

Utah Legislature 2017

Day one of the Utah State Legislature began on January 23, 2017, with education at the forefront of funding discussions. As of the date this article was written, there are currently 103 House bills and 43 Senate bills on file, which would affect education. We anticipate more educational bills will be filed before the session ends on March 9, 2017. Each year, legislation is drafted to address education-funding formulas. In many cases, changes to school funding formulas create winners and losers, and this year is no exception with SB 80 School Funding Amendments, sponsored by Senator Fillmore and floor sponsor Representative Last. SB 80 does not take away funding, but represents foregone revenue based on priority funding by setting aside new education revenues in the Education Fund equal to a third of the fiscal year's Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU is the amount of state revenue received per student). Recent calculations by business administrators indicate that Kane County School District may receive a decrease of approximately \$92,644 in future WPU allocations. Senate Bill 34, sponsored by Senator Millner and floor sponsored Representative Last, would authorize the State Board of Education to reimburse districts for students who graduate high school early. Please note, these bills are current legislation and have not been passed by the House or the Senate. We will continue track the many legislative bills throughout the session and provide recommendations to legislators on bills affecting our district.

Ben Dalton
Superintendent
Kane School District