



Utah School Employees Association

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USEA's 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Utah School Employees Association (USEA) represents Education Support Professionals (ESP's) throughout Utah who work in clerical, custodial, maintenance, food services, health and student services, security, skilled trades, technical services, transportation, and who are paraeducators. These men and women are essential elements of Utah's quality educational system and fundamental partners in student success. USEA is the voice for Education Support Professionals throughout Utah.

PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING

- **Support** full funding of all costs associated with new student growth for the coming school year
- **Support** increased funding through the Weighted Pupil Unit to allow local school boards maximum flexibility in funding local priorities and needs, including employee compensation and retention
- **Oppose** education funding allocation based on artificial benchmarks such as dollars spent "in the classroom"
- **Oppose** the use of tax dollars to fund or subsidize non-public education

LIVING WAGE COMPENSATION

- **Support** legislation that encourages the creation and preservation of classified jobs with salary, hours, and benefits adequate to allow classified employees to raise families and build careers
- **Oppose** legislation that encourages local school boards to create part-time, non-benefitted classified jobs

PRIVATIZATION AND LOCAL CONTROL

- **Oppose** legislation that encourages or prefers the use of private contractors to provide support functions, which experience has shown is not in the best interest of Utah students or taxpayers
- **Support** the ability of local school boards to determine the specific needs and the best interests of their own districts, student population, and local constituencies.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

- **Support** full funding of state-law-mandated student transportation
- **Support** funding assistance for districts affected by increasing fuel costs or geographic challenges
- **Support** funding for local school boards to upgrade existing bus fleets for increased efficiency
- **Oppose** We oppose any privatization of school district's bus fleets, maintenance operations, or route coordinators

CHILD NUTRITION

- **Support** continued child nutrition program funding from state liquor proceeds that guarantee students' access to meals

EMPLOYMENT

- **Support** protection of adequate due process and evaluations for career classified employees, including continued protection from termination without just cause
- **Support** continued development and funding of professional development opportunities for classified employees so they can better serve our students
- **Support** continued improvement in providing a safe school environment for students and employees

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- **Support** Education Support Professionals with PPE and training funding if necessary
- **Fund** staff counselors to help ESP's with stress and other mental health illnesses related to COVID-19 both during and after the pandemic.