

UEA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES—2008

(2007 UEA House of Delegates)

LEGISLATION THAT SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASES INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE FOR:

1. Salaries and programs to attract and retain quality teachers.
2. Modern tools, technology and resources to do our jobs.
3. Smaller class sizes to better meet the needs of every child.

UEA BELIEVES THAT ANY LEGISLATION MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Recognize the importance of the professional judgment and voice of educators in creating education policy and programs.
- Provide sustainable and adequate revenue streams necessary to provide a great public school for every child in Utah.

SCHOOL FUNDING

- 10% WPU increase for employee compensation and WPU dependent programs \$240.0 M
- New student enrollment growth \$74.3 M
- One-time \$ to assist school district capital projects \$50.0 M
- Shortfalls in last year's salary adjustments:
 - One-time shortfall \$22.3 M
 - Growth \$20.0 M
- Growth and inflation funding for Block Grant programs (HB 240)

SCHOOL EMPLOYEE RIGHTS AND BENEFITS

- **Maintain** adequately funded defined benefit retirement system
- **Protect** school district employees' rights and benefits during creation of and transition to new school districts

TAX REFORM

- **Support** reform proposals that provide stable, long-term funding for public education
- **Protect** revenue sources dedicated to K-12 education funding

PROFESSIONAL COMPENSATION

- **Expand** HB 81's focus to include all aspects of professional compensation
- **Invest** in new teacher induction and mentoring programs
- **Increase** support of National Board Certification and requirements to meet Highly Qualified standards under NCLB

K-12 CLASS SIZE REDUCTION

- **Fund** new initiatives \$30.0 M
- **Establish** "crisis fund" for current emergencies \$12.0 M
- **Fund** adjustments required by law for enrollment growth \$9.0 M
- **Fund** "co-teaching" pilot program (HB 88) \$5.0 M

TECHNOLOGY AND CLASSROOM SUPPLIES

- **Invest** in updated textbooks and the Educational Technology Initiative (ETI) to support student learning \$30.0 M
- **Fund** teacher classroom supplies \$10.0 M

"An investment in our public schools is an investment in every community in Utah."

-Kim Campbell, UEA President