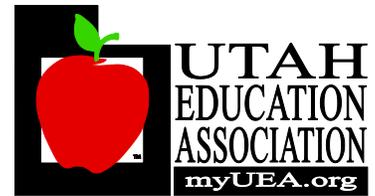


2014 UEA Legislative Summary



From day one to day 45 of the 2014 legislative session, the message that members and the UEA Legislative Team shared with lawmakers was that we needed to pay for basic education needs before investing in other expensive and unproven programs.

In the end, the Legislature opted to fully fund an additional 10,300 students expected to enter Utah schools this fall, increase the WPU by 2.5 percent, and fund \$5 million to pay for teacher supplies.

“It is encouraging that our legislators recognized the need to fund growth and increase the WPU,” said UEA President Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh. “These are positive strides, but considering per-student state funding for public education is down 9.6 percent from its 2008 pre-recession levels, public education is still behind.”

Public education budget disappointments included:

- No separate line item to cover mandatory retirement increases for education employees;
- No restoration of funding for teacher professional development; and
- Failure of a bill to significantly increase public education funding by eliminating tax deductions.

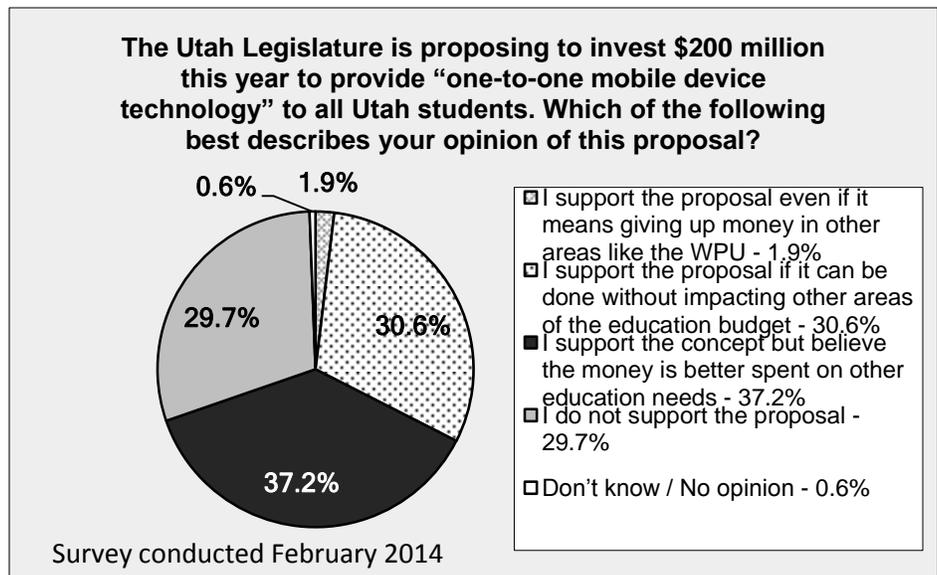
More than 200 educators participated in Educator Day on the Hill. “Having teachers on the Hill with us to share their classroom experience with legislators is invaluable,” said UEA Vice President Tom Nedreberg. “The educators who are with us become the eyes, ears and mouth of the Legislative Team

as they communicate with their individual legislators. Their participation makes a big difference and is very effective.”

Here are a few key issues and how they fared:

- **Technology**

With just over three weeks left in the session, Speaker Becky Lockhart released details of a bill ([HB131](#)) to provide \$200 million for student technology. The Senate and House fought over ways to fund the bill, but never reached an agreement. The bill died where it began, in the House.



The backstory on this involved a UEA-generated member survey. Over a 36-hour period, more than 1,700 members weighed in (see graph). Copies of the survey results were forwarded to key legislative leaders. The UEA message remained the same – pay for the basic needs of public education first.

[See more online at myUEA.org/legislature](http://myUEA.org/legislature)

- **Educator Professionalism**

One of the UEA’s priority bills ([SB101](#)) extends the deadline for full implementation of the new evaluation system by one year. The bill passed both houses without a dissenting vote. The timeframe for every district to fully implement an evaluation system aligned to the new evaluation framework is now 2015-16 and the requirement that educator evaluations be tied to advancement on the salary schedule is now 2016-17.

The Legislature passed a bill ([SB103](#)) to allow a local school board to replace up to four days or 32 hours of instruction with either teacher professional development or teacher preparation time. Local education associations should work with school boards to assess whether to employ this option and, if so, how much instructional time should be converted and for what purpose.

- **Grading Schools**

The UEA remains opposed to the grading schools concept, but [SB209](#) made minor improvements. Improvements include: exempting alternative schools from school grading and tasking the State Board of Education with creating an accountability plan better suited for these schools; changing the automatic “F” schools received last year if they did not achieve 95 percent test participation to simply lowering the school grade one letter; clarifying the use of an ACT score as a measure of college readiness; and, most importantly, allowing the State Board of Education to determine appropriate



Teachers shared refreshments in the Senate chambers as part of NEA Read Across America Day celebrations.

measurements for this year as schools transition to the implementation of the new SAGE computer adaptive testing system.



Sixth-grade teacher Judy Mahoskey meets with Rep. Tim Cosgrove during UEA Educator Day on the Hill.

- **Parent Rights**

The UEA had concerns about the parental rights bill ([SB122](#)) when it was initially introduced, but Sen. Aaron Osmond worked extensively with the UEA Legislative Team to create legislation acceptable to teachers. It now specifies certain rights of parents and, importantly, clarifies that as parents request accommodations, schools must balance these requests with considerations of teacher workload, employee working conditions, academic and behavioral impacts to a classroom and other factors. The bill also requires the State Board of Education to ensure that if parents opt students out of statewide assessments neither schools nor employees will be negatively impacted in school grading or educator evaluations.

- **School Board Elections**

Several bills targeted the way state school board members are nominated and elected. Two such bills would eliminate the current statewide committee that screens candidates for the governor’s selection and replace it with direct primary elections. One ([HB223](#)) would have made the elections non-partisan, the other ([HB228](#)) would have made them partisan. Both bills failed.

Legislation of Note in the 2014 Legislative Session

With more than 130 bills dealing directly or indirectly with education, the UEA Legislative Team had its hands full. Here are a few education bills of note and their final status:

☺ = Outcome favorable to the UEA position ☹ = Outcome neutral ☹ = Outcome unfavorable

Bill	Description	Result (Yea-Nay-Absent)
HB77: Tax Credit for Home-schooling Parent (D. Lifferth)	Provides a \$500 per child tax credit for parents of home-schooled students.	☹ Passed the House Rev & Tax Committee 7-4-5 but failed in the House 32-37-6
HB96: Utah School Readiness Initiative (G. Hughes)	Creates the School Readiness Board, which provides grants for early childhood education programs.	☺ Passed the Senate 17-10-2 and the House 55-17-3
HB131 (3rd Sub.): Public Education Modernization Act (F. Gibson)	Allocates \$200 million to provide for technology infrastructure, professional development and mobile device technology for students.	☹ Passed the House Education Committee 13-1-2 but not heard in the House
HB150 (4th Sub.): STEM Amendments (V. Peterson)	Expands the scope of STEM education to provide teacher professional development, create a STEM endorsement and include students in grades 7 and 8. This bill carries a \$20 million fiscal note paid from the General Fund.	☹ Passed the Senate 25-0-4 and the House 70-0-5
HB223: School Board Elections Provisions (J. Nielsen)	Replaces the current nominating committee process for selecting state school board members with a direct, nonpartisan election.	☹ Passed the House 57-15-3 but failed in the Senate Education Committee 3-3-2
HB228 (1st Sub.): Utah State Board of Education Elections and Reporting Amendments (B. Greene)	Replaces the current nominating committee process for selecting state school board members with a direct, partisan election.	☹ Passed the House Education Committee 8-5-3 but failed in the House 33-41-1
HB236: State School Board Nomination Divisions (K. Powell)	Prohibits a lobbyist from sitting on the State School Board Nominating Committee and forwards an incumbent to the governor for consideration.	☹ Passed the House 53-20-2 but failed in the Senate Education Committee 2-4-2
HB286 (2nd Sub.): Child Sexual Abuse Prevention (A. Romero)	Requires the State Board of Education to approve instructional materials for child sexual abuse prevention and awareness training and instruction.	☺ Passed the Senate 20-8-1 and the House 71-0-4
HB320 (1st Sub.): Educators' Professional Learning (B. Last)	Defines the standards of quality professional learning and directs money to an outside contractor to study the impact of quality educator professional development.	☺ Passed the House 67-2-6 and the Senate 22-0-7
SB34 (3rd Sub.): Governance of the Utah Education and Workforce Alliance (H. Stephenson)	Creates an evaluation panel to evaluate Utah Futures and make recommendations.	☹ Passed the House 69-5-1 and the Senate 24-0-5

Bill	Description	Result (Yea-Nay-Absent)
SB39 (1st Sub.): Home School Amendments (A. Osmond)	Eliminates instructional requirements for home-school students and specifies placement procedures home school students who transfer to a public school.	☺ Passed in the House 52-17-6 and in the Senate 23-0-6
SB40 (1st Sub.): Financial and Economic Literacy Amendments (P. Jones)	Requires an online end-of-course assessment, professional development for the teachers and an endorsement program for financial literacy.	☺ Passed the House 62-6-7 and the Senate 26-0-3
SB43: Intergenerational Poverty Interventions in Public Schools (S. Reid)	Establishes a grant program providing after-school programs for students living in situations of intergenerational poverty.	☺ Passed the House 68-2-5 and the Senate 24-1-4
SB80 (1st Sub.): Statewide Online Education Amendments (H. Stephenson)	Defines what an IEP is for a special education online student and what dual enrollment is for a special education student who takes online courses.	☺ Passed the Senate 21-4-4 but failed in the House 11-61-3
SB101: Public Education Human Resource Management Amendments (A. Osmond)	Extends the deadline for full implementation of the new evaluation system by one year.	☺ Passed the Senate and the House unanimously
SB103 (1st Sub.): Substitute Local Control of Classroom Time Requirements (A. Osmond)	Allows for a local school board to replace up to four days or 32 hours of instruction with either teacher professional development or teacher preparation.	☺ Passed the House 50-24-1 and the Senate 22-1-6
SB111 (3rd Sub.): Education Funding Equalization (A. Osmond)	Generates new funding for education by freezing property tax rates. An amendment would direct the revenue to student technology (HB131).	☺ Passed the Senate 16-12-1 but was not heard in the House
SB118 (1st Sub.): School Funding through Income Tax Revisions (P. Jones)	Limits the number of personal exemptions, generating substantial new funding for public schools	☺ Passed the Senate Education Committee 4-2-2 but was not heard in the Senate
SB157: School-Based Budgeting Amendments (H. Stephenson)	Requires a school district to distribute at least 85 percent of Minimum School Program revenues directly to schools.	☺ Failed in the Senate 11-17-1
SB202: Charter School Funding Amendments (H. Stephenson)	Increases the per-pupil local revenues a school district is required to contribute for students enrolled in a charter school.	☺ Failed in the Senate 14-14-1
SB209: School Grading Revisions (J. Adams)	Makes changes to the school grading law passed last year.	☺ Passed the House 62-12-1 and the Senate 25-0-4
SB219: Public Education UPPAC Advisory Commission (D. Henderson)	Changes the composition of the Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission (UPPAC), which hears complaints against teachers.	☺ Passed the Senate Education Committee 5-1-2 but was not heard in the Senate
SJR2: Joint Resolution on Legislative Power (A. Osmond)	Constitutional change requiring any taxation law to be approved by voters before taking effect.	☺ Held in committee
SJR12: Joint Resolution on State Superintendent of Public Instruction (S. Reid)	Requires that the state school superintendent be appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate.	☺ Passed the Senate 24-3-2 but was not heard in the House