

Our Schools Now

Our Schools Now is an initiative to allow Utah citizens the opportunity to consider voting for an increase in Income and Sales Tax over a two-year period to provide additional revenue for education. This organization has recently started to hold public comment meetings across the state to answer questions and gain support for this proposal. Additionally, advocates for Our Schools Now is currently collecting 100,000 signatures to place the initiative on the ballot in 2018. The following is an illustration of how the proposed changes would take place.

State Sales tax increase (.5%) will generate approximately \$250 million annually.

- 4.7% is the current state sales tax rate
- 4.9% beginning April 1, 2019
- 5.10% beginning January 1, 2020
- 5.20% beginning January 1, 2021

State Income tax increase (.5%) will generate approximately \$450 million annually.

- 5.0 % is the current state income tax rate
- 5.20% beginning January 1, 2019
- 5.40% beginning January 1, 2020
- 5.50% beginning January 1, 2021

The total increase in new revenues between the State Sales Tax and State Income Tax increase will be approximately \$700 million. Of the \$700 million, 85% of the funding will be directed to K-12 education (\$595 million) and the remaining 15% (\$105 million) of the funding will be directed to colleges of higher education. If the Our School Now initiative passes, local school boards will create the framework for each school to use in the expenditure of the funding. All of the funding will go directly to schools for their use in improving teacher and student success, which may be used for: Educator compensation, professional development, additional educators or school support professionals including counselors, social workers, mental health workers, tutors, technology or software, before or after school programs, community support programs, early childhood education, class size reduction, improve existing programs, or any other purpose designated to improve student performance and approved by the local school board. If the voters pass the Our Schools Now initiative, Kane County Schools would receive approximately \$1,000,000 in new revenue. If you would like to read more about the Our Schools Now Initiative, you can access the following link <https://ourschoolsnow.com/about/>

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