

## **Federal Funding in Education**

In 1965 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which was intended to provide education funding to states, with a direct focus on ensuring that every student in the country had access to education. Every three to five years the Act expired, requiring Congress to reauthorize the funding. In 2002 President George W. Bush continued the educational funding with an increase in state accountability in student performance and allocated \$32 billion in educational spending under the No Child Left Behind Act. No Child Left Behind was replaced by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) on December 10, 2015, with a House vote of 359-64 and Senate vote of 85-17, and signed into law by President Obama. ESSA authorized spending \$24.9 billion in education. On February 1, 2018, the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) announced they would seek a waiver from the provisions in the Every Student Succeeds Act that would otherwise require the state to count students who opt-out of state testing as receiving a zero score for school accountability. Feedback from the U.S. Department of Education indicated that Utah's ESSA plan may not meet the federal statutory requirements regarding assessment participation and reporting. The USBE will continue to negotiate with the U.S. Department of Education to secure the millions of dollars in educational revenues. In fiscal year 2012, federal funding for all the school districts and charter schools accounted for approximately 10% of their total budget, with estimated federal revenue of \$481,246,072. We are fortunate in the Kane School District to be less reliant on the federal funds when compared to other districts, which account for only 5% of our total district's budget and equates to \$915,711 in fiscal year 2017.

Ben Dalton  
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