

President Donald J. Trump
Secretary of Education Linda McMahon
Senator Mike Lee
Senator John Curtis
Representative Blake Moore
Representative Burgess Owens
Representative Celeste Maloy
Representative Mike Kennedy

The Utah State Board of Education believes that education is better served at the state and local level. In light of federal education dollars being moved to the Federal Department of Health and Human Services and as a preliminary step towards moving them back to the states, our board supports President Trump's effort to move money back to the states and add to Governor Cox's request to allow Utah to be the first to lead out in the country. The Board recognizes the importance of many programs that are being funded by the United States Department of Education including, but not limited to Title I, Title II , and Special Education; however, we assert that the State of Utah is better situated in dispersing these funds to meet the unique education needs of Utah's students. These funds can be preserved and properly utilized when the people of Utah are empowered to address the academic progress of Utah students.

It is our request that the federal government allow the Utah State Board of Education to become the stewards of the education resources within the state without federal oversight and may include discussions around block grants associated with federal funds in order to prioritize the needs of Utah's student population. It is our commitment to work with state and local leaders to ensure that the services not only continue, but are accelerated with input from local education experts on the best use of these funds.

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Utah students consistently score amongst the highest in the nation in various facets of education, but we can and need to improve. Allowing Utah education leaders to allocate these resources, the funds would be invested more efficiently and effectively. Utah is uniquely qualified because of our commitment to families and the work ethic of our classroom teachers. The Utah State Board is ready to lead out and show the rest of the country that our students are better served at the state and local level. We look forward to further engagement with our federal delegation and the current administration.

Sincerely,
Utah State Board of Education