



OFFICE OF THE
STATE AUDITOR

News Release

For Immediate Release

September 11, 2019

**Office of the State Auditor Releases a
Public Education Spending Dashboard To Help Show
“Where Does The Money Go in Public Education?”**

Salt Lake City, UTAH –

The Office of the State Auditor (Office) today announced the release of a public education spending dashboard which begins to help answer the public’s common question, “Where does the money go in public education?”

This interactive dashboard visually displays the areas where money is spent within Utah’s public K-12 education system, both by spending categories and by local education agency. The dashboard integrates data that is collected and published by the Utah State Board of Education (USBE). The dashboard is intended to make it easier for the public to understand and interpret education spending in Utah.

State Auditor John Dougall said, “Public education is the single largest component of Utah’s budget. In Utah, we value our system of public education but taxpayers often question where the money went and how well it was spent. During fiscal year 2018, Utahns spent more than \$6.7 billion on public education, or approximately \$10,500 per student. With our growing student population and increasing demands for educational services, maximizing the use of every dollar spent is essential. This dashboard helps the public better understand education spending, easily seeing where money is being spent and how that has changed over time.”

This dashboard is part of a larger effort by the Office - Project Kids - to analyze education spending. Project KIDS is an innovative performance audit that is currently integrating data from key information data systems across Utah’s system of public education. Project KIDS is intended to help the public better understand how money reaches the classroom and its impact on student learning.

The public education spending dashboard may be found at:

https://auditor.utah.gov/audit_reports/public-education/

About the Office of the State Auditor

The Office of the State Auditor provides Utah taxpayers and government officials with an independent assessment of financial operation, statutory compliance, and performance management for state and local government.

Specific activities of the Office include performing financial audits, conducting Federal funds compliance audits, providing local government oversight, conducting agency and program performance audits, performing fraud and compliance audits, and operating the State Auditor Hotline for citizens to report suspected financial issues or improprieties. These capabilities strengthen Utah State Government and help taxpayers have confidence in the integrity of Utah's government agencies.

The State Auditor is a Constitutional Officer of the State of Utah, elected directly by the state's citizens every four years. The role of the State Auditor is authorized in Article VII, Section 15 of the Utah Constitution. For more information, see auditor.utah.gov.

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