



## ***Board Brief*** **March 2025**

### **Budget Updates**

On Friday, February 28, 2025, Governor Cox, President Adams, and Speaker Schultz announced that the legislature was providing a direct salary increase of \$1,446 to teachers and a \$1,000 bonus for education support staff. This is in addition to an increase to the WPU of 4%. Proposed education funding include -

- \$50 million – \$1,446 salary increase for teachers
  - \$1,000 direct salary increase, \$446 for the educator salary adjustment included in the base budget
- \$50 million – \$1,000 bonus for educator support staff
- \$178 million – 4% funding increase to the WPU
- \$77.7 million – Educator professional time
- \$65 million – Career and Technical Education Catalyst grant program
- \$14.3 million – Teachers’ supplies and materials
- \$12.4 million – Stipends for Future Educators grants for student teachers
- \$7.3 million – Grow Your Own Educator Pipeline Grant Program
- \$795,700 – Support for professional liability insurance premiums for Utah educators

[Public Education Appropriations](#) met on February 28, 2025, and release their recommendations for public education. When the session ends on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, superintendents and business administrators will begin the process of analyzing the impact of the budget and legislation that was passed.

### **Utah Loves Public Schools**

[Utah Loves Public Schools](#) is a new 501-4C actively promoting public education in Utah by advocating for policies that support well-funded, high-quality public schools. The organization works to raise awareness about the challenges public schools face, such as funding shortages and legislative threats, while also highlighting the successes of educators and students. Through community engagement, social media campaigns, and collaboration with policymakers, Utah Loves Public Schools encourages public support for education and opposes initiatives that divert resources away from public schools, such as vouchers and funding caps.

### **USBA Spring Regional Meetings**

The Utah School Boards Association (USBA) Spring Regional Meetings will begin the week after the legislative session. The meetings will provide an opportunity for school board members, superintendents and business administrators to discuss key legislative updates and begin to think about the JLC priorities for 2026. The schedule of meetings can be found [here](#).

### **Keeping the Momentum: Advocacy Efforts After the Legislative Session**

The conclusion of a legislative session does not mean the end of advocacy for public education. In fact, the work of school board members advocating students, teachers, and communities is just



as critical in the months that follow. Here are some key steps school board members can take to continue their advocacy efforts year-round:

### **1. Connect with Legislators**

Maintaining relationships with lawmakers is essential. Follow up with legislators to thank them for their support on key education issues or to express concerns about policies that may impact your district. Inviting them to visit schools in your community can provide valuable firsthand insight into the successes and challenges of public education.

### **2. Engage with the Community**

Advocacy extends beyond legislative halls—it thrives in local communities. Keep parents, teachers, and community members informed about legislative outcomes and their impact on schools. Encourage continued engagement by hosting town halls, school board meetings, or community forums to discuss ongoing challenges and solutions.

### **3. Build Stronger Coalitions**

Strength in numbers is key to effective advocacy. Collaborate with other school board members, district administrators, parent organizations, and local businesses to amplify the voice of public education. Partnering with advocacy groups such as the Utah School Boards Association (USBA) can help ensure a unified message and stronger influence.

### **4. Monitor Implementation and Impacts**

New policies and funding decisions take time to be implemented. School board members should closely monitor how legislative changes affect their districts and be prepared to address any unintended consequences. Gathering data and real-world examples can be valuable for future advocacy efforts.

### **5. Prepare for the Next Session**

Advocacy is a continuous process. Start preparing for the next legislative session by identifying priorities early. Work with district stakeholders to develop clear goals, gather relevant data, and build relationships with policymakers in the interim. Engaging in ongoing discussions with legislators before they reconvene can help shape future policies.

By remaining engaged, proactive, and collaborative, school board members can ensure that the needs of public schools remain at the forefront of legislative discussions year-round. Advocacy does not end when the session adjourns—it is an ongoing commitment to strengthening public education in Utah.