



Near the conclusion of the 2023 Legislative Session, our organizations expressed *conditional support* for “**SJR 10 Substitute 1: Proposal to Amend Utah Constitution - Income Tax.**” This *conditional support* resulted from several months of good faith conversations between the Public Education Community and Legislative Leadership regarding the Income Tax Earmark and other items of interest to public education. Specifically, we *conditionally supported* constitutional language stating that:

- Income tax “shall be used: to maintain a statutory public education funding framework that: (i) uses a portion of revenue growth for expenditures from the Uniform School Fund for changes in student enrollment and long-term inflation; and (ii) provides a budgetary stabilization account;”

Two additional legislative commitments from the 2023 Legislative Session were critical to this *conditional support*:

- HB394 Sub 1 – Hold Harmless for Public Education Enrollment Decline; and
- An additional 2% WPU increase set aside to be distributed immediately after the November 2024 election; contingent on voter approval of the constitutional amendment.

We are grateful that public-school children are at the forefront of the legislative budgeting process with funding for inflationary factors and enrollment growth. We also appreciate the recent commitment to consistent yet modest basic WPU increases; and funding of the Public Education Economic Stabilization Account. These commitments allow for the basic education needs of Utah’s school children to be met.

Our *conditional support* is further predicated on the premise that collaborative efforts between our organizations and legislative leadership during future legislative sessions will focus on state policies and statutes that support:

- A plan to increase funding for public education beyond inflationary increases;
- An increased emphasis on local control and flexibility for local Boards of Education;
- Reduction in administrative demands;
- Elimination of unfunded mandates;
- Reasonable tax rate policies; and
- Other items of importance to the Public Education Community

Determinations regarding the realization of these ideals is left to each individual – voter, legislator, educator, and member of our organizations. Subsequently, our members will choose to take action as they see fit. However, our organizations do not plan to spend future time or energy regarding the November 2024 ballot initiative. We intend to take the same approach as our legislative peers – “Let the Voters Decide.”

Regardless of the ballot initiative outcome, our focus and responsibility to public school children and the adults who support them will be unwavering. We will continue to use our energy and resources to provide educational experiences that far exceed current investments.