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UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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For Immediate Release

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Media Advisory: Webinar Wednesday to Explain Utah's New School Test Scoring System

SALT LAKE CITY – On Friday, Nov. 30, the Utah State Office of Education will release the first set of school-level scores from the new Utah Comprehensive Accountability System (UCAS). UCAS replaces the Utah Performance Assessment System for Students (U-PASS) and the federal adequate yearly progress (AYP) to measure student performance in the state's public schools based on tests administered to students each spring.

In preparation for this release, the office has scheduled a webinar on Wednesday, Nov. 28 at 11 a.m. to explain some of the changes and how to read the new scores. Reporters and interested parties may join the webinar at <http://connect.schools.utah.gov/rfp> and log in as a guest. The webinar is interactive and allows participants to pose questions to the presenters. Associate Superintendent for Student Services and Federal Programs Judy Park and State Assessment Director John Jesse will host the webinar. It will be recorded and posted in video section the online newsroom (<http://www.schools.utah.gov/main/INFORMATION/Online-Newsroom/Video.aspx>) on the Utah State Office of Education website for those who are unable to attend the event live.

Preparation for switching from U-PASS and AYP to UCAS began in 2011 as a better way to measure Utah's student progress in public schools. It takes into account annual tests given to Utah's students in language arts, math, science, and writing. With the granting of a federal waiver for AYP in April of this year, the switch was made. Statewide UCAS scores are already available on the State Office of Education's website under the Public School Data Gateway, <https://cognos1.schools.utah.gov/cognos10/>.

You can learn more about UCAS from this two-page introduction, http://www.schools.utah.gov/data/Educational-Data/Accountability-School-Performance/CAS_Summary.aspx.

WHAT: Webinar explaining Utah Comprehensive Accountability System (UCAS).

WHEN: Wednesday, November 28 at 11 a.m.

WHERE: <http://connect.schools.utah.gov/rfp>.

HOW: Log in as a guest; questions may be typed in interactively or if there are problems with the system, you may phone Public Relations Director Mark Peterson at 801-652-4661 with questions and he will relay them.

WHO: Associate Superintendent Judy Park, State Assessment Director John Jesse.

WHY: Preparation for release of UCAS data on Friday, Nov. 30.

www.schools.utah.gov