

“Our Schools Now”

Prominent business leaders from across the state have recently released a proposed ballot initiative to be considered by the Utah Legislature in the upcoming 2017 session. The new initiative is titled “Our Schools Now” and provides a structure to increase revenues in education by increasing the state income tax from 5% to 5.875%, which would generate an increase of approximately \$750 million for education, which equates to nearly a \$1,000 increase per student. The increase in funds would then be distributed to each school based on student enrollment. If the proposal makes it to the ballot, and if the voters approve it, each school would create a School Improvement Plan to outline how the funds would be spent at the school level, and request district approval to use the funds to improve student outcomes based on measurable goals. Retired chairman of Questar Corporation said, “We will get enough signatures in 2017 to get the initiative on the ballot in 2018.” Additionally, Gail Miller, owner of the Larry H. Miller Group, said, “Our Schools Now is a win-win for all Utahns. Education is the number one economic development issue our state faces.” During the next few months, business leaders will be taking input on their Our Schools Now initiative and hope to begin acquiring 100,000 signatures by the summer of 2017 to place it on the ballot during the 2018 general election. Preliminary numbers from the Our Schools Now initiative indicated if the income tax increase were to be approved by the voters, it would generate approximately \$1,000,000 in new revenues in Kane District. If you would like to read more information about the Our Schools Now business initiative you can visit the following link: <https://ourschoolsnow.com/>

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