## **Quick Guide**

This summary is intended to be a review of selected highlights of education-related legislation from the 2023 Legislative Session. This Quick Guide is designed for teachers, parents, and public education-related organizations.

5.0% The value of WPU was increased by 6.0%, of which 3.4% was for inflation, and 2.6% was added by

Total Minimum School Program (MSP) Funding: **\$6.5 billion**, an **8.8%** increase from FY 2023.

\$7.5 Billion

**Weighted Pupil** 

Unit (WPU) Value

Total Public Education Budget for FY 2024.

FY 2023 FY 2024 Increase Percentage \$4,038 \$4,280 \$242 6.0%



## **Teacher Pay Increase**

\$

**\$196,914,400** ongoing was appropriated for the Educator Salary Adjustment to increase educator pay by **\$4,200** plus employer-paid benefits.

## **Notable Education Stabilization Funding Distribution**

1

### \$75 Million

School Security Requirements

## \$64 Million

Educator Preparation and Collaboration Time

#### \$50 Million

Small School Critical Capital Needs Fund

## \$30 Million

Flexible Funding WPU Distribution to 4th-6th Class County Schools

# **Notable Funding Highlights**

#### **Teacher and Student Support**

Funding for Teacher
Salaries
\$196.9 Million
Ongoing

At-Risk Students WPU
Weighting Increase **\$25.1 Million**Ongoing

Optional Full-Day
Kindergarten Expansion
\$25.8 Million Ongoing
\$19 Million\* Ongoing

Teen Centers for Students
Experiencing Homelessness **\$15 Million**One-Time

Grow Your Own Teacher and Counselor Pipeline **\$7.1 Million**One-Time

Foreign Language
Education Funding
\$3.1 Million
Ongoing

\*As enrollment requires

## **Investments in Technology**

K-12 Computer Science for Utah Grant Program\$3 Million Ongoing\$5 Million One-Time Statewide Online Education
Program Increase **\$5.5 Million**One-Time

English Language Learner Software **\$5 Million** One-Time

Student Credential Account
Statewide Usage **\$3.5 Million**One-Time

Adobe Create
Utah **\$2 Million**One-Time

## **Additional Funding**

Permanent State School Fund **\$160 Million** One-Time Public Education Funding
Equalization
\$19.1 Million
Ongoing

Pupil Transportation **\$6 Million**One-Time

**\$42.5 Million**FY 2025
Ongoing

Beverley Taylor Sorenson
Arts Learning Program

\$2.5 Million One-Time
\$2.5 Million Ongoing

## 2023 Other Notable Education Bills

The following are notable bills which passed during the 2023 General Session.

HB 477

#### **Full-Day Kindergarten Amendments**

Makes full-day kindergarten available for all LEAs with an option for half-day Kindergarten.

SJR 10

#### **Proposal to Amend Utah Constitution-Income Tax**

Amends the constitutional earmark on income tax to: 1) allow income tax revenue to be used first to maintain a statutory public education funding framework and to fund a budgetary stabilization account; and 2) allow income tax revenue to be used to support other state needs.

HB 394

#### **Hold Harmless for Public Education Enrollment**

Provides a hold harmless funding requirement for the minimum school program in years where the state's student enrollment declines for between 5-10 years, contingent on passage of SJR 10 in November 2024.

HB 308

#### **School Grading**

Removes the requirement for USBE to assign a school an overall rating and requires USBE to continue to measure and report on each school using a dashboard of individual metrics.

HB 215

## **Funding for Teacher Salaries and Optional Education Opportunities**

Creates the Utah Fits All Scholarship allowing private and homeschool students up to \$8,000 in scholarship funds for qualified educational expenses. Also provides a \$4,200 increase to the Educator Salary Adjustment (for a total of \$8,400) for full-time educators.

HB 421

#### HB 421 and HJR 18

Increases the percentage of revenue to be annually distributed to K-12 schools from 4% to 5% of the average market value of the State School Fund contingent on the passage of HJR 18 in November 2024.

HB 348

#### **Participation Waiver Amendments**

Allows a student the right to refrain from any school activity due to their parents or their own religious belief or right of conscience. Allows a school to offer an alternative to the student.

HB 427

#### **Individual Freedom in Public Education**

Ensures that instructional materials are consistent with the principle that people are equal and have inalienable rights, equal opportunity, and individual merit.

SB 55

#### **Public School Instructional Material Requirements**

Requires a process for adopting or approving instructional materials in an open and public meeting with a notice and public comment opportunity, requires LEAs to develop a policy on approvals, and requires contractors to notify LEAs if materials are changed.

SB 227

#### **School Board Ethics Complaint Investigation Requirements**

Requires that an ethics complaint against a local school board member be reviewed by the Political Subdivisions Ethics Review Commission.

HB 465

## **School Library Transparency Amendments**

Requires LEAs with school libraries to provide an online platform by August 1, 2024 --or 2026, depending on the LEA's student enrollment-- that allows a parent to view information regarding materials the student borrows from the library.

SB 100

#### **Gender Identity Policies**

Ensures parent access to information related to their child's gender identity. Prohibits a school from changing a student's records regarding their gender identity without parental consent.

HB 304

#### **Juvenile Justice Revisions**

Requires schools to provide a reintegration plan for minors alleged to have committed a felony offense; creates a prevention and intervention program at USBE; and amends intervention and referral requirements.

HB 61

#### **School Safety Requirements**

Creates a taskforce and designates a state security chief. Requires an RFP for firearm detection software. Requires threat assessment and safety specialist.

HB 400

#### **School Absenteeism Amendments**

LEAs are to include certain evidence-based strategies and interventions for children as part of their efforts to reduce student absenteeism.

HB 209

#### **Participation in Extracurricular Activities**

Provides private, online, charter, & home-school students the ability to participate in activities outside of the student's public school of residence.

SB 103

#### **Student Graduation Attire Modifications**

Allows individuals to wear religious or cultural attire during graduation ceremonies as part of their graduation attire.

SB 35

### **Reciprocal Professional Licensing Amendments**

Enacts the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact and creates a process for the USBE to issue professional licenses and certificates by endorsement to those licensed in other states or with qualifying education and experience.