

School Land Trust Changes

During the November 2016 election, the voters approved Amendment B across the state of Utah with 54.7% in favor of amending the Utah Constitution. With these changes, the state has additional flexibility in how the school land trust funds are invested; allows for an increase in funding to schools by allowing up to 4% of annual distributions from the State School Fund to be distributed to schools, and also modifies the description of what can be distributed from “interest and dividends” to “earnings”. These changes are currently being calculated by the Utah State Board of Education with estimates of an approximate 30% increase for school community councils to utilize in their school improvement plans upon approval by the local Kane County School Board. A common misconception is that the more School Land Sections in a school district, the more money schools receive through the Land Trust program. However, this is not true because all of the money collected from land sales or leases from School Land sections are received at the state level in the “School Children’s Trust” and distributed to all schools across the state on a per student basis. For more information on the school land trust program, you can visit <http://www.schoollandtrust.org/>

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