

Utah School Boards Association - USBA
Utah School Superintendent Association - USSA
Utah Association School Business Officials - UASBO

Adopted by the Delegate Assembly on August 22, 2020

2021 Legislative Priorities



CONTACT INFORMATION

Joint Legislative Co-Chairs

Rick Ainge, USBA Past President — 801-423-0598
rick@aingecpa.com (Nebo Board)

Rick Nielson — 801-362-6218
rick.nielsen@nebo.edu (Nebo Superintendent)

USBA Representatives

McKay Jensen — 801-471-5258
mckayj@provo.edu (Provo Board)

Amber Shill — 801-971-7887
amber.shill@gmail.com (Canyons Board)

Linda Hanks — 801-245-9451
lwhanks@gmail.com (Juab Board)

Rick Ainge, USBA Past President — 801-423-0598
rick@aingecpa.com (Nebo Board)

USSA Representatives

Rick Nielson — 801-362-6218
rick.nielsen@nebo.edu (Nebo Superintendent)

Shannon Dulaney — 435-592-6197
shannon.dulaney@ironmail.org (Iron Superintendent)

Ben Dalton — 435-644-5997
dalton@kane.k12.ut.us (Kane Superintendent)

Reid Newey — 801-430-7846
mewey@dsdmail.net (Davis Superintendent)

UASBO Representative

Todd Hauber — 801-652-0741
thauber@pcschools.us (Park City Business Administrator)

USBA/USSA/UASBO Lobbyist

Lexi Cunningham — 801-694-1376
lcunningham@usba.cc (USSA Exec. Dir. & USBA Assoc. Exec. Dir.)

“The Legislature shall make laws for the establishment and maintenance of public schools, which shall be open to all children of the State...” (Article 10, Utah Constitution).

Continue Fundamental Obligations and Commitments

We acknowledge and appreciate the legislature's commitment to annually:

- Place enrollment growth in the base budget
- Fund an inflationary factor
- Establish and fund a working rainy-day fund as part of the Uniform School Fund



From Ongoing Current Education Fund Revenues (\$209.5 Million)

- 4% WPU increase to attract, develop, and retain quality educators and support staff; meet the ever-increasing demands on the education system; and to support ongoing local improvement initiatives.
- We also support legislation (HB 5011) that restores intended WPU increases that were removed during the interim special sessions through the budget balancing process.
- \$5 million/year, as part of a 5-year plan, to attain 85% state support for to and from transportation costs as provided in statute.
- \$500,000/year, as part of a 5-year plan to increase Necessarily Existent Small Schools (NESS) funding to provide greater equity in educational opportunity.

From One-Time Revenues (\$65 million)

- Allocate \$40 million in one-time funds for COVID-driven expenses related to health and safety regulations, technology infrastructure and support, and technology innovations required to improve student safety and learning.
- Allocate \$30 million in one-time funds for school building security upgrades.

Enact Policy Requests

- We support the USBE Accountability Dashboard for the purposes of school accountability. We are prepared and willing to work cooperatively with legislators to repeal school grading legislation.
- We support the Utah Constitution that designates income tax as a dedicated revenue source to fund public education.
- We support the principles outlined in SJR9 and HB357 from the 2020 Legislative General Session.
- We support restoring the ability for local taxing entities to impose impact fees on behalf of public schools.
- We support modifying the calculation of the certified tax rate to include an automatic inflation adjustment.
- We oppose efforts to move public funds to private education interests through the use of vouchers, tax credits and/or other means.

Consider the impact of the number of education bills and resulting rules that create fiscal and administrative burdens for every district