

USEA ALSO SUPPORTS

- √ Continued due process protection for all public education employees
- √ Protection of negotiated rights and benefits
- √ Funding to better prepare schools for emergencies
- √ 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.”

Roger Pate, USEA President



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USEA LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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

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

USEA is the voice for Education Support Professionals throughout Utah.



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 bachelor's 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 only 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.

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 support 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. 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 creates 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.



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 Education Support Professionals. School employees should have learning opportunities to pursue excellence in their chosen professions. 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.

