



NEWS RELEASE

Utah State Board of Education

250 EAST 500 SOUTH P.O. BOX 144200 SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84114-4200
www.schools.utah.gov

October 3, 2019

For Immediate Release

Contact: Mark Peterson, public relations director
801-538-7635 · mark.peterson@schools.utah.gov

Analysis Suggests RISE Test Data Can be Used for School Accountability Board Seeks Flexibility on Some of the State Requirements

SALT LAKE CITY –The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) reviewed internal and external analyses that found that results from this spring’s RISE tests are valid and can be used for statewide school accountability. However, given that delivery system irregularities could have impacted an individual school’s results, USBE will engage with legislators to identify flexibilities from state accountability requirements, including the assignment of letter grades and identifying schools for improvement. USBE also will include a disclaimer on the [school accountability report card \(or dashboard\)](#) indicating that interruptions occurred during testing.

The Center for Assessment [study of results](#) from Utah’s 2019 RISE assessments found that a comparison of means of the disrupted students and non-disrupted students provided insufficient evidence of a substantial impact on scores. A school-level analysis did not identify evidence of schools being measurably impacted by the disruptions. Further, USBE’s initial analysis indicates that approximately 95 percent of our student population fully participated in

the assessment—nearly 3 percent more than in previous years. Additionally, it was found that this year’s assessment scores at the state and LEA level were distributed as would be expected.

Earlier this summer, USBE voted to cancel its contract with Questar Assessment Inc., the vendor that provided the technological platform for the state to administer statewide RISE assessments to students in grades 3-8 in the 2018-19 school year. USBE made this determination based on Questar’s inability to meet several deliverables identified in the contract, including delivery dates for benchmarks, interims, and summative assessments and failures in the reporting system.

“We know this was a difficult testing year for our students and teachers because of the service interruptions,” said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sydnee Dickson. “The good news is this analysis shows consistency between this spring’s tests and previous years, giving us a chance to acknowledge increased student performance and a chance to offer help where needed.”

“While we acknowledge the macro-level, quantitative data,” added USBE Member Cindy Davis, “we want our boots on the ground to know we hear the qualitative data (stories of how the service outages affected individual schools and students) that you are bringing to us. That qualitative data is harder to quantify. We are on the same team.”

www.schools.utah.gov