

JLC 2023 Legislative Priorities

Adopted by the Delegate Assembly on August 27, 2022

The Joint Legislative Committee (JLC) of the Utah School Boards Association and Utah School Superintendents Association believes that families are the key to our success as a society and public education is the great equalizer. We are dedicated to supporting all students and know that our systems and communities are stronger when we are all involved and participating within the public education system. To that end, we must continue to invest in quality educators, student support, schools, and policies supportive of public education. The JLC values and appreciates the support we have received from our legislative partners and looks forward to working together to reach our vision for Utah students and families.

<i>Quality Educators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10% WPU increase (that includes inflation) to attract educators and support staff ● Increase the Educator Salary Adjustment and move it above the line ● Address critical educator shortages by creating options for retired educators to return to work without retirement benefit reductions
<i>Student Support</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fund full-day kindergarten at a full WPU which allows LEAs to expand opportunities to support the needs of their communities ● Increase supports for mental health needs for all students ● Provide additional funding to support students with disabilities
<i>Schools</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$5M a year to attain 85% state support for to and from transportation costs as provided in statute ● \$500,000 a year to increase Necessarily Existent Small Schools (NESS) funding and will continue to advocate for isolated schools ● \$250M in Economic Stabilization Funds to support capital costs, school safety, and technology
<i>Policy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We support local governance by elected non-partisan school boards who serve as liaisons to their communities and work collaboratively with parents/guardians and stakeholders through policy and processes. ● We support the elimination of curricular, co-curricular, and general fees if replacement funding is provided. ● We support school accountability and are prepared to work cooperatively with legislators to repeal school grading legislation. ● We support a legislative study of school impact fees to provide for new growth. ● We support modifying the calculation of the certified tax rate to include an annual inflation adjustment. ● We oppose all efforts that move public education funds to private interests through vouchers, tax credits, and/or other means.

Consider the impact of the number of education bills and resulting rules that create fiscal and administrative burdens for every district.