certification or renew existing certification with the National Board Certification Program. Requires an independent evaluator to evaluate teacher effectiveness with those who are National Board certified and those who are not. Requires reporting to the Education Interim Committee starting in 2021.

Requests from the Education Fund, ongoing \$1,500,000 and one-time from same fund of \$10,000,000

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0151.html>

OPPOSE

Professional development is needed for all teachers on many state-driven initiatives, not just those who seek to attain this certificate through a national organization.

SJR5 Proposal to Amend Utah Constitution – State Board of Education Changes A. Millner

Proposes to amend the Utah Constitution by repealing language that provides for the election of members of the State Board of Education and provides for members of the State Board of Education to be appointed by the Governor, with consent of the Senate. Directs the Lt. Governor to submit the proposal to voters at the next regular general election, with a contingent effective date of January 1, 2017.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SJR005.html>

HOLD