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For Immediate Release

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Two New Graduation Studies Show Utah Students Outperforming Nation

SALT LAKE CITY - Two new studies released today show Utah students graduating from high school at significantly higher rates than the national average. One of those studies also finds that graduation rates of Utah's black students are generally higher than their national counterparts. Other Utah minority rates fall below national levels and significant gaps still exist between Utah majority and minority students.

Figures from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) - a branch of the U.S. Department of Education - show Utah with an 83.0 percent high school graduation rate in 2004, seven points above the national average and eighth best in the nation. Separate figures calculated by the journal Education Week show Utah with a 76.7 percent graduation rate in 2003, 7.1 points above the national average and 12th best in the nation.

"Whichever statistics you choose to use, they show Utah's public schools are doing a tremendous job working with our youth in achieving that educational milestone," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Patti Harrington. "However, in a globally competitive environment we cannot rest. We must do more, particularly with Utah's minority populations, to make sure every child is prepared for the future. The Utah State Board of Education is prepared to raise the achievement level for high school graduation and the Utah State Office of Education is working with districts to improve graduation rates."

The Education Week study also disaggregated graduation rates by sex and race. Those figures showed:

Demographic	Utah Grad Rate	National Grad Rate
All	76.7	69.6
Males	77.9	65.2
Females	80.9	72.7
American Indian	n/a	47.4
Asian	71.2	77.0
Hispanic	55.5	55.6
Black	60.6	51.6
White	81.7	76.2

Education Week also calculated the graduation rate for the 50 largest school districts in the nation. Utah's Jordan and Granite districts are in the national top 50. Jordan ranked

sixth best in the nation with a graduation rate of 80.2 percent and Granite ranked 10th best in the nation with a 72.2 percent graduation rate.

Neither of the studies released today are related to a study the Manhattan Institute released in April showing Utah with a 77 percent graduation rate (14th best in the nation) and which showed Davis School District had the top graduation rate among the 100 largest school districts with an 89 percent graduation rate.

For more information:

National Center for Education Statistics: <http://nces.ed.gov/>

Education Week: <http://www.edweek.org>

Manhattan Institute: http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/cr_48.htm

www.schools.utah.gov