



USEA ALSO SUPPORTS

- ✓ Independent hearing officers for termination proceedings
- ✓ Provisional employee protection
- ✓ Funding to better prepare schools for emergencies
- ✓ Provide bus assistants on every bus that transports disabled students
- ✓ Adequate funding for new facilities and proper staffing



"The mission of the

Utah School Employees Association is to effectively advocate for the rights and needs of classified professionals working in Utah's educational system and to provide services and benefits that will enhance the lives of our members."

Rod Sims, USEA President



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2010 Legislative Agenda

What is USEA?

The Utah School Employees Association (USEA) represents Educational Support Professionals throughout Utah.

USEA represents bus drivers, maintenance workers, food service employees, paraeducators, secretaries, media specialists and custodians. These men and women are an essential element of Utah's quality educational system.

USEA, the second largest public employee organization in the state, serves as the political and negotiating voice for classified school employees throughout Utah.

The information in this pamphlet represents the bipartisan consensus of the voters USEA represents.



SALARY EQUITY

Straight percentage salary increases are blatantly unfair to low wage workers. For example, with a 4% increase, a school administrator who earns \$66,000 per year receives a \$2,640 increase; a teacher with a bachelors degree making \$34,000 per year would see an additional \$1,360; and a full-time school secretary with an annual income of \$17,600 gets a \$704 increase. To address this



inequity, the Legislature has enacted language in the Minimum School Finance Act requiring higher percentage compensation adjustments to classified school employee groups. A typical full-time 9-month employee who receives an additional five cents per hour would receive an additional \$72 per year.

USEA urges that current language remain in place to reaffirm the Legislature's commitment that compensation adjustments should be distributed to employees in a fair and equitable manner.

PRIVATIZATION

USEA **Opposes** contracting out classified functions. Various attempts to privatize services in Utah's public schools have reaffirmed that privatization is not in the best interest of our school children or taxpayers.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

USEA **Supports** full funding for all special education programs in public education.

WEIGHTED PUPIL UNIT

The WPU is the basic funding source for Utah's school districts. Each District uses WPU funds for what it determines is the most essential to its students, parents and community. USEA urges education funding be through the WPU rather than earmarked appropriations to preserve this local control. Specifically, USEA urges that the WPU be funded at a level to provide full funding for: student enrollment growth, increased costs of benefits, and fair compensation for all school employees.

RETIREMENT

State retirement benefits are an important part of what attracts qualified people to serve as public employees. The existing Utah state retirement systems are well-managed and adequately funded, even in the present difficult economic times.

USEA urges full funding of Social Security and retirement benefits for all public employees.



CHILD NUTRITION

USEA **Supports** fully funding the School Child Nutrition Program from proceeds of liquor sales.

SAFE SCHOOLS

USEA **Supports** laws that enhance the school environment and create an atmosphere to promote learning. For the safety of students, patrons and staff, Utah needs strict laws penalizing those who vandalize school property and threaten the safety of the school environment.

TRANSPORTATION



USEA **Supports** the full funding of all state-mandated student transportation, and supplemental funding to assist districts impacted by increasing fuel costs or extreme geographic challenges. For safety reasons, all school-related travel should be in school buses operated by trained professional school bus drivers.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

USEA **Supports** the development and funding of training for Classified Professionals. School employees should have learning opportunities to pursue excellence in their chosen profession. Proper training is essential to the quality and efficiency of the educational system.

PRIVATE SCHOOL FUNDING

USEA **Opposes** public tax dollars being used to fund or help fund private, parochial or home-based schools. USEA believes public education should be publicly financed and accountable to elected school boards.

USEA **Opposes** tuition tax credits, school voucher systems, or any programs that negatively impact funding for public K-12 education.

