



Legislative Priorities



2021 General Session of the Utah State Legislature



WEIGHTED PUPIL UNIT: Canyons urges the Legislature to restore the Weighted Pupil Unit to the pre-pandemic funding levels established during the 2020 general session. This could be accomplished, in part, by: replenishing the Special Education Intensive Services Fund to keep pace with growing demand for special education services; auditing expenditures earmarked for specific vendors to see if more value would be gained by investing that money in the WPU; and holding school districts harmless for any drop in Average Daily Membership experienced as a result of the pandemic. We continue to support the WPU as the most equalized and fair formula for distributing public education funding. Because the WPU follows the student, it promotes innovation and school choice while providing local boards flexibility to meet the diverse learning needs of the communities they serve.

EQUALIZATION: We ask that any further redistribution of property tax revenue be from a new revenue stream and be done with the aim of promoting equity while taking into consideration: current equalization commitments of school districts; variances in local area cost-of-living; and the fact that some districts serve a disproportionate number of economically disadvantaged and at-risk students, English language learners and special education students. We support modifying the calculation of the certified tax rate to include an automatic annual inflation adjustment while reserving the right of local school boards to set local levies to meet local needs.

VOUCHERS: We oppose the redirection of public funds to subsidize private education interests through the use of vouchers, tax credits or other means.

CSD QUICK FACTS ENROLLMENT

34K

approx enrollment



31%

Economically
Disadvantaged

11%

Special
Education

10%

English
Language
Learners

9%

Dual
Language
Immersion

5%

Homeless



64

 languages
spoken in CSD schools

6%

 Increase in
out-of-district students
to transfer to CSD

EXPENSES

\$300M

Projected General Fund
Expenditures

\$600

Annual difference in the
cost to educate a
student at a Title I school
versus a non-Title I
school

\$7,653

Average per-student
expenses

\$1.5M

Spent on technology for
online learners



ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO ADDRESS THE COVID LEARNING GAP: Notwithstanding Canyons District's steadfast commitment to preserving in-person instruction, throughout the pandemic coronavirus-induced school closures and quarantines have disproportionately impacted vulnerable communities and threaten to widen the achievement gap. Simply put, extra funding is needed to address the educational and social and emotional needs of those students who have struggled with at-home learning. Of particular concern are pronounced learning gaps among students in kindergarten and the first grade.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Due to the unsettled nature of the pandemic, and lack of uniformity in how students are learning, we request a suspension of letter grades for schools for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years. Standardized assessments should be used to inform instruction and guide COVID-19-related remediation efforts while providing school districts, policy makers and families a measure of student progress, but not be used for comparative purposes. We support efforts to streamline state reporting requirements to improve efficiencies and allow for greater local innovations.

CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: Canyons District has provided students with the computing devices, yet an estimated 15 percent have no access to reliable Internet service at home. We support a coordinated, statewide effort to provide sustained, affordable, and reliable connectivity to all students.

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OUR TEACHERS

84%

have four or more years of experience

50%

have a master's degree



STUDENT PERFORMANCE

9 to 18%

Amount by which CSD students exceed the state average on year-end tests

21

Average composite ACT score

90.4%

Graduation Rate



29

Elementary Schools



8

Middle Schools



5

Traditional High Schools



8

Special Programs



7

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