

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.