2010 LEGISLATION AND
UTAH SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND

House Bill 1 - Minimum School Program Budget

The bill provides initial funding (finalized in SB 2) for the Minimum School Program, which is a 2% reduction in funding and an absorption of enrollment growth resulting in a 1.5% operation budget reduction.

House Bill 4 - Current school Year Supplemental Minimum School Program Budget

The bill modifies funding for the Minimum School Program in fiscal year 2009-10 as follows:

- Educator salary adjustments increased $2,116,000
- State-supported Board and Voted Leeway programs increased $13,500,000
- Social Security and Retirement programs reduced $15,616,000

* House Bill 42 (Sub. 1) - School District Employees–Career Status Requirements

The bill allows a school district (USDB) to extend the provisional status of an employee up to an additional two consecutive years.

* House Bill 81 (Sub. 1) - School Employee Criminal Background Check

The bill requires school districts (USDB), charter schools, and private schools to require periodic background checks of all employees and volunteers who have significant unsupervised access to students. It allows for districts, charters, and private schools to require employees, volunteers, and applicants to pay the costs associated with criminal background checks.

House Bill 149 School Finance Amendments

The bill amends the charter school enrollment cap/growth. The bill also allows for districts (USDB) and charters receiving less than $10,000 in any of the following qualifying programs to combine funds in any of the of the qualifying programs. Eligible programs for transfer or consolidation of funds include:

- At risk flow-through (53A-17a-121);
- Homeless and disadvantaged minorities (53A-17a-121);
- Gifted and talented (53A-17a-129);
- Advanced placement (53A-15-101); and
- Concurrent enrollment (53A-15-101).

* House Bill 166 (Sub. 1) - Reductions to Education Mandates

The bill eliminates the following "education mandates" for the identified time period(s):

- Criterion-referenced tests in grade 2–eliminated permanently;
- UBSCT requirement suspended beginning with the class of 2011 through at least the class of 2012;
- Required district disclosure statements suspended;
- School performance reports suspended until at least 2012-13 school year;
- Disposal of textbook requirement suspended;
- Adoption information to students suspended;
- Requirements related to alignment of textbooks with Core Curriculum suspended;
- Eliminates restrictions on local transportation levy.

House Bill 282 - Local Government Amendments

The bill amends slightly the definition of "educational facility" to include "or similar use" language in the list of facility exclusions from regulations imposed by municipalities and counties on school district/charter school-owned structures. The new language exempts most school district/charter school owned facilities from additional zoning and land use regulations imposed by local government entities.

House Bill 327 - Autism Awareness Support Special Group License Plate

The bill authorizes an autism awareness license plate and directs the state superintendent to distribute the funds generated.

* House Bill 386 - Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

The bill requires school districts/charter schools to provide greater flexibility and make exceptions for children of *active* military personnel, including kindergarten deadline, transferring records and student credit, complete immunization records, etc.

* Senate Bill 2 - Minimum School Program and Public Education Budget Amendments

The bill establishes the value of the weighted pupil unit (WPU) at $2,577 for FY 2010-2011; replaces $264,088,600 of one-time money with ongoing education funds to avoid the "funding cliff" predicted for FY 2010-11; prescribes the powers and duties of the State Board of Education to adjust Minimum School Program allocations; provides that monies allocated to the State Board of Education are non-lapsing and provides for other school finance related adjustments system wide.

Senate Bill 16 - Utah Performance Assessment System for Students (U-PASS) Amendments

The bill makes several permanent modifications to U-PASS **:**

- Allows for the assessment of basic skills using online adaptive testing;
- Allows the State Board of Education to exempt a district/charter school from U-PASS assessment requirements if the district/school administers the pilot assessments;
- Eliminates the cap on districts/charters participating in pilot assessments;
- Extends pilot systems through July 1, 2015;
- Eliminates the requirement for statewide norm referenced tests in grades 3, 5 and 8.

Senate Bill 43 (Sub. 3) - Post-Retirement Employment Amendments

The bill modifies provisions related to retirees who return to work for a participating URS employer. The bill does not impact the status of currently employed individuals. Retirees who retire on July 1, 2010, or after, have significant employment and rehire restrictions.

Senate Bill 56 - School Reporting Amendments

The bill modifies some provisions of the state superintendent's annual report by defining how average class size and pupil-teacher ratios will be calculated. This bill eliminates the pupil-adult ratio calculation.

Senate Bill 66 - Public School Extracurricular Activities for Home School and Private School Students

This bill establishes a new section of the Utah Code, 53A-11-102.6, stating how home school and private school students become and remain eligible for high school extracurricular activities. It also outlines a process whereby a person, through the school principal, may question the eligibility of a home school or private school student.