

UTAHNS' VISION FOR 2050

EDUCATION



*Your Utah,
Your Future*



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UTAHNS' VISION FOR 2050

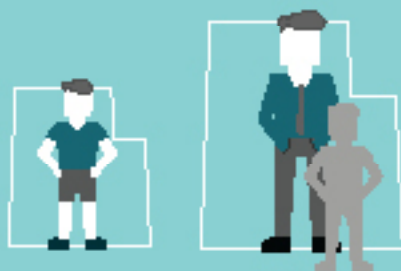
EDUCATION



YOUR UTAH, YOUR FUTURE

PROCESS

UTAH IS GROWING.



TODAY

There are three million people living in Utah.

2050

By 2050 there will be 5.4 million—the population will nearly double in 35 years!

THAT MEANS

2 x the

HOMES JOBS SKIERS
CARS STUDENTS FOOD

OUR GOAL

HELP UTAHNS CREATE A
VISION FOR UTAH'S FUTURE



11 TOPICS

Utahns' values guided the selection of 11 topics critical to the future of Utah.



UTAHNS' VALUES

Values studies told us not just what Utahns care about, but why they care about those things.



ACTION TEAMS

Experts from across the state studied the topics and helped shape potential scenarios for the future.

SCENARIOS



8 ACTION TEAMS

OF 400 EXPERTS WORKED FOR 18 MONTHS TO DEVELOP POTENTIAL SCENARIOS FOR UTAH'S GROWTH ACROSS EACH TOPIC.

YOUR UTAH, YOUR FUTURE SURVEY



53,000 UTAHNS

WEIGHED IN ON EACH TOPIC AND EACH SCENARIO, TELLING US WHAT THEY WANT UTAH TO LOOK LIKE IN 2050.

VISION FOR 2050



A COMBINATION

OF SURVEY RESULTS, VALUES, AND ACTION TEAM INPUT FORMED A VISION FOR UTAH'S FUTURE.

Utahns believe that education is the key to individual fulfillment, strong families, and prosperous communities.

INTRODUCTION

UTAHNS VALUE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MORE THAN ANYTHING. They recognize that a high-quality education is critically important to build great communities and to provide their kids with a good life. Well-educated people have better opportunities to get good jobs and provide for their families. Through education, people also gain knowledge and experience that make them better citizens, which in turn leads to a better, more secure community for themselves and future generations.

UTAH IS FACING A CHALLENGE. The economy is rapidly evolving so that more jobs require a college degree, and without one, it is increasingly difficult to support a family. Competing for the jobs of today and tomorrow requires a highly educated workforce. Other states are implementing improvements to their education systems more quickly, which means Utah's children may soon fall behind. Utahns also have larger families than other states, which impacts our funding capacity per student. As our population nearly doubles by 2050, the challenge of providing Utahns with quality education will only grow. Utahns want a stronger commitment to consistent, long-term, high-impact strategies, backed by the necessary resources to ensure all children have access to a great education and all the opportunities it offers. The choices and investments Utahns make in education now will significantly affect Utah's families, communities, and economy over the next 35 years.

YOUR UTAH, YOUR FUTURE

VISION FOR EDUCATION



THE VISION

Utahns envision education as the key to improving their quality of life and creating better communities for themselves and for future generations. They see a future where all Utah children have access to a high-quality education that provides them with the opportunities, knowledge, and experiences necessary to be better citizens and provide a secure living for themselves and their families.



GOALS

- 1** Elevate Utah to be among the top ten states in academic achievement.
- 2** Provide all children access to high-quality education.
- 3** Ensure every student receives the help they need to become college and career ready.
- 4** Ensure all students have the opportunity to enter and complete higher education.
- 5** Foster a highly-educated workforce that experiences personal economic stability and meets the needs of Utah's economy.
- 6** Provide all Utahns with the opportunity to succeed and contribute to society.

KEY STRATEGIES

- 1** Adopt a long-range plan that is adaptable to local needs, and consistently implement proven, effective strategies to accomplish Utah's education goals.
- 2** Dedicate significant and stable investments to public and postsecondary educational opportunities sufficient to implement strategies.
- 3** Attract and retain high-quality teachers, administrators, and counselors.
- 4** Ensure access to high-quality early childhood education for every child.
- 5** Increase involvement of parents, families, and community organizations in students' education.
- 6** Assess students' progress early and often to ensure they get the help they need to maximize their potential.
- 7** Ensure quality higher education and postsecondary opportunities are affordable for everyone.

For more details on these and other strategies, please refer to the recommended strategies section beginning on p. 35.

BACKGROUND:

WHERE WE ARE TODAY



HAVING AN EDUCATED POPULATION LEADS TO BETTER COMMUNITIES AND A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE ACROSS THE STATE.

Education provides opportunities, knowledge, and experiences to students, but the benefits of education extend beyond individuals. Having an educated population leads to better communities and a higher quality of life across the entire state. An educated workforce, for example, attracts employers and fosters innovation, creating a robust economy. In fact, Utah economists rate workforce education levels as having a greater impact on the state's economy than any other factor. Those with postsecondary education also tend to be:

- More civically engaged through voting and volunteering
- Healthier
- Less likely to be incarcerated
- Less likely to commit crimes
- Less likely to need social services, such as food stamps, unemployment benefits, etc.

In sum, education is the key to a safe, prosperous, and neighborly community.

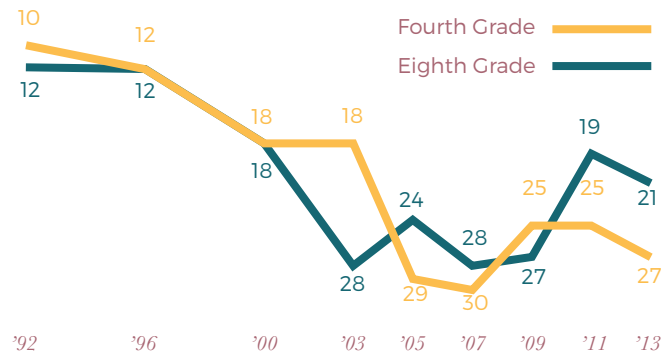
Utah stands out from the rest of the country because it has the highest birthrate, the most children per capita, and fewer taxpayers to fund each child's education. Utah has the lowest per-pupil spending in the nation. Currently, the largest portion of education funding comes from state income taxes, followed by property taxes, some federal taxes, and other sources. Even though Utahns work hard to do as much as they can with fewer resources, students continue to drop in educational achievement relative to students in other states.

Though many educational performance indicators in Utah are improving, the state's ranking on other indicators is dropping in comparison to

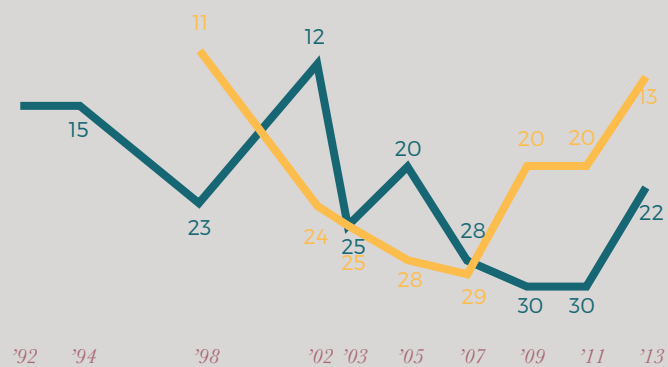
other places in and outside the United States where educational improvements are being implemented faster. Further, in Utah, too few students are graduating from high school or from higher education institutions to meet the needs of future employers, particularly in Utah's growing high-tech sector. The national economy is changing, and more jobs now require degrees or certification beyond high school. To be competitive in a global economy, Utah will need a highly educated populace, which will require significant investment, not only to keep up with population growth, but also to improve our education system so students can reach a higher level of achievement. The long-term investment Utah makes in education now will significantly affect Utahns' lives and the state's economy over the next 35 years, but the investment must be put into strategies that have proven to be effective and that are supported by Utahns.

According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), Utah ranked in the top 15 states for both reading and math in the fourth and eighth grades in the 1990s. While Utah's scores have improved overall since then, other states have made greater improvements, causing Utah to slip in comparison.

UTAH'S NATIONAL RANK ON NAEP MATH EXAMS

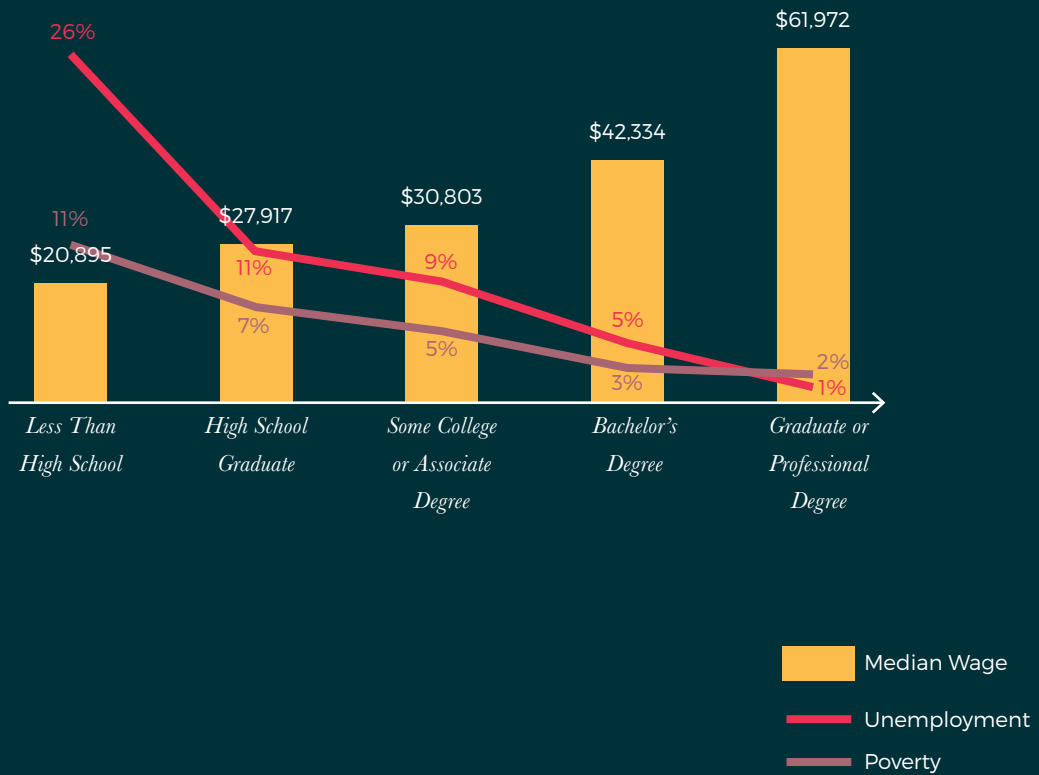


UTAH'S NATIONAL RANK ON NAEP READING EXAMS



Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress

**MORE EDUCATION MEANS
MORE FINANCIAL STABILITY.**



Source: Utah System of Higher Education

HOW WE CREATED A VISION:

PEOPLE AND PROCESS



TO CREATE A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION IN UTAH, A TEAM OF EXPERTS GATHERED OVER A TWO-YEAR PERIOD TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND EXTENSIVELY RESEARCH AND DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR IMPROVING EDUCATION.

Members of the Education Action Team were selected by Governor Gary Herbert and Envision Utah to represent a spectrum of professional experience and political persuasions. Team members included educators, legislators, administrators, and other experts from across the state. From 2013 to 2015, the action team met to identify Utahns' choices related to education, create scenarios for public input, and synthesize a vision for the future. The process of creating this vision also included the following components:

- 1 A 2014 values study. This study was conducted to identify (1) what factors Utahns view as affecting their quality of life the most and (2) the underlying emotions and values tied to those factors. The study determined that for Utahns, education is important because it gives people more opportunities and creates better communities. The study also found that Utahns prioritize education above almost any other issue; it ranked second only to water in terms of importance to Utah's future. The state's educational achievement, however, was ranked very low, second only to air quality in terms of how poorly the state is performing on the issue. (More information on the values study can be found in the Utahns' Values section on p. 17.)
- 2 The "Build Your 2050 Utah" web app. This app allowed Utahns to identify what factors concerning education are most important to them and to visualize in an interactive module the effect certain decisions would have. More than 3,000 people across Utah gave input through the app, and the information gathered generated the following findings:
 - a) Utahns think it is very important to foster quality teachers and increase families' participation in students' education.
 - b) The majority of participants believed that instituting a list of proposed strategies would significantly increase the number of Utahns with a postsecondary education by 2050.

The action team used this information to create four different scenarios for the future of education in Utah. The four scenarios differed in the amount of investment, types of strategies, and levels of educational success achieved by Utahns in 2050. These scenarios (p. 21) were presented to the public in the Your Utah, Your Future survey in spring 2015, and 52,845 Utahns weighed in.

After receiving public input on the four education scenarios, the action team met to frame a vision, including goals and strategies, to achieve what Utahns said they wanted for education in 2050.

ACTION TEAM MEMBERS

CHAIRS



**MARTIN
BATES**

*Superintendent,
Granite School District*



**BONNIE JEAN
BEESLEY**

*Former Chair, Utah
Board of Regents*

Joel Briscoe*Utah House of Representatives***Dave Buhler***Commissioner, Utah System of
Higher Education***Keith Buswell***Utah Board of Regents***Gary Carlston***President, Snow College***Joel Coleman***Superintendent, Utah Schools for the Deaf
and the Blind***Elizabeth Garbe***United Way***Alan Hall***MarketStar***Jeff Hatch***Envision Utah Board***Marlin Jensen***Utah Board of Regents***Justin Jones***Salt Lake Chamber***Nolan Karras***Education First***Rich Kendell***Education First***Steve Kroes***President, Utah Foundation***Martell Menlove***Former State Superintendent of Public
Instruction***Ann Millner***Utah Senate***Tami Pyfer***Governor's Education Advisor***Angela Romero***Utah House of Representatives***Jana Scott***Prosperity 2020/Salt Lake City Chamber***Brad Smith***State Superintendent of Public Instruction***Lucille Stoddard***Utah Valley University***Richard Stowell***Executive Director, Utah School Boards
Association***Steve Winitsky***Utah International Charter School***McKell Withers***Superintendent, Salt Lake City School District*

WHY EDUCATION MATTERS:

UTAHNS' VALUES

In 2014, Envision Utah conducted a statewide values study to identify (1) what factors Utahns view as affecting their quality of life the most and (2) the underlying emotions and values tied to those factors.

**UTAHNS PRIORITIZE
EDUCATION ABOVE
ALMOST ANY
OTHER ISSUE.**

Utahns recognize that a high-quality education is fundamentally important not only for themselves and their children, but also for their communities and the state as a whole. Utahns value good education because it provides individuals with more choices and opportunities, which in turn allows them to make a better living and achieve a higher quality of life for themselves and their families. This in turn gives people a sense of financial security and peace of mind. Utahns also value what education can do for society as a whole, rather than just for the individual: people who receive a quality education gain knowledge and experiences that make them better citizens, which in turn leads to better communities that provide security and a better life for future generations.

In the 2014 study, Utahns ranked education as second only to water in terms of importance to Utah's future. However, they placed education at the bottom, second only to air quality, in terms of how well the state is performing on the issue.

EDUCATION AND PEACE OF MIND



“A high-quality education leads to more choices and opportunities for me and my family, which in turn helps me make a better living, gives me the flexibility to do other things, and lets me enjoy a high quality of life. These create happiness, financial security and peace of mind in my life.”

EDUCATION AND FUTURE GENERATIONS



“A high-quality education allows me and all Utahns to gain knowledge and experience that make us better citizens. This leads to a better community. Better communities create a sense of security and are better for future generations.”

CHOICES FOR THE FUTURE:

SCENARIO SUMMARIES

The following scenarios were drafted by the Education Action Team to represent possible outcomes for education in 2050. The scenarios differed in the following variables:

- Level of investment
- Development of a long-range statewide plan
- Commitment to proven, consistent, and high-impact strategies to help students succeed.

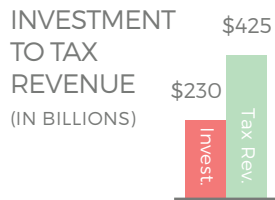
The scenarios were presented to the public as part of the Your Utah, Your Future survey in spring 2015.

The scenarios were titled Allosaurus, Bonneville Trout, Seagull, Quaking Aspen, and Segó Lily (the state fossil, fish, bird, tree, and flower).

78% OF UTAHNS SELECTED THE
QUAKING ASPEN AND SEGO LILY
SCENARIO.

ALLOSAURUS SCENARIO

Investment doesn't keep up with growth; no strategy; performance declines



80% OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GRADUATE.

43% OF ADULTS HAVE A COLLEGE DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE.

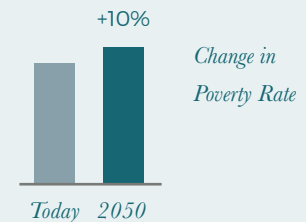
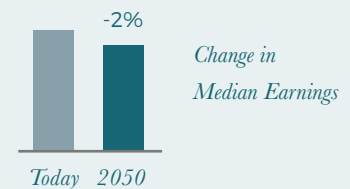
By 2050, Utah falls further behind other states that lead in education. As Utah's population increases, investment per student is comparatively low as Utah doesn't continue to allocate funds to cover growth. We make no strategic changes to improve education. Parents and families do not become more involved in their children's education. Because we lack regular review and improvement of our academic standards and do not improve our system of tracking progress, students most in need of assistance fall behind.

The increasing cost of higher education (e.g., certificate programs, community colleges, and universities) and a shortage of loans and grants prevent many students, particularly lower income students, from completing certificate or degree programs.

Utah does not produce the highly educated workforce needed to attract high-wage jobs and businesses. Average wages and tax revenues in Utah are relatively low, and the number of Utahns requiring social services and assistance increases.

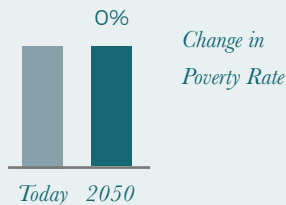
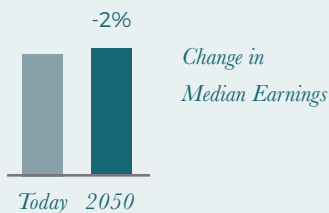
EDUCATION IS CHARACTERIZED BY:

- High student-to-teacher ratios.
- Low teacher compensation, professional support, and development.
- Limited investment in early childhood education, including all-day kindergarten.
- Lack of capacity and resources in higher education to help students complete degree programs.
- Percent of people graduating from high school and higher education declines slightly.



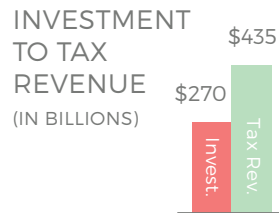
EDUCATION IS CHARACTERIZED BY:

- Slightly improved student-to-teacher ratios.
- Moderate improvement in teacher compensation, training, and professional development.
- Increased investment in early childhood education, targeted to those most at risk.
- Collaboration between schools, community partners, and families.
- Improved capacity and resources in higher education institutions to help students complete degree programs.



BONNEVILLE TROUT SCENARIO

Moderate investment increase; no consistent strategy; little performance improvement



85% OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GRADUATE.

47% OF ADULTS HAVE A COLLEGE DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE.

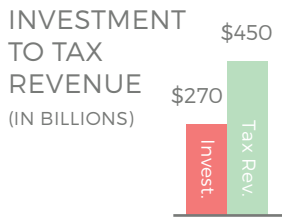
Utah moderately increases investment in education. The state budget for education increases 3.4% per year until 2020. This does not require a tax increase because of projected growth for Utah's economy and tax revenues. After 2020, funding keeps pace with student growth and inflation. We do not create a consistent, long-range plan or develop high-impact strategies for improvement. Because of intermittent interest in educational improvement, various programs are implemented sporadically and strategies for improvement are not coordinated, proven, or invested in over the long term. We switch from one set of standards to another, making it difficult to measure success over the long-term and provide assistance to students who need it.

Parents and families do not become more involved in their children's education.

In addition, tuition assistance and capacity of higher education institutions increase slightly, causing the number of students who complete certificate or degree programs to also grow. However, as the nation moves toward a more highly skilled, knowledge-based economy, Utah has difficulty providing the workforce needed by emerging and growing companies. Economic growth and jobs remain relatively strong, but the median wage and tax revenues in Utah increase only slightly. The number of Utahns requiring social services and assistance does not substantially decrease.

SEAGULL SCENARIO

Moderate, strategic investment increase; moderate performance improvement



87% OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GRADUATE.

53% OF ADULTS HAVE A COLLEGE DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE.

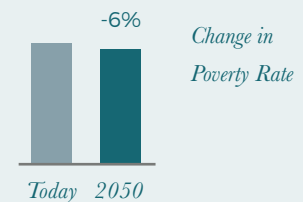
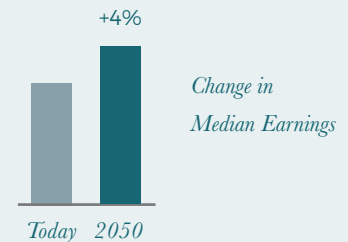
Utah moderately increases investment in education. The state budget for education increases 3.4% per year until 2020. This does not require a tax increase because of projected growth for Utah's economy and tax revenues. After 2020, funding keeps pace with student growth and inflation. Though we are resourceful and responsible in using the investments and assets we have, we do not have enough to meet the needs of all students. Investments are targeted toward strategies that will have the highest impact and leveraged with private support from businesses, community partners, and parents. However, communities with fewer assets and resources are less able to meet their students' needs. Strategies that are innovative and based on research and best practices are implemented in part; however, we cannot afford to properly

scale programs to meet the needs of all of Utah's students. Utah adheres to rigorous standards and tracks schools, districts, and classrooms that experience difficulty in improving educational achievement.

In addition, a slight increase in tuition assistance and capacity of higher education institutions causes the number of students who complete a certificate or degree program to also grow. Utah produces a better-trained workforce with improved employment opportunities. Some industries, however, still have to look outside of Utah to find all the highly skilled employees they need. Median wages and tax revenues in Utah increase somewhat, and the number of Utahns requiring social services and assistance also decreases slightly.

EDUCATION IS CHARACTERIZED BY:

- Slightly improved student-to-teacher ratios.
- Moderate improvement in teacher compensation, training, and professional development.
- Increased investment in early childhood education, targeted to those most at risk.
- Collaboration between schools, community partners, and families.
- Improved capacity and resources in higher education institutions to help students complete degree programs.



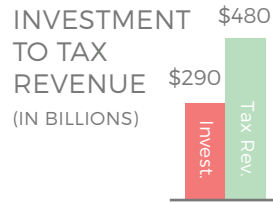
EDUCATION IS CHARACTERIZED BY:

- Improved student-to-teacher ratios.
- Significant improvement in teacher compensation, training, and professional development.
- Increased investment in high-quality early childhood education for at-risk students and voluntary all-day kindergarten.
- Investment in targeted programs to improve reading and math skills.
- Increased collaboration among schools, community partners, and families.
- Investment in technology combined with a strategic approach and proper teacher training.
- Improved capacity and resources in higher education institutions to help students complete degree programs.
- Percent of people graduating from high school and higher education is substantially higher than today.

See opposite page for summary charts

QUAKING ASPEN AND SEGO LILY SCENARIO

Significant, strategic investment increase; Utah in top 10 states



90% OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GRADUATE.

66% OF ADULTS HAVE A COLLEGE DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE.

Investment in education increases significantly and is consistent and stable. The state budget for education increases 5% per year until 2020. Although it is likely that projected growth for Utah's economy and tax revenues could fund at least a 3.4% increase per year, and potentially all of this 5% increase, it may require reallocating money from other purposes in the state budget or an increase in taxes, at least in the short term until higher education levels increase incomes and therefore tax revenues. After 2020, funding keeps up with student growth and inflation. This money is targeted to specific, highly-leveraged strategies to improve performance. We adopt a long-range plan to improve the education and employment opportunities for all citizens and provide the funding and resources needed to achieve the plan. Utah education helps most students perform at grade level by continually reviewing and

implementing rigorous standards and ongoing assessments of progress and by providing individual assistance to those at risk of falling behind. Parents and families are highly involved in their children's education.

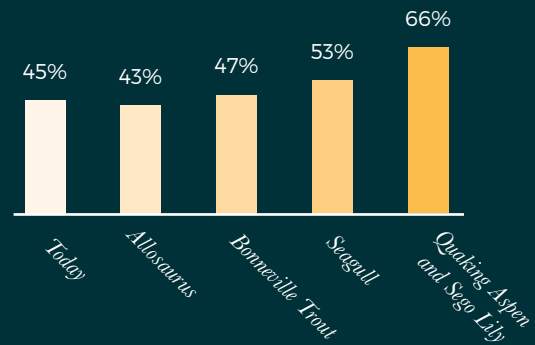
In addition, schools become community centers that provide other services to Utahns, including adult education, health services, and job skills training. Affordable tuition and increased resources of higher education institutions help more students enter into and complete certificate and degree programs. Because of its proactive and aggressive approach to providing quality education, Utah becomes one of the top ten states for academic performance. Utah's workforce is highly educated and attracts high-quality jobs to the state. Median wages and tax revenue increase, and the number of Utahns requiring social services and assistance decreases substantially.

SUMMARY OF SCENARIOS

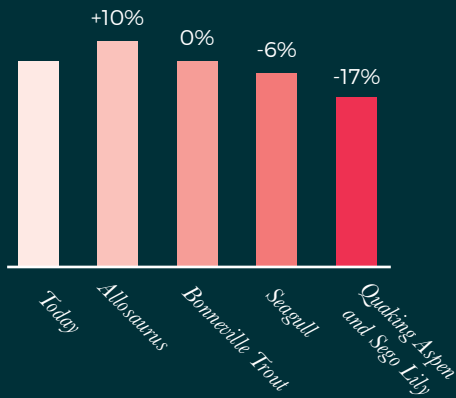
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES



PERCENT OF POPULATION WITH A POSTSECONDARY DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE



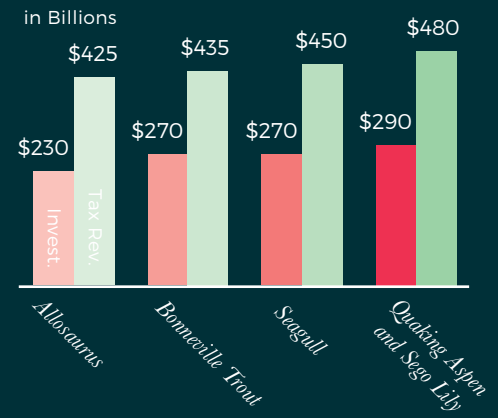
CHANGE IN POVERTY RATE BASED ON EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



CHANGE IN MEDIAN EARNINGS BASED ON EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



EFFECT OF EDUCATION EXPENDITURE ON TOTAL TAX REVENUE



YOUR UTAH, YOUR FUTURE

SURVEY RESULTS

In April and May 2015, 52,845 Utahns shared their voice through the Your Utah, Your Future survey. Participants chose their favorite scenarios for education and other topics. After choosing their favorite scenarios, survey participants had the option to answer a series of questions to prioritize education among other issues, determine the most important outcomes related to education, and identify how willing they would be to take specific actions to ensure those outcomes. The survey results were cross-checked against a random-sample survey to ensure they represented the desires and opinions of Utahns.

Historic Fruita Schoolhouse near Capitol Reef National Park

1

WHAT UTAHNS WANT FOR EDUCATION

78% chose the Quaking Aspen and Sego Lily scenario. This scenario elevates Utah to be among the top 10 states in academic achievement, ensures that all Utahns have access to a high-quality education, and results in a highly educated workforce. This scenario included a 5% increase in education spending for five years through allocating Utah budget surpluses, reallocating from other priorities, or increasing taxes to fund the implementation of highly leveraged strategies.

2

WHY UTAHNS WANT IT

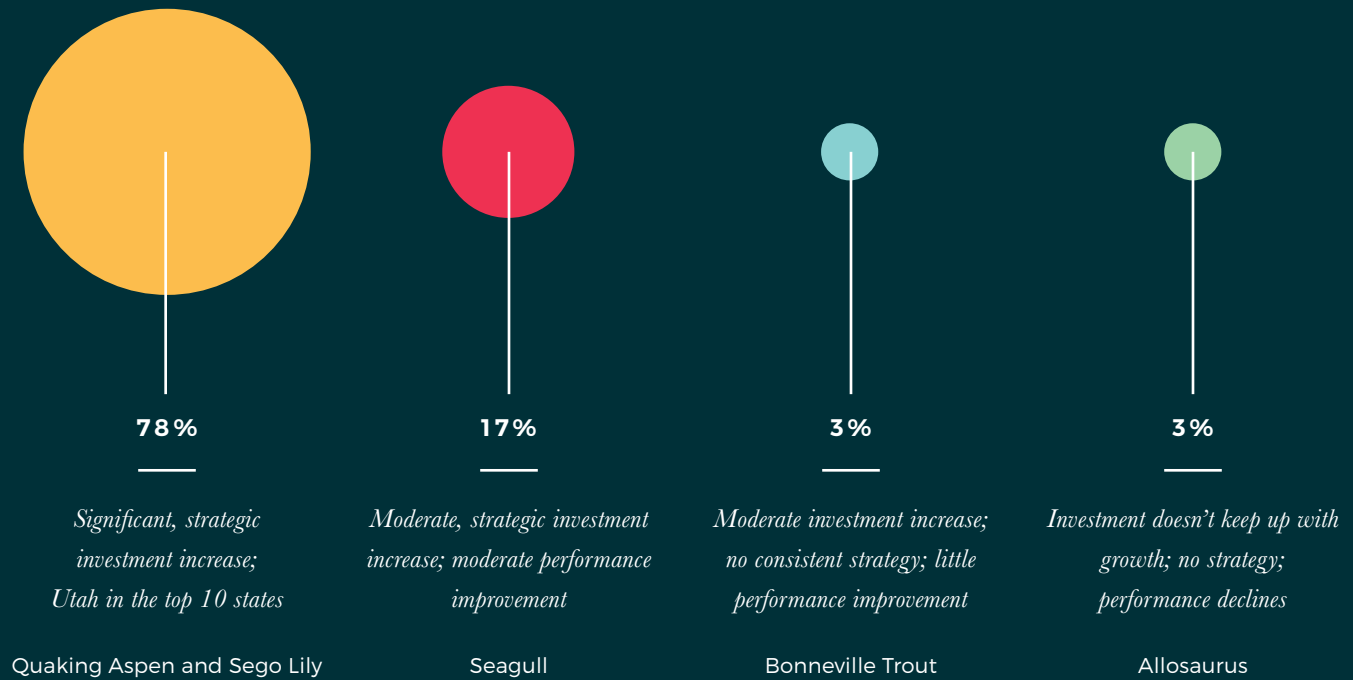
For Utahns, the most important outcome of a good education is having an educated workforce that drives a strong economy. They also want the societal benefits that come with improving education, including having citizens who are more likely to volunteer, cast educated votes, and otherwise participate in society. Giving all people an opportunity to succeed through education is also highly valued by Utahns.

3

WHAT UTAHNS ARE WILLING TO DO

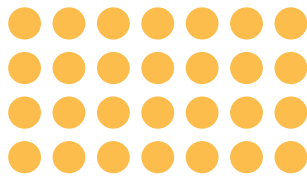
Most Utahns chose a scenario that packaged specific strategies and resulting benefits with a significant increase in education funding. Interestingly, however, when asked later in the survey if they were willing to raise taxes for education without any specific context or proposed strategies and outcomes, they were hesitant. This suggests Utahns want to know that the funds will be spent strategically on highly leveraged, proven strategies that will help all students succeed.

WHAT UTAHNS WANT



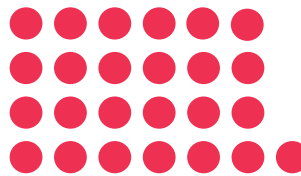
WHY UTAHNS WANT IT (OR WHAT OUTCOMES UTAHNS EXPECT FROM EDUCATION)

Survey participants were asked to allocate 100 points across these outcomes based on which they considered most important.



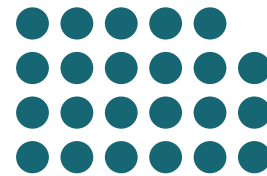
28%

*Having an educated workforce
that drives a strong economy*



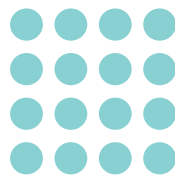
25%

*Having educated citizens who
are able to fully participate
in society*



23%

*Ensuring all Utahns have a
full opportunity to succeed*



15%

*Reducing how much we need
to spend on social services
because more Utahns are better
equipped to succeed*

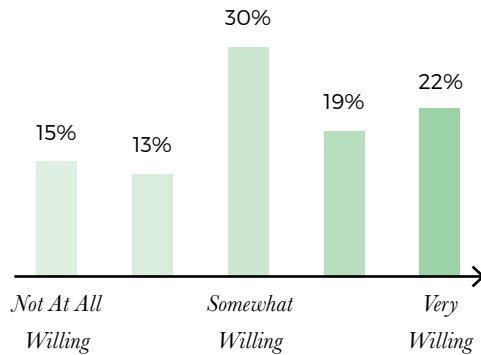


8%

*Limiting how many tax
resources we spend on education*

WHAT UTAHNS ARE WILLING TO DO TO IMPROVE EDUCATION

In the near term, we will need to raise taxes.



In the near term, we will have less to spend on other issues like water and road projects.

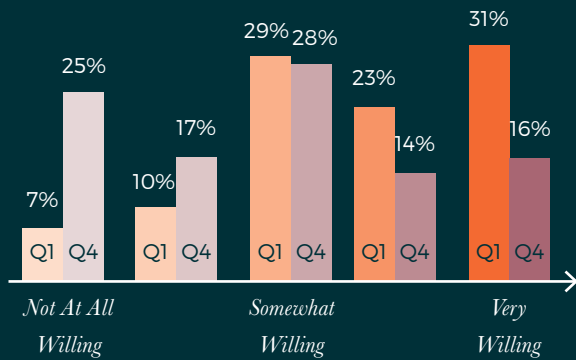


These results are from the 52,845 public responses to the Your Utah, Your Future survey. As part of that larger sample, 1,264 Utahns participated in a random-sample survey. The public responses and the random-sample survey results were virtually identical across all topics. However, of the random-sample group, somewhat fewer were willing to raise taxes for education, with 39% not or not at all willing, 34% somewhat willing, and 28% willing or very willing. In both samples, the somewhat-willing category included a much larger percentage of Utahns than in any other topic or survey question, suggesting that Utahns want more information about how high a tax increase would be and how the money would be spent. The larger outreach group also had more overall concern for education than the random-sample group and was more willing to make the tradeoffs needed to improve education. The more concerned about the future of education people were, the more willing they were to raise taxes and shift funds from other needs.

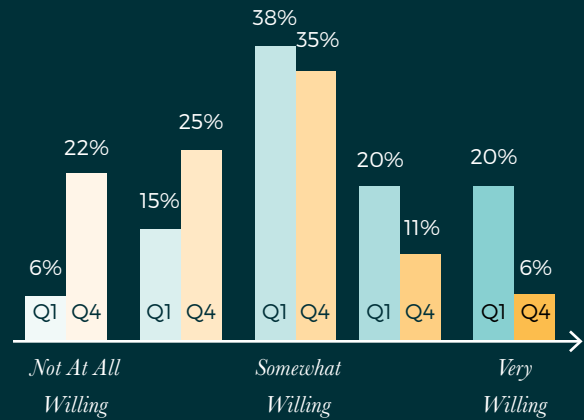
WHAT UTAHNS ARE WILLING TO DO TO IMPROVE EDUCATION

Quartile Differences

In the near term, we will need to raise taxes.



In the near term, we will have less to spend on other issues like water and road projects.

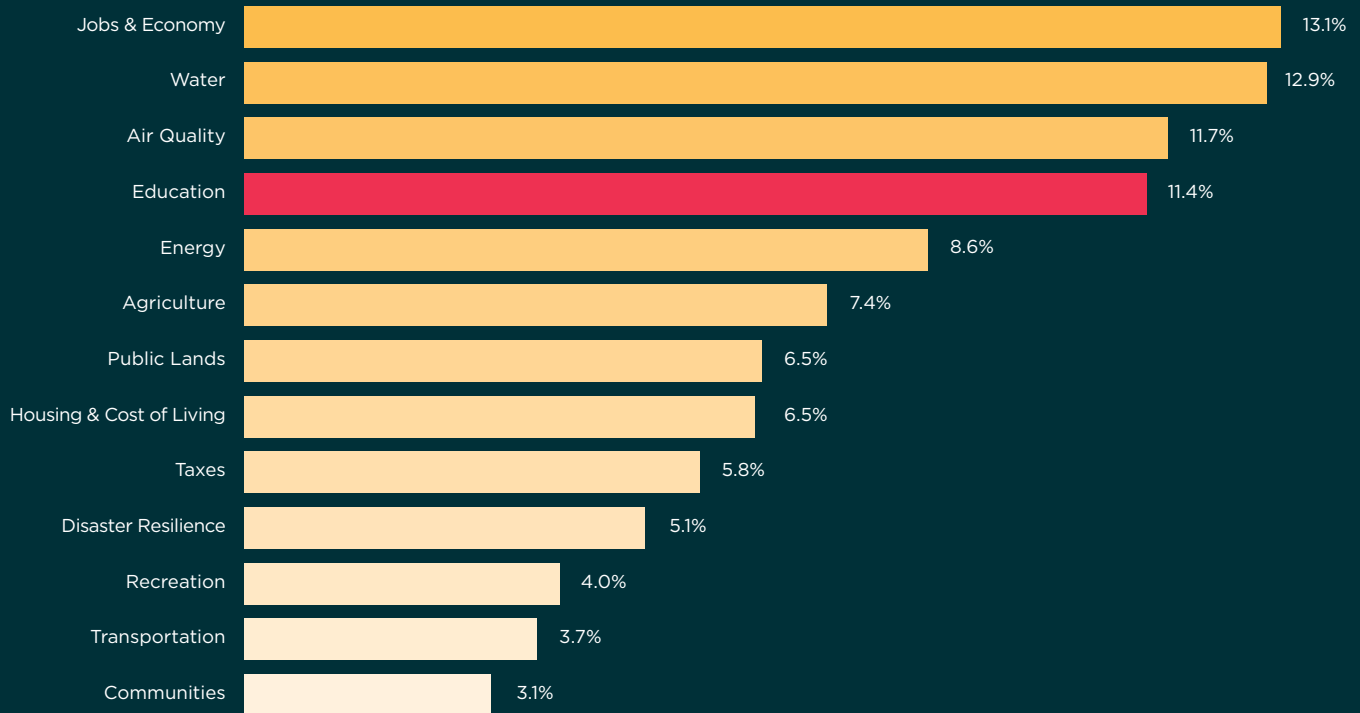


Quartile refers to level of concern for the issue.

Q1 (Top quartile) consists of the 25% of respondents **most concerned** with the future of education.

Q4 (Bottom quartile) consists of the 25% of respondents **least concerned** with the future of education.

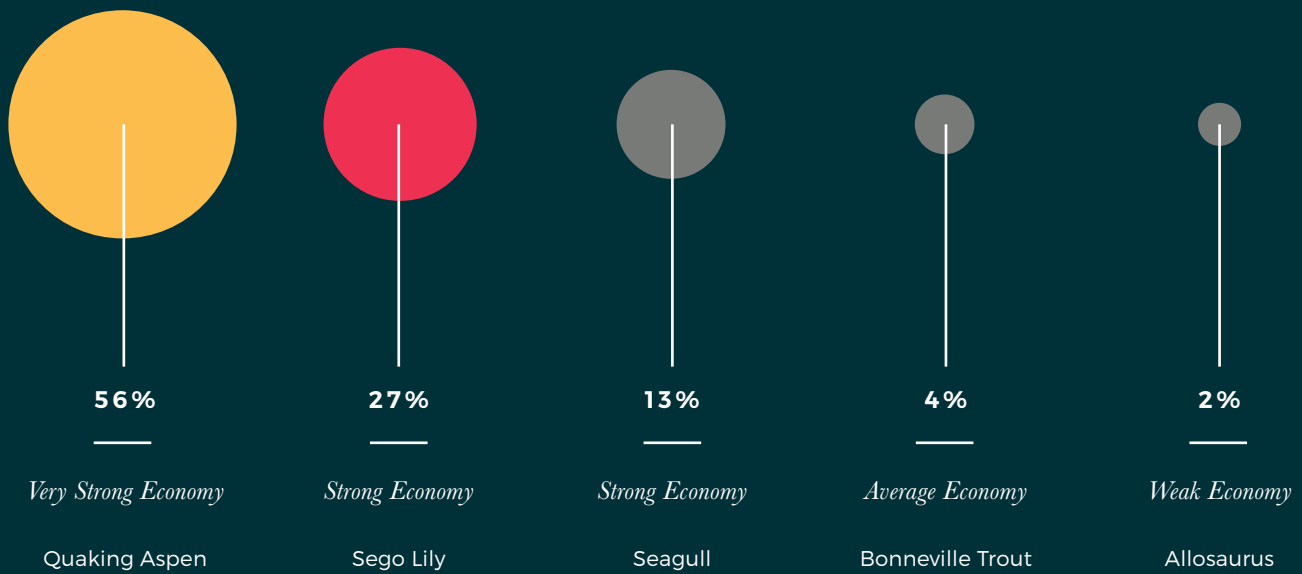
LEVEL OF CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE



Education is one of Utahns' top concerns for the future, and it also has a significant effect on jobs and the economy, which is Utahns' number one concern. In fact, the Jobs and Economy Action Team and the Utah Economic Council describe Utah's economy as being impacted by education more than by any other issue.

WHAT UTAHNS WANT FOR JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

In the jobs and economy section of the survey, 83% of Utahns chose a scenario in which a highly educated workforce is a key driver of a thriving economy.



REALIZING THE VISION:

RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES



1 **Develop and finance a comprehensive, long-term, statewide education plan that is adaptable to local needs.**

- a) Include a funding plan to finance the proposed strategies.
- b) Ensure that strategies are consistently pursued and funded over the long term.
- c) Facilitate collaboration among education stakeholders to create a single, unified vision of the future of education in the state.

2 **Attract and retain quality teachers, counselors, and administrators.**

- a) Offer competitive compensation for teachers and staff.
- b) Expand mentorship programs for teachers.
- c) Provide opportunities for ongoing professional development.
- d) Foster strong leadership from principals.
- e) Increase the number of counselors per student.

3 **Ensure access to high-quality early childhood education for every child.**

- a) Offer publicly funded pre-kindergarten programs, particularly for at-risk children.
- b) Provide voluntary all-day kindergarten.

4 **Ensure every student gets the help they need early and often by implementing rigorous standards and ongoing assessment of progress.**

- a) Utilize strong data systems to track progress and provide real-time feedback to students, parents, and teachers.

SOME BENEFITS OF MENTORSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS:

- Reduces turnover and retains educators who might leave the profession or the state
- Supports teachers in meeting the challenges of the classroom
- Helps educators stay current on new research and emerging technology and tools
- Increases educators' abilities to help their students succeed

SOME BENEFITS OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:

- Raises educational performance, increases cognitive development, and improves social skills
- Reduces grade repetition and the need for remedial or special education, thereby decreasing costs
- Helps at-risk children be as prepared as their peers for future schooling

The American School Counselor Association recommends schools have

1 COUNSELOR FOR EVERY 250 STUDENTS



Utah schools average

1 COUNSELOR FOR EVERY 691 STUDENTS



- b) Use assessments to provide individual assistance to students at risk of falling behind.
- c) Use assessments to help all students progress faster as they are ready.

5 Implement research-based, proven strategies to improve reading and math skills, with particular focus on early proficiency.

6 Better integrate technology into the classroom through proven strategies and courseware, updated equipment, and teacher training.

- a) Provide ongoing training and support to educators.
- b) Plan for ongoing technical support and maintenance.

7 Increase collaboration among families, schools, educators, businesses, and faith-based and community partners.

- a) Empower parents and families to actively participate in their children's education.
- b) Use schools as community centers, where community members can go to receive other services (e.g., adult education, health services, job or language skill development, and afterschool programs).
- c) Foster partnerships with businesses to develop internships and technical training for both students and teachers.

8 Invest resources in higher education institutions to ensure individuals can access and complete degree programs.

- a) Increase flexibility of programs by offering courses online when possible and by scheduling courses at more times of day and at more times of year, such as in summer.
- b) Provide more physical and virtual infrastructure to handle growing numbers of students.
- c) Provide more counselors, advisors, and support staff to assist more students in completing their education.

9 Help more students enter into and complete high-quality certificate, licensure, or degree programs.

- a) Improve collaboration between postsecondary and K-12 schools to help students explore their options and better prepare for training and education beyond high school.
- b) Provide counseling and mentoring in both K-12 and postsecondary institutions to help students develop strategies to complete their training or degrees.
- c) Provide resources to nontraditional students (older students, ESL students, etc.) to help them prepare for and complete college or certificate programs.
- d) Encourage parents and families to get involved and support students as they apply for and move through training and education beyond high school.
- e) Offer flexibility in class scheduling and course platforms.

10 Ensure affordability of quality higher education and postsecondary opportunities.

- a) Maintain affordable tuition through continued state investment.
- b) Expand financial assistance for students in need.
- c) Help students learn what financial assistance is available to them.

SOME BENEFITS OF MORE UTAHNS HAVING A DEGREE, CERTIFICATE, OR LICENSURE BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL:

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- 1 Increases earning potential, job prospects, and quality of life for individuals and families
 - 2 Expands Utah's highly educated workforce, attracts employers, and fosters innovation to grow the economy
 - 3 Increases tax revenues from higher incomes for individuals and businesses
 - 4 Increases the number of Utahns who are more civically engaged (e.g., by voting and volunteering)
 - 5 Reduces the amount spent on social services because more Utahns are better equipped to succeed

