Utah State Board of Education Resolution on Full-Day Kindergarten January 2006

WHEREAS, the Utah State Board of Education firmly upholds and supports the prime responsibility and influence of parents in the education of children; and

WHEREAS, schools must be responsive to the unique family and cultural backgrounds of all students and provide children with high-quality learning opportunities; and

WHEREAS, current use of full-day kindergarten in a limited number of Utah classrooms is showing positive results for students performing below grade level by accelerating learning; and

WHEREAS, years of solid research have shown that high-quality, full-day kindergarten programs give children who are at risk of low performance a better chance to succeed in school, achieve greater gains in early language and literacy, and acquire higher cognitive skills; and

WHEREAS, Utah's students must readily compete with students from others states, of which 60% are enrolled in full-day programs (U.S. Census Bureau 2001); be it therefore

RESOLVED, that:

- The Utah State Board of Education supports expansion of kindergarten programs in the state to include full-day kindergarten for students at risk for low achievement as an additional option for families and requests increased funding to support such expansion.
- The Utah State Office of Education shall, in cooperation with the Utah State Board
 of Education, the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, and the Utah School
 Superintendents' Association, define projected costs for a full-day kindergarten
 program (program, materials, required FTEs, and capital needs) to establish initial
 priorities for a beginning phase of implementation.
- The Utah State Board of Education will continue to promote an inclusive, highquality system of early childhood education that ensures access to students who are at risk for underachievement, is publicly funded, and is accommodated within Utah public schools.

Adopted by the Utah State Board of Education January 12, 2006