



# News from the Utah Legislature

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(covering the week of Feb. 8)



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## Public Ed Spared in FY2010, Questions for FY2011

The Executive Appropriations Committee voted to spare public education most all cuts for the current year (FY2010). Much of the current shortfall was made up by using rainy-day funds.

The Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee made its final FY2011 funding recommendations to the Executive Appropriations Committee. Charged with trimming 5 percent overall from public education, the Committee's final

recommendation made deeper cuts in some areas in order to spare others.

Spared were voted and board leeway guarantees, Educator Salary Adjustments and charter school replacement funds. Not included in the budget, but recommended as priorities to be funded if money is available, are teacher-directed classroom supplies, adult education, library books and electronic resources, critical language/dual immersion programs,

the Beverly Taylor Sorenson Elementary Arts Program, I-See science education and regional service centers. Following these, any remaining dollars would be placed on the WPU.

A final motion, which was adopted unanimously, requested that Executive Appropriations fund increased enrollment and not cut 5 percent from the education budget.

## Educator Day on the Hill

More than 40 educators have participated in two Educator Day on the Hill activities so far this legislative session. Four opportunities remain:

- Wednesday, Feb. 17;
- Wednesday, Feb. 24;
- Friday, March 5; and
- Wednesday, March 10.

To participate, contact your local leader and/or UniServ director.

### Three Bills Move Forward

#### Retirement Bills Pass Committee

Following two separate meetings and more than two hours of testimony, the Senate Retirement Committee approved three bills overhauling the Utah Retirement Systems: SB43 (substitute), SB63 (substitute) and SB94. (For information on these bills, visit [utea.org/politics](http://utea.org/politics).) The bills now move to the full Senate for consideration.

Sen. Liljenquist withdrew his SB42, which would have increased by five years the service credit required for retirement.

UEA was joined by the Utah Public Employees' Association, the Utah School Employees Association, the Fraternal Order of Police and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees among others in expressing opposition. Only the Utah Taxpayer's Association and the Utah Association of Counties spoke in support of the legislation, although the UAC representative said, "we are not convinced the bills are ready to become law."

The UEA is asking legislators to take a year to study URS deficits, consider consequences and include employee groups before considering any changes.



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### Bills on the Move

- **HB42 (first substitute): School District Employees – Career Status Requirements** allows school districts to extend teacher provisional status to five years. Passed House and Senate, awaiting Governor's signature. The UEA considers this unnecessary.
- **HB83 (first substitute): Public Employees' Retirement – Spousal Election** requires anyone selecting a retirement allowance option to obtain written consent from the person's spouse. Awaiting House vote. Supported by the UEA.
- **SB16: U-PASS Amendments.** Expands the use of adaptive online testing in place of CRTs for districts that choose to participate. Passed House and Senate, awaiting Governor's signature.
- **SB77 (first substitute): District Association Leave Policies** prohibits paid association leave and requires reimbursement for

unpaid leave. Passed by the Senate on its second reading. Remains on Senate Third Reading board. Opposed by the UEA, superintendents and school boards.

- **SB150: Reading Requirements for Student Advancement** would require that students in grades 1-3 be retained if not reading at grade level. Provides exemptions that would allow a principal to reverse the decision to retain, would allow a student to demonstrate reading ability up to Aug. 15 to advance in the coming school year, and exempts students with an IEP or 504 Plan. Passed out of Senate Education Committee to be heard by the full Senate.

To view bills the UEA Legislative Team is watching and UEA's position on those bills, visit [utea.org/politics](http://utea.org/politics) and click on *2010 Legislative Tracking Sheet* under 'Hot Issues.'