

## Legislative Summary

On March 29, Kane County School Board members will be attending a Utah School Board's regional meeting in Cedar City to review the legislative changes affecting education. This year there were approximately 109 education bills filed during this legislative session. Of those bills, districts tracked 74 priority bills, which resulted in 44 of the 74 bills passing. Districts will receive a 4% increase in the Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU), which will increase state funding from \$3,184 to \$3,311 per student. Student enrollment across the state of Utah has increased from 551,013 students in 2008 to 654,565 students in 2017, which is funded through state contributions in student enrollment growth. In Kane School District, we are experiencing flat to slightly decreasing student enrollments. Many rural districts receive additional state funding titled Necessarily Existing Small School (NESS) to help sustain schools in remote areas. Overall, the Legislative session allocated approximately \$4.8 billion into the educational budget. Substantial changes include SB220 which approves \$1.4 million to transition to the ACT test in the 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades. In grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, students will still be assessed using the state approved SAGE assessment.

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