



OFFICE OF THE
STATE AUDITOR

News Release

For Immediate Release

June 13, 2022

**The Office of the State Auditor Announces that Project KIDS
Receives Award from National State Auditors Association**

*The NSAA Excellence in Accountability Awards are given
to recognize outstanding audit efforts*

Salt Lake City, UTAH –

The Office of the State Auditor (Office) today announces that Project KIDS received the National State Auditors Association's (NSAA) 2022 Excellence in Accountability Award for Special Projects. Project KIDS is a special, in-depth performance audit of public education in Utah that integrates financial, operational, and performance data to create interactive visualizations. Project KIDS identifies student-level spending and performance to allow stakeholders to explore what resource allocations drive improved student achievement. Interactive dashboards are made available to authorized local education agency (LEA) administrators and statewide visualizations are available on the State Auditor's website: auditor.utah.gov/kids.

The NSAA Excellence in Accountability Awards are given to recognize outstanding performance audits, forensic reports, and special projects performed by auditor offices across the nation. Audits are evaluated based on criteria related to the significance of their impact and usefulness, the uniqueness of the objective or subject matter and the level of innovation in process, presentation, and outcome.

The impact of Project KIDS continues to proliferate. The public interactive dashboards have encouraged higher quality data from participating entities. The rich data resource compiled by Project KIDS has been used to advance research and evaluation efforts, has provided state-level officials with opportunities to better focus resource use, and has allowed LEA administrators to better understand their school operations and to redirect resources to better align spending with their strategic objectives.

State Auditor John Dougall said, "The vision for Project KIDS has been to provide educators, taxpayers, and decision makers with insights so they can determine how effectively the state's education funding has been used in preparing the state's children to thrive in the 21st century.

This award from the National State Auditors Association recognizes both the significance of analyzing education resource allocation as well as the benefits of interactive tools built to help decision-makers in their oversight.”

The news release and related information may be found on the Office’s website at auditor.utah.gov.

Project KIDS can be found at <https://auditor.utah.gov/kids/>.

Details about NSAA award recipients can be found on their website at <https://www.nasact.org/content.asp?admin=Y&contentid=271>.

About NSAA

The National State Auditors Association is dedicated to improving state government by providing opportunities for the free exchange of information and ideas and promoting accountability, transparency and the observance of professional audit standards. NSAA is a secretariat managed by NASACT, the premier organization working to bring together state auditors, state comptrollers and state treasurers to cooperatively address government financial management issues. For more information, see https://www.nasact.org/nsaa_committees.

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 Office also provides interactive graphical tools to help taxpayers and policymakers gain greater insight into governmental financial activities.

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.

Contact:

Nicole Davis
Public Information Officer
Office of the State Auditor
801-678-4835
ndavis@utah.gov