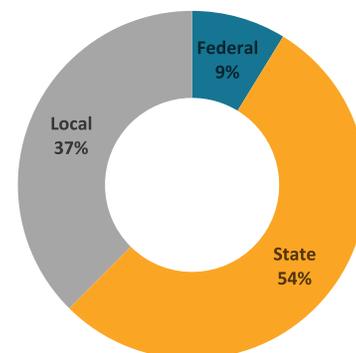


UTAH

AUTHORIZER TYPE(S)	Local Education Agency Institute of Higher Education Independent Charter Board
LEGAL STATUS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS	Local Education Agency Part of a Local Education Agency
LINKAGE TO A TRADITIONAL DISTRICT	Partial Link (LEA Auth) No Link (IHE or ICB Auth)
STATE SPECIAL ED FUNDING FORMULA	Weighted Funding—Funding allocated per student; amount increases based on student
% OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES	13.02% (all public schools) 12.73% (charter schools)

UTAH Revenue Sources, FY 2014



FY 2014	Spending Per Pupil
UTAH	\$6,500
US	\$11,009

*Sources on last page; click [here](#) for definitions

Charter School Funding

**Same for schools that are an independent LEA and schools that are part of an LEA*

Funding is based on a weighted per-pupil system using weighted pupil units (WPU). Charter schools receive funding on the same basis as district schools, although they are not eligible to receive school district property tax revenue. The state and district provide local replacement funding to compensate for the shortfall.

In Utah, the State Charter Board authorizes most charter schools which operate as charter LEAs. Local school boards and some institutions of higher education may also authorize charter schools which function as part of their district LEAs.

All federal and state funding for charter schools flows directly to the school with two exceptions: (1) conversion charter schools (which continue to receive funding through the district LEA on the same basis as pre-conversion) and (2) charter schools operating in rent-free district-owned premises (none existed during the 2015-16 school year).

In district schools, a statutory formula determines a per-pupil allotment comprised of state and local funds.

Each year, the School Finance Law sets the allotment of **weighted pupil units (WPU)** with a corresponding dollar amount. The WPU amount for 2015-16 was \$3,092. The State Board of Education allocates funding using WPU's based on numbers of:

1. Students in kindergarten and grades 1-12
2. Number of students with disabilities
3. Experience and education level of staff
4. Career and Technical Education programs
5. School district size/rural schools

Charter schools are funded in a similar way, but they are not eligible to receive local funding from property tax revenue or transportation funding. Local replacement funding is paid by the state and the school district to make up the difference. In FY2016, the average local replacement dollar amount was \$1,746 per charter school student. Additionally, charter schools receive \$100 per WPU for administration costs.

Transportation

A. Charter schools are not eligible for school transportation funds, but charter schools are required to provide transportation to students if required in their IEP.

B. A charter school that provides transportation to students must comply with Utah law Section 53-8-211.

C. A school district may provide transportation for charter school students on a space-available basis on approved routes.

State Special Education Funding

**Same for schools that are an independent LEA and schools that are part of an LEA*

Funds flow to charter schools from the SEA and are based on a weighted per-pupil system. Weighted pupil units (WPU) have corresponding dollar amounts, and schools receive add-on amounts for students with special education needs.

In 2015-16, the regular education WPU allocation was \$3,092 per student and the add-on amount for students with disabilities was \$2,837.

The state funds each student with a disability based on the number of minutes they receive special education services daily:

Level A students: 1-59 minutes daily receive a regular education WPU and add-on amount

Level B students: 60-179 minutes daily receive a regular education WPU and add-on amount

Level C students: 180+ minutes daily receive two add-on amounts, no general education WPU

Despite differences in the formulae, the values for regular education WPUs and special education add-ons produce approximately equal funding for students in all three levels.

Student count is based on Average Daily Membership over the previous five years. For LEA charter schools that are less than five years old, December 1 student count is used.

Local Special Education Funding/Services

**Same for schools that are an independent LEA and schools that are part of an LEA*

Charter LEAs can contract with the local school district or other service providers for special education services.

Federal IDEA Part B Funding

**Same for schools that are an independent LEA and schools that are part of an LEA*

IDEA funding amounts are calculated based on enrollment data provided by the LEA in October and December and flow directly to LEAs and down to schools.

High-Cost Funds

Intensive Services Fund

Utah maintains an Intensive Services Fund to provide reimbursement for annual costs above \$20,000 for students with disabilities. In January 2015, a request for additional funding of \$10,000,000 for the High Cost Fund was submitted by the State Board of Education, citing an increase in the number of students requiring highly intensive services. The request stated that available funding was meeting the needs of less than 15% of eligible students. As a result, a one-time award of \$2 million was granted along with an ongoing award of \$1 million annually. The additional funds covered approximately 50% of annual student needs.

District and charter LEAs can apply for reimbursement of high-cost, low-incidence special education funding from the state budget, but full reimbursement is not guaranteed.

Medicaid

School-based Medicaid

Under the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988, Section 411(k)(12), Medicaid pays for related services included in a Medicaid eligible recipient's IEP. Schools, including charter schools, and districts that provide special education and related services under Part B of IDEA may request enrollment through the Division of Medicaid and Health Financing to receive Medicaid Funding for school-based services. The Medicaid Agency determines actual allowable costs. Providers must submit claims using HIPAA compliant software using the UHINT tool.

Charter schools can register for Medicaid, but as of 2016, only two or three have done so due to the amount of administrative effort required to recover funds.

References / Resources

Reference Links

Utah State Office of Education, Special Education

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/sars/>

Funding links

School Finance, Utah State Office of Education

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/finance/>

Utah Charter Schools, Utah State Office of Education, See Funding Worksheet

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/charterschools/Funding/Funding-Information.aspx>.

Charter School and Special Education Primer, Utah State Office of Education

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/sars/Laws/UPIPS/Charter/Primer.aspx>

2015-16 Special Education Funding Estimates

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/sars/Finance/2015FundingEstimates.aspx>

Utah Administrative Code. Utah Dept. of Administrative Rules. See Transportation rules

<http://www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r277/r277-470.htm>.

Fingertip Facts on Education, Utah State Office of Education

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/data/Fingertip-Facts/2016.aspx>

How Utah Public Schools are Funded, UT Office of Legislative Research

<http://le.utah.gov/lrgc/briefings/howutahpublicschoolsarefunded.pdf>

High-cost links

Fiscal Year 2015 Funding Requests, Utah State Board of Education

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2015/pdf/00001230.pdf>

Special Education Intensive Services Fund, Utah State Board of Education

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2016/pdf/00001321.pdf>

Medicaid links

Utah Medicaid Provider Manual, Division of Medicaid and Health Financing

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/sars/Finance/MedicaidManual.aspx>

Departments/Organizations

Utah State Charter School Board

Special Education Consulting Services

Sources for data on first page of report

Percentage of students with disabilities: U.S. Department of Education, Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) for the 2013-14 school year. Available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/crdc-2013-14.html>

Federal, state, and local revenue sources & spending per pupil: United States Census Bureau, Annual Survey of School System Finances. Available at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/school-finances.html>