



# In The Know

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*People are attracted to teaching because they want to make a real impact. The teachers who are making the greatest difference go far beyond meeting standardized test measures. They aspire to truly level the playing field for their students, which means inspiring a love of learning, fostering the highest levels of critical thinking, building perseverance in working towards academic excellence, and so on.*

*Wendy Kopp*

The purpose of this publication is to provide members of the education community a summary of critical education related meetings, a summary of the items discussed, action of the group involved and Utah PTA's position (if any). If you have any feedback, questions, concern regarding any of the items summarized or this publication, please feel free to contact me. Please share this document those that you think would benefit from knowledge of this information.

## **Governor's Education Excellence Commission Meeting – Oct. 8, 2019**

### 1. Envision Utah: A Vision for Teacher Excellence – Jason Brown

In 1997, Envision Utah launched an unprecedented public effort aimed to keep Utah beautiful, prosperous, healthy, and neighborly for future generations. As a neutral facilitator, Envision Utah brought together residents, elected officials, developers, conservationists, business leaders, and other interested parties to make informed decisions about how we should grow. Education is an area that Envision Utah has undertaken as a project, which was designed to help Utahns understand what they and their families can do, as well as what we can do together, to improve education. "A Vision for Teaching Excellence" is the product of a collaborative effort spearheaded by Envision Utah working with legislative leadership, the Governor's Office, education officials, business leaders and the Utah Education Association to figure out what it really takes to get and hold onto great teachers. Jason Brown of Envision Utah provided a summary to members of the Governor's Education Excellence Commission. The following are a summary of key points made in the presentation:

- In today’s market, how do we need to compensate teachers in order to attract great students into the profession and keep our best teachers in the classroom?
- To address this question/problem, we must stabilize and optimize the teaching profession.
- To stabilize the teaching profession:
  - Salaries must be increased for all teachers so that the average new teacher salary start around \$60,000 and grow to \$110,000 over the course of a career.
  - Strengthen teacher induction with meaningful support from dedicated mentors.
  - Provide the option for teachers to work more days for planning, professional development, summer teaching, etc. with commensurate pay.
  - Provide more scholarships for prospective teachers and heavily promote scholarship opportunities to younger students.
- To optimize the profession:
  - Build stronger pathways.
  - Encourage greater family support and involvement in education.
  - Ensure class sizes are effective for subject area and grade level.
  - Provide adequate support professionals such as counselors, aides, clerical support, etc.
- By addressing these two area, this will allow schools to:
  - Recruit our best and brightest into the profession.
  - Retain great teachers in the classroom.
  - Re-engage experienced teachers who left the classroom early.
  - Elevate the profession as a whole.
- Utahns want to provide better support for teachers:
  - 90% of Utahns believe it’s important to provide better support for teachers (2019 – as compared to 76% in 2016).
  - 71% of Utahns are willing to increase funding for education (2019 – as compared to 51% in 2016).

**Committee Action:** (See Item #2)

**Utah PTA Position:** N/A

**Document Link:**

[https://www.envisionutah.org/images/Vision\\_for\\_Teacher\\_Excellence.pdf](https://www.envisionutah.org/images/Vision_for_Teacher_Excellence.pdf)

1. FY2020 Budget and Legislative Priorities – Tami Pyfer

Tami Pyfer, Education Advisor to the Governor led a discussion regarding the committee’s priorities and recommendations that should be made to the governor’s office. Based on the committee’s discussion and on the components of the Utah’s Education Roadmap and Envision Utah’s Vision for Teacher Excellence, the following priorities were adopted.

## **October 2019 Budget and Policy Recommendations to Governor Herbert**

### Enhancing Access and Equity throughout the Education System

The Education Excellence Commission encourages the Governor and Legislature to prioritize legislation and funding to enhance access and equity in the early grades through extended time (OEK) for Kindergarten children at risk of academic failure, and quality numeracy and literacy instruction in grades PreK-3. In addition, the Commission recommends improved access to post-secondary education through expanding the College Advising Corps program. Finally, as noted in the Education Roadmap, “the heart of the equity and excellence conversation is at the teacher level,” requiring a stable workforce of high-quality educators who receive adequate compensation and ongoing support throughout their careers.

This emphasis of enhancing access and equity includes the following strategies, which are described in the Education Roadmap.

- Expand access to optional extended-day kindergarten (OEK) to all Utah students at risk of academic failure. \$20M ongoing
- Improve the quality of instruction and support teachers in PreK-3 by providing ongoing, job-embedded coaching and support \$18M ongoing
- Expand the College Advising Corps program. \$3M ongoing
- Invest in educators and support compensation and other measures (contained in Envision Utah's “A Vision for Teacher Excellence”) aimed at recruiting and retaining high-quality educators, while increasing systemic accountability within the K-12 system. \$577-677M ongoing\*

\* Members of the committee discussed the importance of “accountability” if this item, along with the funding request, was to be included in the overall request. They talked about accountability in the sense of terminating poor teachers as opposed to accountability for student test scores.

**Committee Action:** Adopt the Budget and Policy Recommendations and submit to the Governor’s office

**Utah PTA Position:** To Be Determined (TBD)

**Presentation Link:** Utah’s Education Roadmap - <https://site.utah.gov/governor/wp-content/uploads/sites/40/2018/12/Utah-Education-Roadmap.pdf>