

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

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Position Taken</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>HB30 Math Teacher Training Program Amendments</b> 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 <a href="http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/hbillint/HB0030.pdf">http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/hbillint/HB0030.pdf</a>		<b>HOLD</b>
<b>HB33 American Indian-Alaskan Native Education Amendments</b> 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 <a href="http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0033.html">http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0033.html</a>		
<b>HB49 S3 Clean Fuel School Buses and Infrastructure</b> S. Handy/JS Adams Provides funding to replace school buses manufactured before 2002 for qualifying school districts or charter schools and to create related infrastructure. "Qualifying school district" means a district with a property tax yield per ADM less than the statewide average property tax base per ADM, and a combined capital levy rate higher than the average combined capital levy rate for the school districts statewide. Automatically allocates \$500,000 of the funds to charter schools through a grant program requiring matching funds. Requires school districts or charter schools to remove and dispose of buses, per original bill. Must expend funding within two years of receiving the funding. Requests from Education Fund, one-time: \$20,000,000 with a funding match from the school or district <a href="http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0049.html">http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0049.html</a>		<b>OPPOSED WITH COMMENTS</b> <b>This is opening a door for charter schools that the state cannot afford, as it currently funds only 65% of transportation for traditional schools, when, by statute, 85% is expected. Charter schools were started on the premise that transportation would never be offered and thus, charter school operation would be less expensive than other types. This violates that original intent/agreement.</b>
<b>HB54 S1 Public Education Increased Funding Program</b> 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 S3 Student Privacy Act** J. Anderegg

Provides for the protection of student data while allowing for State Board rule to handle the operational aspects of records and data. Considers Special Education, types of records, storage, expungement, retention, third party services related to data and records, and other protective and security measures. Requires a student privacy coordinator at the USOE and a data manager in each school in the state, among other provisions.

No request for funding

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

**SUPPORT**

**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>

**NO POSITION**

**HB73 S2 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 S2 Postretirement Employment Task Force** R. Cunningham

Creates the Postretirement Employment Task Force, consisting of 16 members, representing the Legislature, municipalities, counties, educators as designated by the Utah School Boards Association, higher education, firefighters, peace officers, sheriffs, and executive directors of the Dept of Human Resources and Utah Retirement Systems. Travel expenses shall be paid and salary shall be paid to legislators. The task force shall present a final report to the Retirement and Independent Entities Interim Committee before November 30, 2015.

Requests from the General Fund, one-time funding of \$57,000

<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 S1 School District Amendments** C. Hall

Provides that, under certain circumstances, 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>

**This appears to be a vendor bill for a test prep company.**

**HB118 S1 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>

**SUPPORT**

**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>

**OPPOSE with comments.**

**State charter schools, authorized by the State Board, should be funded at the state level, not from local school district property tax revenues, the loss of which will diminish programs for students in district schools or trigger a local tax increase.**

**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. A home schooling parent may claim the credit whether the home-schooled child participates in an extracurricular activity in the school. A home-school parent may not claim a tax credit if the home-schooled child is enrolled in a dual enrollment program in the school. 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**

- This bill has the potential to create further losses in state taxation that supports public and higher education.
- The tax credit will provide a double tax credit to home-schooling parents; one for the child exemption, an additional one for home-schooling. That's double dipping.
- This bill enlarges the inequity experienced by many taxpayers who, without children in the home, pay their full tax without any exemptions. The U.S. has operated taxation

systems on the belief that all should pay for public education as an essential service to the nation but that parents who raise children should get help through ONE per child exemption. But this bill contradicts that belief that all should contribute to the support of public education by giving a special exemption to home-schooling parents. This is a dramatic shift in taxation policy and may yield legal action from those who have no children attending school and who demand parity in tax operations.

- Current Utah statute allows home-schooling parents to access materials from public schools and requires those schools to provide materials as requested by home-schooling parents. Thus, a home-schooling parent doesn't pay anything to help public education but has rights to the services of their public schools.

**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 S2 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. Increases the compensation of members of the State Board.

No request for funding

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

**SUPPORT**

**HB197 S1 Educator Licensing Amendments** (with House Committee Amendment 1) K. Coleman  
Requires the State Board to make rules for an administrative/supervisory license that allow the Board to license individuals from a variety of professional backgrounds, including individuals who do not hold a teaching license or have a graduate degree in an education area. A local school board or charter school governing board may request and the State Board may grant, a letter of authorization permitting a person with outstanding qualifications to serve in any administrative/supervisory position.

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**

**HB203 S1 Teacher Salary Supplement Program Amendments** B. Last

Includes computer science or special education teachers as “eligible teachers” for the Teacher Salary Supplement Program, assuming a qualifying educational background, as described in the bill. 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>

**SUPPORT**

**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 S1 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 three 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.

No request for funding

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

**HOLD**

**HB213 S2 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. Requires a school community council or a charter school governing board 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 councils/boards may partner with one or more non-profit organizations to fulfill the safe utilization duties. Does not stipulate the amount or use of Trust Lands funds for this purpose, though councils/boards may choose to use some funds for this purpose.

No request for funding

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

**UNNECESSARY; LOCAL ISSUE**

**School Community Councils, generally, do not include in their membership experts in technology and digital software/equipment use. We worry about this heavy responsibility on their shoulders.**

**Further, handling safe technology procedures, policies, and breaches requires immediate administrative action, not discussion in a monthly meeting.**



**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.**

**HB242 State and Local Government Employee Policies** J. Miller

Unless compliance creates an undue hardship that would cause significant difficulty or expense in relation to size, financial resources, nature, or structure of the employer's operations, this bill requires a public employer, including school districts, to provide reasonable breaks for a public employee who is breastfeeding and provide the employee access to a clean room with privacy (not a bathroom stall) in a location in close proximity to the employee's work area, and to provide a refrigerator for breastfeeding purposes. Public employer shall adopt policies to support breastfeeding. Prohibits a public employer from discriminating against an employee who is breastfeeding in the workplace.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0242.html>

**NO POSITION**

**HB 255 State Employee Health Plan Amendments** N. Thurston

Requires the Public Employees' Benefit and Insurance Program to allow one free office visit per plan year to a covered employee and a covered spouse; and provides for spreading of costs to other visits.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0255.html>

**HB257 Educator Licensing Modifications** N. Thurston

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. Liffert

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. (This most probably only refers to ABCTE – American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence.) 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>

**OPPOSE**

**This is likely a vendor bill for ABCTE. It further removes most responsibility/ability for reviewing licensure by the State Board, who is accountable for licensure.**

**HB270 Building Certification Standards** S. Barlow

Creates the Earthquake Safe Building Certification Program to certify buildings that meet construction standards. Does not require the meeting of standards but provides a certificate if standards are met.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0270.html>

**HB282 S1 Online Education Program Amendments** B. Daw

Allows a program of a public higher education institution that offers secondary school level courses exclusively online to offer the online courses through the Statewide Online Education Program. Authorizes UCAT to offer secondary school level courses through the Statewide Online Education Program.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0282.html>

**OPPOSE**

### **HB293 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education Program Amendments**

V. Peterson

Includes the executive director of Workforce Services and business and industry representatives on the STEM Action Center Board. The STEM Center shall identify at least 10 practices that have resulted in a measurable improvement in student performance or outcomes (changed from 80% performing at grade level). The state board shall establish the uses of STEM, allow educators to use instructional materials with integrated STEM content, and provide incentives for STEM education endorsements, through higher education credits at UCAT, SLCC, Snow, or USU Eastern. A district or school may consider a STEM endorsement as part of an educator's salary schedule.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0293.html>

### **HB294 School Transportation Amendments** D. Ipson

A local school board may determine that a student is eligible for state-supported transportation if a new route is hazardous or not accessible to foot traffic, even if the student's residence is closer to the school than outlined in the K-6 grade mileage requirement of 1-1/2 miles.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0294.html>

### **HB297 State School Board Elections Amendments** N. Thurston

Provides that members of the State Board are elected by electors chosen from members of the boards of local school districts. Provides for details about conflicts of interest, contributions and reporting procedures. Redistributes state board seat boundaries 15 state board districts with a different population than is currently in place (see lines 958-979. If a vacancy occurs, it shall be filled by the governor, and approved by the Senate.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0297.html>

### **HB301 S1 Pesticide Application Notification Amendments** B. King

On or before Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> of each school year, an LEA (district and charter schools) is required to annually notify a school community of all pesticide products intended for use at the school. Requires an LEA to notify the school community before applying a pesticide product that the LEA did not include in the annual notification. Notification shall include the name of each pesticide product, the active ingredients in each pesticide product, and the intended or planned frequency of application for each pesticide product.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0301.html>

### **HB303 Legislative Approval of Land Transfers** K. Stratton

Requires the governor, an executive agency, or a political subdivision to submit a proposal to sell, exchange, or transfer 500 acres or more of state land for legislative approval. Requires the governor, an executive agency, or a political subdivision to notify Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee of any proposal to sell, exchange, or transfer less than 500 acres of state land.

Requires a political subdivision that enters into a discussion with a federal agent or entity regarding land management issues to provide written notice to the Legislature.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0303.html>

**HB305 State Board of Education Membership Amendments** D. McCay

Proposes that current state board members elected at or before the 2014 general election shall serve out their terms of office. Provides that the 2016 state board elections shall be partisan-based, thereafter, if a Constitutional amendment succeeds, shall be governor appointed, with Senate approval. For vacancies that occur if an individual is not a member of a political party, the governor shall fill the vacancy with the consent of the Senate.

Effective January 1, 2023, requires the Legislature to adopt official census population figures and divide the state into nine (9) state board districts.

Provides for partisan election of the members of the State Board and provides for appointment of the members of the State Board if the voters pass a constitutional amendment permitting appointment. Requires State Board candidates to gather 4000 signatures of registered voters and are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the candidates in a primary election. Changes the financial reporting requirements for candidates.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0305.html>

**HOLD**

**HB309 Living Wage** (J. Miller)

Provides the minimum wage of \$10.25 per hour for private or public employees within the state.

No request for funding.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0309.html>

**HB328 S1 Tax Changes** D. McCay

This bill:

Defines "Ad valorem tax revenue" as ad valorem property tax revenue not including revenue from eligible new growth as defined in Section 59-2-924. Substitutes "new growth" language with "eligible new growth" language.

1) consolidates efforts from several areas (state auditor report on SLC RDA impact, clean-up of 2007 language on SME calculation, and expanding the definition of new growth to include CDA increment coming back to taxing entities).

2) lines 1097-1099 contain expanded definition of tax increment - probably a good thing and I believe one of the items mentioned in the SLC audit on RDAs.

3) lines 1163-67 clarifies the calculation as the "five-year average" and subtraction of new growth from certified rate

4) lines 1320-21 direct the Tax Commission to make rules for calculating annual RDA adjustments

5) lines 1436-49 clean up old language

6) takes effect next tax year - January 1, 2016

Cleans up old language and questions on calculation of certified rates and new growth. May impact taxing entities to reflect all "revenue from tax increment" on their books even if also recorded by RDA agencies.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0328.html>

**SUPPORT**

**HB331 Professional Learning Grant Program** (B. Last)

Requires the state board to establish a qualifying professional learning grant program, utilizing professional learning communities and standards. Data analysis and evaluation for effectiveness must be part of the plan, including a measurement of student growth. LEAs shall submit a professional learning plan on or before July 1 immediately preceding the school year for which the LEA is seeking funding. The board shall award the grant if the plan meets the qualifying criteria (see lines 121-142). The board shall report to the Education Interim Committee.

Requests from Education Fund, ongoing: \$30,000,000

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0331.html>

**SUPPORT THE CONCEPT WITH COMMENTS**

**While funding for professional development is sorely needed for the myriad of state and local programs initiated in the past few years, not to mention the ability to mentor new teachers and provide enhanced learning for all teachers, this bill should not be funded unless there is first, a WPU increase of 6.25% this year.**

**HB335 S1 Southern Utah STEM Initiative** (J. Stanard)

Creates the Southern Utah STEM Center to promote science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education in southern Utah. Requires Southern Utah University and Dixie State University to collaborate with public schools to promote STEM education and provide professional learning in Southern Utah.

Requests from Education Fund, ongoing: \$410,000 to Southern Utah University

Requests from Education Fund, ongoing: \$306,000 to Dixie State University

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0335.html>

**HB337 Career and Technical Education Comprehensive Study** (R. Cunningham)

Creates a CTE Board within the Department of Workforce Services, comprised of state superintendent and board member, commissioner and regent, UCAT president, Governor's representative, and executive directors of some state agencies. The Board shall conduct a comprehensive study of CTE in Utah, including all CTE programs, enrollments, certificates, materials and equipment, funding, post-CTE employment, costs, etc. The Board may contract with a third party evaluator.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0337.html>

**OPPOSE WITH COMMENTS**

**The CTE program in public schools is one that provides outstanding opportunities for high school students. We would not support any transfer of funding out of the high school programs through such a study.**

**HB342 Amendments to State School Board Election** K. Powell

Repeals the current process for State Board elections. Provides that an individual may not be a candidate for the State Board unless the individual is a member of a local school board or a charter school board on the day on which the individual files for candidacy. Establishes procedures for nonpartisan elections for the State Board.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0342.html>

NO POSITION

**HB344 Longitudinal Data Management Act** J. Anderegg

Establishes the State Longitudinal Data Center within the Division of Enterprise Technology in the Department of Technology Services. Establishes a state longitudinal data coordinator within the Governor's Office of Management and Budget. Includes the data associated with the State Board of Education, the USOE, State Board of Regents, and UETN but does not includes LEAs.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0344.html>

NO POSITION

**HB345 S2 Education Abuse Policy** D. McCay

Empowers the State Board with rulemaking authority, authority over UPPAC, and enables the Board to take final action with regard to an educator license. Upon review of UPPAC findings, the Board shall revoke licenses involving educators who were convicted, pled guilty to, entered a plea of no contest to, or entered a plea in abeyance to matters of a sexual nature.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0345.html>

SUPPORT

**HB346 School Building Costs Reporting Amendments** J. Knotwell

Clarifies that provisions related to requirements for reporting school building costs on the Utah Public Finance Website apply to the lease or purchase of an existing building to be used as a school, and the addition or significant remodeling of a school facility to a school. Facilities include a pool, theater, stadium or maintenance building, regardless of whether the facility is open to the public. Significant remodeling means a construction project undertaken by an LEA with a project cost equal to or greater than \$2,000,000.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0346.html>

**HB358 Voted and Board Levy Amendments** J. Briscoe

Increases the voted local levy to .0024. Raises the state guarantee amount for each .0001 of the first .002 per dollar or taxable value, and the amount of revenue appropriated for the voted levy guarantee program from the newly-established Income Tax Growth Account, a restricted account within the Education Fund. The State Board shall use the funding from the Account each year to increase the value of the state guarantee per WPU and distribute the state contribution to the voted and board local levy programs to school districts based on the increased value of the state guarantee per WPU.

No request for funding. Fiscal note not yet available.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0358.html#53a-17a-133.1>

SUPPORT

**HB360 S1 Utah Education Amendments** L. Christensen

By November 30, 2016, requires the State Board to generate a report regarding the history of policies, programs and performance of the state public education system in the last 15 years. Requires creation of a ten-year plan including recommendations to repeal outdated policies and programs, and clarify and correlate current policies and programs, and submit both reports to the Education Interim Committee. Updated reports of the ten-year plan shall be approved by the Committee at least once every five years. Removes nonvoting members from the State Board and requires the Board to regularly consult with UCAT, Regents, and State Charter School Board.

The Board may not require a local school board or charter school governing board to use a particular or model curriculum or instructional material. Renames “curriculum standards” to “standards for Utah public schools.” Strikes out language of “Utah’s common core” and inserts language: “Core standards for Utah public schools” means the standards developed and adopted by the State Board that define the knowledge and skills students should have in kindergarten through grade 12 to enable students to be prepared for college or workforce training.

Requires legislative review and recommendations regarding federal education agreements or national programs that may cost entities more than \$1,000,000 annually from state and local money for implementation.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0360.html>

**OPPOSE WITH COMMENTS**

**We disagree specifically with the removal of nonvoting members on the State Board. We believe they add vital information to the State Board in their deliberations. We are also concerned about the requirements related to federal education agreements or national programs, in particular, those programs that support our most vulnerable students. We fully support the bill’s language/semantics about standards and local control of curriculum.**

### **HB363 School Land Trust Program Amendments R. Cunningham**

Requires “charter trust land councils” to be established by a charter school governing board in each charter school which will help enhance student achievement through an improvement plan or a charter school’s charter agreement. All school councils shall annual evaluate, with the school’s principal, the school’s statewide achievement test results, reading achievement plan, class size reduction needs, technology needs, and professional development plan to improve teaching and learning conditions in their schools. Changes the Trust Lands funding cap from 2% to 3% of the funds provided for the Minimum School Program. Charter schools shall receive funding equal to the product of charter school enrollment on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> in the prior year, divided by enrollment on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> in the prior year in public schools statewide. The State Board shall make rules specifying a formula to distribute the amount allocated to each charter school, including ensuring that the rules include a provision that allows a charter school in its first year of operations to receive funding based on projected enrollment, to be adjusted in future years based on actual enrollment. A charter trust land council’s plan for the use of School LAND Trust money is subject to approval by the charter school governing board and charter school’s charter school authorizer. Once a plan has been approved by a local school board, a school community council may amend the plan, subject to a majority vote of the school community council and local school board approval.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0363.html>

**SUPPORT**

**We support this cap increase as it will provide more funding to our School Community Councils to handle their many responsibilities – an appropriate amount of increase that is not burdensome for accounting at the SCC level.**

### **HB364 S1 Suicide Prevention Amendments S. Eliason**

Amends the suicide prevention training and programs to include bullying and cyberbullying. Requires collection of the rates of prevention program use by school districts and charter schools and students, the number of parent seminars conducted in each school district (which will be capped at an expectation of three per school year), and a five-year trend of youth suicides per school, school district,

and charter school. Provides for a suicide prevention coordinator at the USOE with reporting requirements and makes stipulations for the Departments of Human Services, and Public Safety.

Request from Education Fund, one-time: \$150,000

Request from General Fund to non-education agencies, one-time: \$210,000 and;

From Restricted Fund, Firearm Safety Account, ongoing \$65,000

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0364.html>

**SUPPORT THE CONCEPT WITH COMMENTS.**

**Of course, schools and school personnel wish to eradicate bullying and cyber bullying that may occur on their campuses or at their activities. As these programs are defined in statute, and as schools adapt to their own situations, does the Legislature really want adaptations that may not be exact to the law rise to a violation of law? Couldn't this be in state board rule that allows for local implementation following the intent of this bill? These types of bills put continual pressure on schools to do it all, exactly per law, in addition to providing our first service of vital academic learning.**

**HB367 Education Ethics Training Requirement** J. Briscoe

For any new employee hired after July 1, 2015, and within the first year of employment, requires a new school employee to complete one hour of education ethics training as provided by an LEA or private school and two hours of such training every five years after the day of employment.. Describes the general elements to be included in the training and which entities are approved to provide the training.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0367.html>

**SUPPORT**

**HB379 Underground Storage Tank Amendments** S. Eliason

No later than June 30, 2025, ensure that an underground storage tank qualifies for a rebate of a portion of the environmental assurance fee if the tank is owned by a school district. Appropriations would go to the Division of Fleet Operations for the purpose of upgrading underground storage tanks.

Request from General Fund, ongoing: \$100,000

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0379.html>

**HB392 Requirements for Career and Technical Education Teachers** B. Daw

Requires the State Board to make rules that allow an educator who is highly qualified to teach English, mathematics, or science eligible to teach a career and technical education course that is part of an approved program if the CTE course is related to the subject area that the educator is highly qualified to teach.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0392.html>

**NO POSITION**

**HB397 Local School Funding Options** N. Thurston

Creates a Block Grant Funding Pilot Program for qualifying district and charter schools, as selected by the State Board. During the fiscal years that a school district or charter school receives state funding as a block grant, the funding may be used for any public education purpose. Schools shall comply with IDEA but may use disability funding for any education purpose.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0397.html>

**SUPPORT THE CONCEPT WITH COMMENTS.**



The State Board is preparing to undertake a “zero-based budgeting” review of budgets in the USOE and in the Minimum School Program. We believe that should move forward before any major policy shifts occur in budgeting for public education.

**HB403 Online Education Survey Program Amendments** S. Eliason

Extends the pilot online school survey program for an additional year, to be reported to the Education Interim Committee by November 2015.

Request from Education Fund, one-time: \$80,000

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0403.html>

**HB424 Epilepsy Training in Public Schools** D. Sagers

Allows volunteer school employee(s) who may not be licensed health professional(s) but who have received training by a medical professional, to administer intranasal midazolam to a public school student with epilepsy in an emergency when a health care professional is not immediately available. The school employee who administers the medicine shall direct another to call 911 and take other appropriate actions in accordance with training. A school employee who provides this care in good faith may not be liable in any civil or criminal action for an act not taken or taken. The medicine may be stored at the school.

No request for funding.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0424.html>

**HB434 Student User Privacy in Education Rights Act** M. McKell

Requires the State Board to make rules regarding requirements of and prohibitions on the collection and use of student personal information by private website, mobile application, or online service providers. School service providers must declare what type of information is being collected and require consent for collection. Prohibits uses of student information for unauthorized purposes.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0434.html>

**HB438 Amendments to the Nominating Committee for the School and Institutional Trust Lands Board of Trustees** M. Brown

Provides that a member of the State Board of Education may not serve as a member of the nominating committee for the School and Institutional Trust Lands Board of Trustees.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0403.html>

**HOLD**

**HB444 Charter School Funding Task Force** F. Gibson

Creates the Charter School Funding Task Force composed of four senators, four representatives, three state board members, one State Charter School Board member, and one school district business administrator. The task force shall review and make recommendations on charter school funding, enrollment for funding purposes, local replacement funding, weighting structure for distributing funds to charter schools according to grade level, the content of a property tax notice related to the distribution to charter schools, limits on charter school enrollment capacity, and funding for

administrative costs. A final report shall be made to the Education Interim Committee before November 30, 2015.

Requests funding from General Fund, one-time: \$72,000

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0444.html>

**HB447 Protections on Parental Guidance in Public Schools** B. Dee

Requires a school to obtain prior written consent from a student's parent before the school can provide human sexuality instruction to a student. At a parent's choosing, requires a school to waive a student's human sexuality instruction requirements, or provide a student with a reasonable alternative to the human sexuality instruction requirement. Provides that a student's academic or citizenship performance may not be penalized if a parent chooses not to have a student participate in human sexuality instruction.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0447.html>

**HCR7 Concurrent Resolution Urging Development of Methods to Minimize Excessive Testing and its Negative Impacts on the Schoolchildren of Utah** M. Poulson

Urges the state board, local boards, PTA, and UEA to study methods and protocols related to testing that, given the current restrictions imposed by federal law, minimize testing and maximize the integration of testing into an aligned curriculum. Urges the state board to report those methods to the Education Interim Committee by September 2015.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HCR007.html>

**SUPPORT**

**HCR9 S1 Concurrent Resolution on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act** S. Eliason

Calls upon the members of Utah's congressional delegation to sponsor legislation in Congress that reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), and urges the State Board to continue to protect and preserve Utah's exclusive sovereignty over Utah's education system if the State Board considers it necessary or prudent to seek a waiver or renewal of provisions of ESEA.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HCR009.html>

**SUPPORT**

**HJR16 Proposal to Amend Utah Constitution – Governance of Public Education** D. McCay

Proposes to amend the Utah Constitution to provide for members of the State Board to be appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HJR016.html>

**HJR17 Proposal to Amend Utah Constitution – Limit on Federal Funds** R. Spendlove

Proposes to amend the Utah Constitution to limit the amount of federal money the State may receive in any fiscal year. The amount may not exceed 40% of the State's total expenditures for that year.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HJR017.html>

**HJR18 Joint Resolution on Parental Rights Regarding the Education of Their Children** (J. Anderegg)

Asserts that children are the parents’ responsibility, the sole stewards of their children’s education, and do not forfeit that responsibility to other stakeholders. Calls upon state and local leaders to uphold the rights of parents and families to restore America’s traditional purpose for education so that children will be empowered to follow their individual dreams and fulfill their life missions.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HJR018.html>

**HR5 House Resolution Regarding Mathematics Proficiency Among High School Students** S. Eliason

Expresses support for a requirement that a Utah high school student be enrolled in, and pass, a mathematics course all four years of high school unless the student demonstrates mathematics proficiency. Urges the State Board to consider such a requirement. Cites 50% as the number of Utah students entering higher education who need mathematics remediation and developmental courses. Recognizes that the House of Representatives and the state of Utah may need to address future increased resources necessary for successful implementation.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HR0005.html>

NO POSITION

**SB1 S1 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>

**SUPPORT**

**SB33 S1 Public 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 , however, holds steady for districts and schools, whether the student completes those credits in three years (through summer studies that incur additional costs) or in four years. Of course, parents and students have the right to choose the schedule that best fits their needs, 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 S1 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. Prior to submitting a charter school application to the State Board, the applicant and the municipal body shall set forth the operational terms of the charter school in a written charter agreement, which terms shall also be included in the charter school contract. Between the municipal body and the charter school.

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. Requires a municipal body to monitor the school for performance against the minimum academic, financial, governance, and enrollment standards set for in the charter application. Requires a municipal body to make a report to the State Board and the State Charter School Board regarding the performance of their authorized charter school(s) and allows a municipal body to close a charter school authorized by the municipal body.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0034.html>

**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 S2Municipal and County Officials Attendance at School District Board Meetings** W. Harper

An interested county executive or mayor may attend open meetings of a local school district board and participate in board discussions. An interested county executive or mayor may attend and participate in board discussions at a closed meeting of the local school board only if the school district board invites the county executive or mayor to attend and participate. The invitation requirement covers all closed board meetings for whatever purposes they have been closed.

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

**SUPPORT**

**PASSED**

**SB60 American Civics Education Initiative** H. Stephenson

Effective after 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 50 questions and is passed only when 35 out of 50 or more questions are answered correctly. An individual may be allowed to take the test as many times as needed in order to pass the test. The bill requires an LEA to administer the test.

No request for funding

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

**UNNECESSARY**

**Who is charged with developing the test? The bill may put large burdens on our teachers such as time in administration, monitoring the test, scoring, and recording test scores, and ensuring a diploma check related to the test. Civics and American History courses already require these skills in order to receive credit for the courses. The new Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) in non-core classes emphasize these skills and provide the assessment needed to measure competency. The State Board is currently reviewing Social Studies, and where additional information/requirements/competency/assessment may be needed in American Civics, it can be provided in the State Board review process. It is very unclear who will provide the tests, at what costs, and with what type of administration.**

**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>

**NO POSITION**

**SB64 S1 Utah Educational Savings Plan Amendments** T. Weiler

An owner of an UESP account may claim a nonrefundable tax deduction and credit equal to the amount of the qualified investment into the account and made during the taxable year, with restrictions on qualified investments that are claimed on a federal income tax return.

No request for funding

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

**NO POSITION**

**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 S3 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. Coordinates with SB1 S1. 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 to fund the state’s portion of the voted levy guarantee, 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**

**Local school board members and their superintendents support equity in local property tax distribution, assuming new funding to allow for the equity and a distribution formula does not take away from current district property tax revenues in school districts. We would request that school business leaders work side by side with legislative analysts during this session to ensure a fair distribution formula and that the formula and its resulting allocations are carefully monitored over the years for the desired effects of this bill.**

**SB104 S3 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. For a State Board race, 4,000 valid signatures must be gathered. 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. For a State Board vacancy, if the individual who is being replaced is not a member of a political party, the governor shall fill the vacancy, with the consent of the Senate, by selecting an individual who meets the qualifications and residency requirements for filling the vacancy. Provides for a tie vote resolution.

No request for funding

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

**OPPOSE**

- This bill will either create the need to make a Constitutional change or will create a lawsuit as Article X, Section 8 of the Utah Constitution indicates that *"No religious or partisan test or qualification shall be required as a condition of employment, admission, or attendance in the state's education systems."* This is read to include both state and local school board members. It appears clear that Utah's founding leaders intended NOT to have partisan politics influence their public education system.
- Utahns do not favor partisan politics in their public schools. Why would the Utah Legislature take action against the will of its people? See: <http://shar.es/1W74Uj>
- Given its objection to partisan politics in public schools, people in Utah are especially not likely to make a Constitutional change related to partisan politics in public education oversight and governance.
- Local school board candidates are well known by their constituents, both in rural and in urban Utah. Local school board candidates often walk door to door to talk with each constituent. They do not need further vetting by a narrow group of party delegates.
- The bill creates a vacuum for many patrons of the district who may not be affiliated with a party. School board members will largely be held accountable to their delegates that elected them, leaving parents and taxpayers from other views to feel as if on the fringes. This is less representation, not more. School board members should be accountable to all members of the taxpaying public and all parents.
- Party delegates are not viewed by the majority of Utahns as representative of their views on many matters, as has been shown most recently by the Count My Vote initiative.



- Delegates may or may not know much about their public schools. Volunteers and other school community leaders are often in public schools and are much more helpful in vetting candidates for local school board races. This undoubtedly holds true for state board candidates as well.
- Direct, nonpartisan school board races for local and state races, is already constitutional and restores the voice of the people to this electoral process.
- Due to the Hatch Act, prohibiting city, state and federal employees from serving in partisan election offices, there are several currently-serving state and local leaders who will no longer be able to serve. They cannot run as Independents and thus, we will lose some valuable service and experience from otherwise willing candidates.
- Will a majority of the partisan board members on any school board be able to party-caucus, making prior decisions regarding schools and then take only perfunctory action in open meetings?

**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>

**OPPOSE**

**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 students 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 for Globaloria. 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 S3 Public School Dropout Recovery** A. Osmond

Requires an LEA to provide dropout recovery services to students and allows an LEA to contract with a provider for such services. The State Board shall make rules for the recovery services.

No request for funding

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

**SUPPORT**

**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 S1 Physics Education Proposal** H. Stephenson

Requires the STEM Action Center Board, in coordination with the State Board, to develop a proposal to promote physics education, including some specific elements, and make recommendations to the Legislature related to physics education.

No request for funding

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

**UNNECESSARY**

**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.**

**SB157 Government Records Access and Management Act Amendments** C. Bramble

A GRAMA appeal to a chief administrative officer shall be to a records committee.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0157.html>

**SB175 School Safety and Crisis Line** D. Thatcher

Requires the University Neuropsychiatric Institute, within the University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics, to establish a statewide School Safety and Crisis Line for use 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and, when necessary, promptly forward a report to appropriate school officials and law enforcement officials. The line shall accept anonymous reports of unsafe, violent, or criminal activities, or the threat of such activities at or near a public school, and incidents of bullying, cyber bullying, harassment, or hazing, and crisis intervention, including suicide prevention, to individuals experiencing emotional distress or psychiatric crisis. Requires the State Board and local districts and charter schools to revise conduct and discipline policies and models to include these procedures. Creates a School Safety and Crisis Line Commission within the Office of the Attorney General to coordinate statewide efforts.

Requests ongoing, from the General Fund of \$150,000 and one-time from the General Fund of \$150,000 and awards \$300,000 to the University of Neuropsychiatric Institute.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0175.html>

NO POSITION

**SB176 Governmental Immunity Act Amendments** C. Bramble

A governmental entity is immune from suit for any injury proximately caused by a negligent act or omission of an employee committed within the scope of employment if the injury would not have occurred except for 15 specific concerns outlined in lines 74-135.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0176.html>

**SB195 Amendments to State Board of Education** (A. Millner)

Proposes that current state board members elected at or before the 2014 general election shall serve out their terms of office. Provides that the 2016 state board elections shall be partisan-based, thereafter, if a Constitutional amendment succeeds, shall be governor appointed, with Senate approval. For vacancies that occur if an individual is not a member of a political party, the governor shall fill the vacancy with the consent of the Senate.

Effective January 1, 2023, requires the Legislature to adopt official census population figures and divide the state into nine (9) state board districts.

Provides for partisan election of the members of the State Board and provides for appointment of the members of the State Board if the voters pass a constitutional amendment permitting appointment. Requires State Board candidates to gather 4000 signatures of registered voters and are permitted by the qualified political party to vote for the candidates in a primary election. Changes the financial reporting requirements for candidates.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0305.html>

HOLD

**SB196 S2 Math Competency Initiative** (A. Millner)

Requires the state board to establish math competency standards as a graduation requirement beginning with the 2016-17 school year and allows for a high school diploma for students who complete graduation competencies, regardless of their postsecondary goals. Competency for a student who is pursuing a college degree after high school graduation shall be demonstrated by one of the following:

- Receive a score of at least three on an AP calculus or statistics exam
- Receive a score of at least five on an IB math exam

- Receive a score of at least 70 on the ACCUPLACER test, or that at least meets the score on an equivalent test, as developed/selected/designated by the Board of Regents
- Receive a score of at least 50 on a College Level Examination Program precalculus or calculus exam
- Receive a score that at least meets the ACT College and Career Readiness test benchmark, or
- Receive at least a “C” grade in a concurrent enrolment mathematics course that satisfies the state system of higher education quantitative literacy requirement

A non-college degree-seeking student may obtain a career and technology education certificate. A student with an IEP shall meet the mathematics standards described in the student’s IEP.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0196.html>

**SUPPORT**

**SB204 S1 Parental Rights in Public Education Amendments** (A. Osmond)

Amends the 2014 law, by requiring schools to record an excused absence for a scheduled family event or a scheduled proactive visit to a health care provider only if the parent submits a written statement at least one school day before the scheduled absence and the student agrees to make up course work for school days missed for the scheduled absence, in accordance with LEA policy. Upon receipt of a written statement of a student’s parent or guardian, an LEA shall excuse a student from taking any summative, interim, or formative test that was developed for, or provided by, the state, or any test that is federally mandated or mandated by the state. An LEA may not require a meeting as a condition of excusing a student from taking a test. The written excuse remains in effect across multiple school years until further notice from the student’s parent or guardian. An LEA may not reward a student for taking a test, as described. An LEA shall reasonably accommodate a parent’s request to include in an IEP elements that the parent believes are in the best interest of the child if the accommodation is consistent with federal law and a student’s IEP, if applicable.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0204.html>

**NO POSITION**

**The U-PASS system consists of four assessments: SAGE, ACT (taken in grades 8, 10, and 11 to help students and teachers focus around needed areas of learning, Writing in grades 5 and 8, and a five-minute DIBELS test in younger grades to help diagnose reading abilities.**

**SB209 Volunteer Registry** M. Dayton

Directs the Utah Commission on Service and Volunteerism to create a volunteer registry that will provide a central point for organizations to ensure that certain volunteers have a required background check. Includes LEAs that use volunteers to assist in schools with “vulnerable populations” which are defined as children age 17 or younger, or persons aged 60 and older and individuals with disabilities. A volunteer is “an individual performing services for an organization who does not receive anything of value from that organization for those services except reimbursements.”

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0209.html>

**SUPPORT**

**SB210 Education Testing Amendments** A. Jackson

Requires the State Board to develop, publish, and administer each test that is a part of U-PASS and prohibits the Board from contracting with any person in the private sector to evaluate current tests and assessment programs, or develop, publish, or administer a test that is part of U-PASS.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0210.html>

**OPPOSE**

**SB219 S1 World Language Proficiency Recognition** H. Stephenson

Beginning with the graduating class of 2020, the State Board shall establish a graduation requirement that a student shall, at a minimum, study the same world language for two years during grades 7-12 or qualify for a biliterate proficiency seal on a diploma. A seal is earned by a level of proficiency in one of the following categories: novice, intermediate, or advanced, and proficiency in English. The Board shall set standards for the categories except in English, which shall be determined by completing all English language arts graduation requirements with an overall GPA of 2.0 or above and scoring proficient or above on U-PASS test in English language arts and literacy, administered in grade 11.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0219.html>

**OPPOSE**

**World languages are valuable and important elements in our schools and to students who access such courses. This bill's concept of mandating a certain number of years in world language in order to graduate, however, is not practical for most rural districts which do not have staff to implement such a requirement. The bill would require many students in rural and urban Utah to give up elective classes, which would negatively impact enrollment the arts as well as in CTE and concurrent enrollment classes, both effective strategies for successful college performance. Additionally, and importantly, graduation requirements fall under the purview of the State Board, not the Legislature. Allowing the Legislature to mandate graduation requirements is an unwise precedent.**

**SB222 Digital Teaching and Learning Program** H. Stephenson

Creates a digital teaching and learning program for public schools, through qualifying grants to LEAs. Grants shall be given to improve student learning outcomes through the use of digital teaching and learning technology and educator professional development. Requires UETN to develop and implement the programs through a master plan, issuing requests for proposal for an education consultant, education technology providers, and an independent evaluator, and approving LEA plans. Creates the Digital Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee (DTLAC) to assist the UETN board in developing selection criteria for an selecting an education consultant, and provide input on the development of the master plan, appoint certain members to the DTLAC. Requires RFPs for software that monitors student and teacher usage of technology in public schools but prohibits certain uses of student data as part of the contract. Requires the State Board to give final approval to the master plan, distribute grant money to qualifying LEAs, stop distributing money if the qualifying LEA fails to meet minimum improvement learning outcome benchmarks, monitor and review program implementation, set minimum improvement benchmark standards in the school level outcomes, and select an independent evaluator. Establishes requirements for LEA qualifications for participation, and requirements for the master plan and individual LEA plans (see requirements starting on line 501. Requires annual reporting to the Education Interim Committee. A qualifying LEA may not use grant money to supplant money previously used for the LEAs existing technology program.

Distribution formulas begin on line 420. Of the funds available for distribution after the allocation of funds for USDB and charter schools, the board shall grant money to qualifying LEAs with two-thirds by formula adopted by the State Board that considers property tax effort and the district's ability to generate property tax revenue based on the per-student taxable value of property within the district. The Board shall distribute the remaining one-third with 10% on an equal basis and 90% on a per-student basis (base-plus formula). Each LEA has an opportunity to receive an amount of money equal to the

amount of money that the LEA would receive in year one of the program if the LEA's plan had been approved in year one.

Requests from Education Fund to UETN, one-time: \$907,500

Requests from Education Fund to State Board, ongoing: \$16,350,000

Requests from Education Fund to USOE Initiative Programs, one-time: \$50,000,000

Requests from Education Fund to UETN, ongoing: \$8,650,000

Stipulations on expectations of State Board and UETN use of funds are found, beginning on line 703

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0222.html>

**SUPPORT THE CONCEPT WITH COMMENTS**

**Increasing access to technology devices and proven software in our schools is vital. But funding for this bill should only follow funding of 6.25% on the WPU this year. State Board rule should refine and improve some elements of this bill, if it is funded.**

**SB227 S1 Charter School Revisions** D. Henderson

Defines a high performing charter school. A governing board may voluntarily request that charter school's authorizer to place the school in a school improvement process. An authorizer that has entered into a school improvement process with a governing board shall make a contract with the board, issue notifications to the State Board and the Utah Charter School Finance Authority. A high performing charter school or the school district in which the charter is located may apply to the governing board to assume operation of the charter school that has been placed in a school improvement process.

Stipulates potential action of the authorizer.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0227.html>

**SUPPORT THE CONCEPT**

**SB235 School Turnaround and Leadership Development Act** W. Niederhauser

A "low performing school" means a district school or charter school that is in the lowest performing 3% of schools statewide according to point earned under the school grading system. Turnaround experts have a credible background of education excellence and are hired by the USOE, to help low performing schools.

A local school board or the charter governing board of a low performing school shall establish a school turnaround committee with certain composition of school community members. The committee shall partner with a turnaround expert, including considerations of the findings, recommendations, policies, budget, and other areas that may be necessary to implement a school turnaround plan. A local school board of a low performing school shall grant the school streamlined authority over staff, schedule, policies, budget, and academic programs to implement the turnaround plan. District schools shall have turnaround plans approved and monitored by their board of education; charter schools shall turnaround have plans approved and monitored by their authorizing entity.

Low performing schools that show gains shall have rewards and recognition subject to appropriations by the Legislature. A district board that oversees a low performing school that does not show improvement shall take action to restructure a district school, including contract management, conversion to a charter school, or state takeover. A charter school governing board that oversees a low performing school that does not show improvement shall take action to terminate the school's charter, close the charter school, or transfer operation and control of the charter school to a high performing charter school.

Creates a School Leadership Development Program to increase the number of highly effective school leaders of schools. Incentives may be offered to leaders who complete the training and agree to work for at least five years in a school that received an "F" or "D" grade.

If approved by two-thirds of all the members of both houses, the bill takes effect immediately upon Governor's signature or the day following the constitutional time limit without the Governor's signature. Requests from Education Fund, ongoing and non-lapsing: \$10,000,000 to the State Board  
<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0235.html> **OPPOSE**

Consider:

- The measure of Utah school performance upon which consequences and rewards are built in **this bill is based on one grade which, itself, is based on overly narrow measures of performance** rather than reflecting the overall achievement of a school.
- The real struggles that occur in low performing schools are more nuanced and overlapping, and often involve complex social problems such as intergenerational poverty. **Whether or not it is intended, this bill will have the effect of segregation based on socio-economic status.**
- This legislation advocates a school takeover model, coming from a national model. State takeover in any form may foster negative impressions about a school that harm the reputation of hard-working local school board members, administrators, teachers, parents and students. **Some of our most dedicated professionals choose to remain in challenging learning environments. They need our support, not additional finger-pointing.**
- **The empirical evidence about student achievement in charter schools does not support transitioning district schools to charter schools**, indeed, charter school performance in Utah and nationwide is no greater than district public schools, and in some cases, far worse. Additionally, there is **very little research on the effects of state takeover** of schools in the U.S. and no conclusive results to provide a proven track record of positive effect.
- If an appetite for this bill remains, we ask that, at the least, for it to be amended **to allow full discretion to the State Board over consequences for low-performing schools**, based upon best practices that have multiple-year evidence of showing improvement and through a process that is inclusive of local school district leaders in making decisions toward school improvement. Involving district and charter leadership may help reduce community resentment of state control, just as state leaders resent federal control over state matters.

#### **SB240 School Districts – Transportation Policies** J.S. Adams

At least two school districts may form an eligible regional service center for coordinating public school transportation services through a joint agreement and joint board. The joint board shall consist of only elected members of the local school boards from the school districts that form the regional service center and at least one member of a local school board from each school district that forms the regional service center.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0240.html>

**OPPOSE SUB 1; SUPPORT SUB 2**

#### **SB245 S1 School Grading Amendments** A. Millner

Allows the State Board to exempt alternative and special needs schools from school grading and requires the Board to evaluate a school that is exempted from school grading in accordance with an accountability plan. By November 2015, the Board shall make recommendations to the Education Interim Committee on method of determining sufficient student academic growth for the 2015-16 school year and succeeding school years. A school's grade is based on the percentage of the maximum number of points the school may earn with grades stipulated on the final lines of the bill.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0245.html>

SUPPORT

**SB255 Data Security Management Council** W. Harper

Creates a Data Security Management Council to develop recommendations for data security and risk assessment. The council will be composed of the CIO or designee from the Governor's office, House, Senate, Judiciary, State Board of Regents, State Office of Education, UCAT, State Tax Commission, and Office of Attorney General with the Department of Technology Services providing staff. Commission shall report to the Public Utilities and Technology Interim Committee.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0397.html>

SUPPORT

**SB260 S2 Public Education Human Resource Management Act Modifications** H. Stephenson

Requires the State Board to perform audits and monitor a local school board's implementation of the Public Education Human Resource Management Act and prohibits a school district from imposing a fine on an educator because the educator resigns before the expiration of the educator's contract term or fails to provide adequate notice of resignation, if the educator is not paid wages or salary for the period between the last date of employment and the end of the contract term.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0260.html>

OPPOSE WITH COMMENTS

**Employment contracts are by local agreement and local board policy; they are not created by the state and should not be controlled by the state. Thus, we specifically disagree with the prohibition of imposing a fine for resignation during a contract term or failure to provide adequate notice of resignation. We haven't concerns about the notion of State Board auditing and monitoring.**

**SB262 Intergenerational Poverty Education Amendments** A. Osmond

Requires the State Board to administer an "eligibility certificate" to an individual who applies and qualifies for the certificate based upon the applicant's household gross family income which is at or below 150% of the federal poverty level and whether the applicant received public assistance in the state for not less than 12 months in the previous five years from one or more of five agencies. The State Tax Commission shall allocate \$1,500 for each eligibility certificate received for an individual education account, meaning, an account in the name of an eligibility certificate holder. Qualified expenses for certificate holders include public and higher education tuition, fees, books, and materials; child literacy programs, concurrent enrollment, high quality readiness programs, reading clinics, statewide online education program, remediation programs for secondary students – all as described in Utah Code. Does not include room and board, transportation, insurance, medical expenses, UESP funding, or student fees unless required as a condition of enrollment or attendance. The State Tax Commission shall transfer at least quarterly from the Education Fund into the Intergenerational Poverty Restricted Special Revenue Fund, the product of \$1,500 and the number of eligibility certificates listed in a tax return and filed during the previous calendar quarter. An individual may only list one eligibility certificate per return for a taxable year.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0262.html>



**SB263 Early Reading Amendments** S. Urquhart

Allows the State Board to select more than one educational technology provider for a diagnostic assessment system for early reading and for early interactive reading software. LEAs that are licensed shall use the license for intervention in grades K-3, for intervention for a student that is reading below grade level, and for advancement beyond grade level for a student reading at or above grade level. The State Board shall set standards for the use of interactive reading software. LEAs that do not use the software for two consecutive years shall lose their license. Reports required to the Education Interim, including student learning gains resulting from software use.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0263.html>

NO POSITION

**SB268 Student Leadership Skills Grant** A. Osmond

Converts the Student Leadership Skills Development Pilot Program to an ongoing program and requires the State Board of Education to provide certain information related to the program on its website. After awarding a grant to a school for a particular year, the board may not change the grant amount awarded to the school for that year but may do so in subsequent years. After participating in the program for two years, a school may not receive additional funding if the school fails to demonstrate an improvement in student behavior and academic achievement as measured by certain data.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0268.html>

SUPPORT

**SB270 Carson Smith Scholarship Amendments** J.S. Adams

Reduces the minimum age that a student can receive a Carson Smith Scholarship from age five to age three. Includes charter schools in all regulations. Enables scholarships to approved part-day preschool programs. Approved private schools must submit affidavits of compliance with all regulations within 30 days of their approval.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0270.html>

**SB275 Educator Licensure Amendments** J. Stevenson

Enacts provisions that allow a teacher who is licensed out of state to teach student in Utah remotely through distance learning. A teacher that provides distance learning is not required to hold a license if the teacher holds a teaching credential in another state for the grade and subject taught, and the teacher is employed at a school in the state where the credential was issued, and the out-of-state school where the teacher is employed is accredited by an accrediting body and accredits Utah public schools, and the teacher passes a criminal background check per 53A-6-401.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0275.html>

OPPOSE

**SB276 Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention in Public Schools** T. Weiler

Establishes a pilot program for grade 8 on firearm safety and violence prevention in pilot schools that are approved for participation by their local school board or charter school governing board. Curriculum shall include firearm safety in 53A-13-106(3), what to do if the student becomes aware of a threat against the school, and active shooter preparedness. The Office of the Attorney General, in

collaboration with the State Board, shall select one or more providers through an RFP process, to supply materials and curriculum for the pilot program. A certified (per 53A-13-106) volunteer will teach the program. Students may participate only with prior written parent consent. The Office of the Attorney General and the State Board shall evaluate and report by December 2017.

Request for funding, one-time in FY16: \$75,000

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0276.html>

**SUPPORT THE CONCEPT WITH COMMENTS**

**Curriculum is locally controlled and thus, any development will be altered to fit local needs and preferences. The expectation is that if presenters are included in recommended information, that it is respectful of age and sensitivities of children, and then only used, as approved by local school leaders and parents in school communities.**

**SB279 Student Assessment Task Force** H. Stephenson

Creates the Student Assessment Task Force consisting of 11 members: three senators, three representatives, and five members of the State Board. Task force shall be co-chaired by a senator and representative. A majority of the task force will be a quorum and action of the majority of a quorum constitutes the action of the task force. The task force shall make recommendations on four specific areas:

1. the extent to which students can actively learn at their own pace
2. the extent to which schools are offering authentic formative assessments to recognize mastery when it occurs
3. the elements of schools that would need to change to implement competency-based education
4. whether or not to replace SAGE with other types of assessment

A final report shall be presented to the Education Interim Committee by November 2015.

Request for funding from General Fund, one-time: \$64,000

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0279.html>

**SB283 Post-Secondary Career and Educational Choice Amendments** H. Stephenson

Requires the UETN Board to select a technology provider to provide technology and support to Utah Futures. Eliminates an evaluation panel to review Utah Futures.

Request for funding from Education Fund, ongoing: \$2,400,000

Request for funding from Education fund, one-time: \$50,000

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0283.html>

**OPPOSE**

**SB284 Charter School Funding Revisions**

H. Stephenson

Requires a school district to allocate 50% of district per pupil revenues for each student of the district who is enrolled in a charter school. Requires a property tax notice to state the amount of property taxes imposed on the taxpayer that represents revenue distributed to charter schools. Exempts a school district from truth in taxation requirements for revenue required to be collected for charter schools for one year.

No request for funding.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0284.html>

**OPPOSE**

**SB285 Student-Centered Learning Pilot Program** H. Stephenson

Allows the State Board to select three high school programs, through competitive grant awards, to use differentiated instruction, data-based decision-making, balanced learning, and extended school year options toward offering competency-based credit. An advisory committee composed of legislators shall make suggestions and recommendations to the Board on the selection of the schools. Reports required to the Legislature, beginning in 2017.

Request funding from Education Fund, one-time: \$250,000

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0285.html>

**OPPOSE**

**SB295 Education Revisions** A. Jackson

A local school official of a district or charter school may apply for, receive, and administer federal funds for the local school official's education entity if the federal funds are through a program administered by the State Board and if they comply with federal regulations. A charter school may receive, hold, manage, and use a private grant made to the school for school purposes. The charter school may not accept a private grant if, as a condition of the grant, the person providing the grant requires the charter school or governing board to collect or report data about students enrolled in the charter school, including demographic or testing data, without parental consent. A district school that converts to a charter school may no longer receive federal money designated for charter schools under any federal program, unless the program is administered by the State Board. A local school board-authorized charter school operating in a facility owned by the school district and not paying reasonable rent to the school district may apply for, receive, or administer federal funds designated for charter schools under a federal program and administered by the State Board.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0295.html#53a-1-903>

**OPPOSE**

**SB299 Classroom Instruction Time** M. Madsen

Requires a local school board or charter school governing board to hold a public and noticed hearing before decreasing classroom instruction time as compared to the previous school year. The public shall be provided a reasonable opportunity to comment in the hearing. The notice shall include the reason for the change, and all of the notice requirements heretofore expected of public school governing bodies, including notice posted at each school affected by the decreased classroom instruction time in a location visible to the school community.

No request for funding

<http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/SB0299.html>

**OPPOSE**

**While we share concerns about some types of testing in schools, and the time that should be preserved for instruction, this bill is an odd approach to resolving the problem. Most testing done in schools is by statute and thus is a state-driven decision to interrupt instruction, not a local decision.**

**School districts always provide timely notice to their constituents of school times and calendars, following broad public and staff discussion and feedback.**

**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**