

UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Subject:

ACTION: Recommendation for WPU % for Legislative Funding Request

Agenda item type:

Action Item

Recommended Action:

That the Board direct staff to revise the WPU Legislative Funding Request to include (X)% increase for the WPU for the upcoming legislative session.

Background:

The primary decision that state policymakers must make regarding the Basic School Program (BSP) is determining the value of the Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU). The funding formulas within the BSP are designed to ensure fairness and equal treatment of students. In most cases, they allocate funds equally for similar students while making adjustments based on individual student needs and characteristics. Generally speaking, when a larger portion of Utah's education funding flows through the BSP, it leads to a more equitable distribution of education funds throughout the state. Increasing the value of the WPU aligns with the Board's commitment to supporting K-12 education statewide.

During the full Board meeting on June 1, 2023, the Board instructed the staff to analyze potential percentage increases to the WPU's value for the 2024 general session. This analysis will help the Board determine the appropriate percentage increase to propose. The decision on the WPU percentage will play a crucial role in guiding the Board's discussion on prioritizing legislative funding requests in the following item.

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Attachments:

1. WPU Increase - Legislative Request FY 2025 (draft)
2. 2023-revenue-summary (2)
3. July Revenue Snapshot
4. LFA Economy through the Eyes of the Fed - Sep 23
5. Budget.utah.gov Right on Schedule

