



IN THE

District

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

440 East 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

January 15, 2003
Vol. 30 No. 11

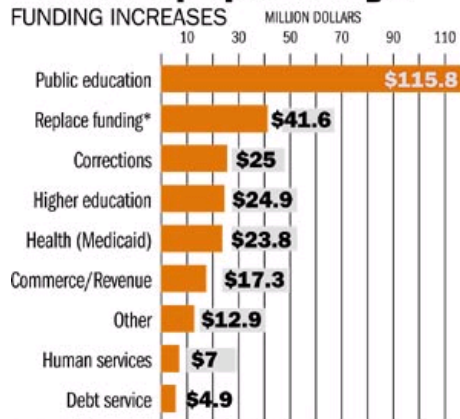
Education Budget

Governor Olene Walker's proposed budget is meeting with mixed reaction on Utah's Capitol Hill. She unveiled her \$8 billion budget on Monday, December 15. With cuts in roads and water and banking on a rebounding economy, Walker expects to raise \$140.7 million on new revenue for public and higher education, \$30.8 million more for programs for the needy and \$101.7 million for other state programs. That adds up to a 3.4 percent overall increase in the state budget.

The increase in public education money will be focused on two areas: student population growth and literacy in kindergarten through third grade. Governor Walker's education budget recommendation includes:

- \$5 million this fiscal year plus an ongoing \$25 million for reading tutors, specialists and other help for kindergartners through third-graders.
- \$36 million to increase the weighted pupil unit, the state's basic per-student funding formula, by 2.54 percent.
- \$28.2 million for enrollment growth in regular and charter schools and youth-in-custody programs.
- \$24.6 million for retirement costs.
- A \$5 million one-time infusion to help reduce teachers' out-of-pocket expenses for classroom supplies.

Governor's proposed budget



*Replace 2004 one-time funds with ongoing funds

Source: Deseret Morning News and Governor's Budget Office



Governor Olene Walker outlines her education budget during a news conference at Rose Park Elementary

Online Resources

Check out the Vocabulary University Web site at www.vocabulary.com. You'll find a range of word puzzles and activities that make words come alive.

Activities are sorted by grade level and include root word study, definitions, synonyms/antonyms, crosswords, word stories and more. There also are special activities that are tied to current events.



The Gateway to Educational Materials (GEM) project provides educators with quick and easy access to collections of educational materials found on various federal, state, university, non-profit and commercial Internet sites. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, the site can be searched by grade level, subject or key word. Visit it at www.thegateway.org/welcome.html.

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Dates to Remember

Board Meetings:
Jan 20@ 7:00 p.m.

Testing Dates:
Jan 25-Mar 5 NAEP
Feb 9-Feb 13 HS Comp-Gr
10 and Gr 11-12
(make-up)

Newsletter Deadlines:
Jan 22 - Articles Due
Jan 29 - Publication

Calendar:
Jan. 19 - Martin Luther King
Jr.'s Birthday(Observed)

Teaching Tip

Keep in mind how your students learn best

Many teachers feel pressured to focus on new academic standards rather than on students when planning instruction. But students will more likely meet tougher standards if you base teaching on how they learn best.

Researchers asked students what teachers do that helps them learn the most. The students said their best teachers:

- Expect a lot from them, academically and personally.
- Assign work that is developmentally appropriate. It's achievable, even if difficult.
- Scaffold learning. Prepare students for each level of a task.
- Ask questions that challenge thinking and understanding.
- Give them opportunities to ask their own questions in areas they find challenging and significant.
- Help them set goals and monitor their progress toward their goals.
- Connect teaching to students' goals.
- Explicitly link learning to students' lives, cultures and real-life problems and situations.
- Make learning active. Incorporate hands-on activities, meaningful projects and service learning.
- Give students choices in topics, assignments and assessments.

Source: Mark G. Storz and Karen R. Nestor, "Insights into Meeting Standards from Listening to the Voices of Urban Students," *Middle School Journal*, March 2003, National Middle School Association, 4151 Executive Pkwy., Suite 300, Westerville, OH 43081, 1-800-528-6672.

10 Resolutions to Brighten Children's Future

It's not too late for parents to try out this list of 10 New Year's resolutions that are guaranteed to help their children enjoy a healthy, safe and academically positive 2004. For example: Read to your preschool and primary school children at least 15 minutes a day, every day and they will become lifelong readers.

The other resolutions are:

- * Discuss what happened at school with your child each school day.
- * Praise children when they do well; support them when they fail;

Quote

"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents."

- Emilie Buchwald



Hundreds of students will have something warm to wear this winter thanks to a donation from Wadsworth Construction. The company president, Guy Wadsworth, donated hundreds of sweatshirts to "warm" the holiday spirits of children.

KUDOS

A big thank you to Daimler/Chrysler for donating a 2003 Dodge Ram 2500 Quad Cab 4x4 to West High School's Automotive Department. West High School participates in the AYES (Automotive Youth Educational Systems) program. AYES is a nationwide partnership between automotive dealers and local schools providing students with training, internships and support.

If you have any 'kudos' you would like to acknowledge, please email them to Jason Olsen at jason.olsen@slc.k12.ut.us.

and give children the respect they deserve.

- * Get to know your child's teacher better.
- * Give children opportunities to be independent and responsible for their own actions. Hold them accountable.
- * Help children to think and to solve problems. Discuss options and examine alternatives with them.
- * Limit television viewing and video game time.
- * Let your child know school is important. Talk to them about how you still use what you learned in school.
- * Join in the life of your child's school. The more help parents give teachers, the more time teachers can spend with students.
- * Show your children your own love for learning and set their learning sights high.

Source: National Association of Elementary School Principals; www.naesp.org.

