



# News from the Utah Legislature



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## FY2011 Proposed Budget Trims \$350 Million

The Legislative Fiscal Analyst presented a pro-

posed FY2011 base budget that is \$350 million less than the current year. The WPU would be reduced from \$2,577 to \$2,487. The proposal does not provide funding for enrollment growth projected to be 11,000 new students, the first time in recent history student growth has not been funded in the base budget.

The chair of the Public Education Ap-

propriations Committee asked Committee members to assess where they suggest cutting to address revenue shortages. The prioritizing is expected to begin on or after Feb. 8.

In his State of the State address, Gov. Herbert asked legislators not to cut public education funding.

Educators are encouraged to contact business leaders and legislators and express the positive work being done with students and the needs required to continue the work.

## Bills on the Move

The House Education Committee passed two bills with favorable recommendations. They now go to the full House for vote:

- **HB81: School Employee Criminal Background Check** shifts the cost of background checks to non-certified school employees (licensed educators already pay this cost when they renew).
- **HB42 (1st Sub.): School District Employees-Career Status Requirements** allows a school board to extend the provisional status of a licensed employee an additional two years.

### SPEAK FOR TOMORROW TODAY



### UtahsFuture.org

A new campaign launched by UEA is designed to increase awareness about public education in Utah and encourage citizens to get involved. Learn more at [UtahsFuture.org](http://UtahsFuture.org).

## Your Retirement At Risk: Bills Introduced and a Call to Action

Sen. Dan Liljenquist (*R-Bountiful*) has introduced three bills proposing changes to the Utah Retirement Systems:

- **SB42: Retirement Eligibility Modifications** would increase the years of service credit needed for retirement eligibility. (Sen. Liljenquist has indicated he intends to pull this bill.)
- **SB43: Post-retirement Employment Amendments** would make changes to post-retirement benefits for those who retire from the Utah Retirement Systems then return to work with a participating employer.
- **SB94: Supplemental Benefit Amendments for Non-contributory Public Employees** would eliminate the 1.5 percent 401(k) employee match.

An additional bill, not yet introduced, is expected to give new employees a choice between a defined contribution plan and a greatly reduced hybrid defined benefit/defined contribution plan.

The UEA Legislative Team continues to have one-on-one conversations with Senators and House members to understand their positions and address their concerns.

Many legislators indicate they have received e-mails from teacher constituents. This makes a difference and helps legislators understand the concerns among educators. Please continue to make contact with your representatives and track the issues at [utea.org/politics](http://utea.org/politics).

### UEA Member Alert:

#### Retirement Rally Saturday, Feb. 6, 11 a.m. at the Utah State Capitol

“UEA members’ retirement benefits are in jeopardy, and we will be rallying to show the legislature how we feel about these proposals,” UEA President Kim Campbell said, after reviewing the latest retirement bills sponsored by Sen. Liljenquist (*R-Bountiful*). The Association is joining with the Utah School Employees Association, Utah Public Employees Association, and the Fraternal Order of Police to host a Saturday, Feb. 6, all-member rally at the Utah State Capitol. These groups represent more than 32,600 public employees and educators statewide. The rally begins at 11 a.m. on the south side of the Capitol. Speakers from each organization will be featured.

“We need all of our members to participate in this event,” Campbell said. “Those who live great distances from the Capitol can still help by writing letters and e-mails to their senators and representatives.”



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