Budget Priorities for the
2024 Utah Legislative Session

After fulfilling statutory education funding requirements (fully fund student enrollment growth and the WPU inflation adjustment in the base budget; and fully fund the education working rainy day fund to support long-term education economic stabilization), **address the following funding priorities:**

- **Provide at least an 8% increase on the WPU** above the inflation adjustment and enrollment growth (est. $344 million). Prioritizing the WPU allows maximum local flexibility to address ever-increasing demands, such as attracting and retaining quality educators and support staff.

- **Fund and increase Paid Professional Hours** (2022 HB396) for all licensed educators to enhance collaboration and preparation time ($100 million one-time).

- **Create a program for education preparation program students** to provide financial support during their student teaching experience ($12 million one-time).

- **Fund a program to assist educators in paying for advanced degrees** to enhance professional skills and support educator retention ($3 million one-time).

- **Support a Healthy School Meals initiative** that allows more families to qualify for access to no cost school meals ($3 million ongoing).

- **Ensure no additional funding for any voucher program** since they lack full taxpayer accountability, demonstrated student effectiveness and comparable oversight to public schools.

- **Establish a tax system that delivers sustainable and growing long-term revenue** and continues the momentum in K-12 public education funding progress.

- **Funding for safe schools, including earthquake safety, physical health and safety,** and student and educator mental health.

- **Use the Flexible Allocation line item for greater funding flexibility.**