



In The Know

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Steven K. Hirase, Education Commissioner
E-Mail: steve@utahpta.org
Cell/Text: (801) 550-7583

We mistake politics for legislative debate. You can be passionate without being personal.

Richard Dreyfuss

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.

Education Interim Committee – October 16, 2019

1. Utah State Board of Education (USBE) Minor Legislation Requests:
 - Utah Code 63G-7-301 – Waivers of Immunity
 - Replace phrase “appropriate behavior policy” with “code of conduct.”
https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title63G/Chapter7/63G-7-S301.html?v=C63G-7-S301_2019051420190514
 - Utah Code 53F-5-209 – Miscellaneous Grant Programs
 - Strike the word “private” from the phrase “private matching funds” in the afterschool program requirements to allow LEA to use any matching funds. https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title53F/Chapter5/53F-5-S210.html?v=C53F-5-S210_2019051420190514
 - Utah Code 53F-5-504 – Competency Based Education Grants Program
 - Eliminate the “annual” application requirement for the Teacher Salary Supplement Program.
https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title53F/Chapter5/53F-5-S504.html?v=C53F-5-S504_2019051420190514
- Committee Action:** Passed Committee Bill
Utah PTA Position: To Be Determined (TBD)
Document Link: <https://le.utah.gov/Interim/2019/pdf/00004462.pdf>

2. USBE School Breakfast Request – Bill written based on action of Education Interim Committee on September 18, 2019

Committee Action: Passed Committee Bill

Utah PTA Position: To Be Determined (TBD)

Document Link: <https://le.utah.gov/Interim/2019/pdf/00004499.pdf>

3. Vaping and E-Cigarette Presentation: Representative Susan Pulsipher presented a draft of a bill for the committee’s consideration.

Representative Pulsipher informed the committee that her proposed bill was one of about five bills that would be considered during the upcoming legislative session. The reason that her bill is being considered in the Education Interim Committee is because it is directly related to schools including education components/curriculum that would be required of schools/districts. There were some questions and concerns presented by members of the committee and public, for example, who would be responsible for the destruction of confiscated devices, the police or school. In addition, there was some concern related to some of the specific requirements made of schools and school districts. Representative Pulsipher will make some changes in the proposed bill and bring it to the committee at the November committee meeting.

Committee Action: Revise Proposed Bill

Utah PTA Position: TBD

Document Links: <https://le.utah.gov/Interim/2019/pdf/00004524.pdf>

4. Early Childhood Learning – Quality Instruction in Preschool through Grade 3: Presented by Jennifer Thronsen and Shannon Olson of USBE

The presentation was based upon three requests that would be made of the committee: 1) Quality Instruction; 2) Extended Time; and 3) Early Start.

- Quality Instruction
 - Results of a statewide survey and focus groups showed teachers feel least confident in teaching foundational reading skills.
 - Teachers matter more to student achievement than any other aspect of schooling.
 - Solution:
 - LEA formula grants for professional learning with job-embedded coaching supports and administrator follow-up.
 - Regional and Charter Implementation Support Coaches

- Enhanced supports for Early Mathematics
 - Appropriation Request:
 - Ongoing - \$17,755,400
 - One-Time - \$458, 200
- Extended Time
 - Optional Enhanced Kindergarten
 - Established in code in 2007
 - 7.5 million in state funds
 - 2.8 million in federal funds added in 2017 (expires this school year).
 - Opportunity for students demonstrating academic risk upon kindergarten entry to participate in extended learning time above the traditional half-day KD.
 - Proposal
 - Blend of Optional Enhanced Kindergarten (OEK) and Kindergarten Supplemental Enrichment Program (KSEP).
 - Increase access for students to participate in extended learning experiences.
 - Provide additional access to early intervention for students who are at risk of not meeting grade level literacy and numeracy expectations.
 - Appropriation Request:
 - \$18,646,200
- Early Start
 - Preschool Grants – Becoming Quality
 - Who – LEA’s, private providers, home-based technology programs
 - Provides support and resources to increase program quality in the form of coaching, funding for curriculum and classroom materials, family engagement, etc.
 - Preschool Grants – High Quality
 - Who – LEA’s, private providers, home-based technology programs
 - Provides seat funding for eligible students – Economically disadvantaged with one risk factor and English language learners.
 - Current Funding
 - 2018-19, \$12 Million
 - 2019-20, \$9 Million (\$12.1 Million requested)
 - 2020-21, \$12 Million

Committee Action: None Taken

Utah PTA Position: TBD

Presentation Links:

<https://le.utah.gov/interim/2019/pdf/00004540.pdf>

Utah PTA Positions

You may have noticed or wondered why on the agenda items featured in “In the Know” the Utah PTA positions are generally listed as “TBD.” The Utah PTA has a formal process for adopting positions on legislative items. The process is as follows:

1. Once a bill has been filed or a document has been formally published, a member of Utah PTA’s Legislative Advocacy Committee (LAC) must make a formal motion to support, oppose or remain neutral on the specific bill or document.
2. The motion must be based on whether the proposed legislation or document is consistent with one of the legislative priorities adopted by the PTA Board of Directors for the current year.
3. Once the LAC considers the motion and takes a formal action/position, it becomes the official Utah PTA position.

The legislative priorities for the Utah PTA, as adopted by the Board of Directors on September 5, 2019 are:

1. Support education legislation which maintains the constitutional guarantee that the Legislature shall provide for the establishment and maintenance of a public education system, which shall be open to all children of the state; and that all revenue from a tax on income shall be used to support the system of public education and higher education.
2. Support education appropriations which fully fund enrollment growth and increase the WPU by 6%.
3. Support accountability for all public schools that take into account the needs of students, teachers, and communities.
4. Support safe practices and environments for all children.
5. Support additional funding to help with the overwhelming mental health crisis including, but not limited to: programs and classes including art, music, civic, character, and physical education; more school psychologists, counselors, nurses, and social workers; and professional development.
6. Support measures to instill proven and effective prevention methods to promote healthy behaviors in children to be able to overcome the ills of society including suicide, tobacco use, vaping, underage drinking, drug abuse, sexual exploitation, bullying, and any form of addiction that is harmful to our children’s well-being.
7. Support legislation, funding, and community partnerships that provide programs and resources to strengthen families and children’s social and emotional well being through affordable housing, homelessness initiatives, education, and parenting skills, and juvenile justice reforms.