



## MEMO

Weber School District Board Members:  
President Paul Widdison, Vice President Jon Ritchie,  
Members: Douglas Hurst, Janis Christensen,  
Bruce Jardine, Jan Burrell, Kelly Larson  
Superintendent Gina Butters

**FROM:** Candace Parr and Dax Teuscher

**DATE:** January 31, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Child Nutrition Department Request to Join UCARE

We are proposing that the Weber School District Child Nutrition Program join UCARE (Utah Cooperative Acquiring Resources Efficiently) beginning SY 2024-2025. UCARE is a co-op between 20 Utah school districts, including Alpine, Canyons, and Ogden, to increase buying power on products to provide Utah students with the highest quality meals.

UCARE contracts with a distributor (currently Sysco) to purchase and deliver products to school districts and individual schools. Each week, our schools would place orders for food and supplies for the following week based on the posted menu, just as they are currently doing. We would submit those orders to Sysco, who would then pick and deliver those orders to each individual school on a scheduled day during the week. We propose to order completely from the UCARE contract and deliver directly to schools, eliminating the need for the Child Nutrition Department to utilize both Western Gateway (our contracted warehouse) and the WSD Warehouse.

The WSD Child Nutrition Department pays approximately \$550,000 in storage-related costs per year, which includes, but is not limited to, salaries to the warehouse, fees to our contracted storage facilities, and costs resulting from lost, damaged, or expired product. By going with UCARE, we would see those costs saving, which would be a tremendous help to our department, especially with the increased costs of food and supplies we are experiencing.

Other benefits would include:

1. Freeing up storage space at the warehouse for other departments, which is in high demand, especially with the new schools opening next school year;

2. Time would be freed up for Nicole Lewis, our current buyer, to be utilized within the Purchasing department for other necessary assignments, such as asset management;
3. The warehouse department would be moved back under Facilities and utilized for other much needed duties;
4. Schools would only receive 4-5 deliveries per week versus the current 6-7 deliveries per week, freeing up staff time;
5. We would have the option to look at other contracts that can be utilized through UCARE (i.e. cleaning supplies) that could save us a potential of \$50,000 extra a year;
6. It would satisfy a budget review recommendation that “WSD seek for ways to reduce their food expenditures by considering potential waste and contracting methods” to bring down our meal equivalent costs to be more comparable to peer districts in the State of Utah (See page 35 of “An In-Depth Budget Review of the Weber School District”, No 2022-02, April 2022, [https://lag.utleg.gov/olag-doc/2022-02\\_RPT.pdf](https://lag.utleg.gov/olag-doc/2022-02_RPT.pdf))

We would ask the board to approve allowing the Child Nutrition Program to participate in UCARE beginning SY24-25.