



OFFICE OF THE
STATE AUDITOR

News Release

For Immediate Release

October 17, 2023

**The Office of the State Auditor Releases
Limited Review of the Minimum School Program**

Review of selected elements of the Minimum School Program, including statutory distribution formulas and allocations to local education agencies as well as corresponding MSP programs.

Salt Lake City, UTAH –

The Office of the State Auditor (Office) today releases its limited review of the Minimum School Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. The Office reviewed (1) the application of Minimum School Program (MSP) statutory distribution formulas and allocations to local education agencies (LEAs); and (2) MSP programs. In addition, the Office reviewed a complaint that a specific school did not comply with the School Community Council statute.

State Auditor John Dougall said, “It is critical for local education agencies to comply with the funding restrictions imposed by the Legislature or forfeit the money. While I personally favor less earmarking of public education funding, as well as more grassroots oversight, the Legislature determines the foundational funding priorities for Utah’s system of public education. While various stakeholders may have valuable ideas, it is critical they work with the Legislature to amend statute, rather than simply ignore it.”

“The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) is committed to providing districts and charters with resources to help them understand and comply with the law,” said Chair Jim Moss. “Recently, USBE expanded its trainings to include easily accessible, online (<https://schools.utah.gov/schoollandtrust/training>) videos for districts, schools and council members.”

The news release and related information may be found on the Office’s website at auditor.utah.gov. The Review report may be found directly at: <https://reporting.auditor.utah.gov/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=015Do000001FNRRIA4>.

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. These tools include the Transparent Utah Public Finance website (transparent.utah.gov) as well as the award-winning Project KIDS public education analysis dashboards (auditor.utah.gov/kids) and the Utah Health Cost Compare project (healthcost.utah.gov) to assist consumers in understanding the cost of health procedures.

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