

## **Resolution on EQUAL funding for ALL Utah's school children**

Whereas, all children in Utah are Utah's children, not just the children of one school district or another. Children from one Utah school district are not more or less important than children from another school district.

Whereas, student funding currently is disproportionately distributed based on the district's property tax base.

Whereas, due to changes in growth patterns and geographic constraints in Utah, there are school districts where one portion of a district's population is growing faster than its tax base; then as time goes by, that disparity shifts to the other side of the district. The most recent example was the split of the Canyons School District from the Jordan School District.

Whereas in the 70's and 80's the east side of the Jordan School District was growing much faster than the west side of the Jordan School District, therefore property tax money from the west-side residents of the district had to be used to help the school children on the east side because their tax base was NOT covering their growth.

Whereas, in the past 10 years we have seen a change in growth patterns in Salt Lake County; the west side is now growing much faster than the east side. As a result, east side residents were now helping pay for the school children on the west side. Even though they had benefited from the same policy in the past, some east side residents felt that this funding policy was NOW unfair and decided to create another school district.

Whereas, the split of the former Jordan School District has caused a huge funding disparity between the children in both new districts. Before all the children of the former Jordan School District (both east and west side) received \$1,522 per children from property tax but now according to the Jordan School District that number is \$2,087 per child in the Canyons School District and \$1,136 per child in the new Jordan School District (according to the Canyons School District that disparity is closer to \$1,900 and \$1,300)

Whereas, this disparity along with increased overhead created a gap of \$20MM in the current Jordan School District. The Jordan School District has been able to meet this year's gap with one-time money and cutting back on administrative staff. However, next year, they will have to lay off 250 teachers (which would increase class size by for 4-5 students in each classroom) or have to raise property taxes by 20% .

Whereas, this same issue may occur in the Granite School District (now the largest school district in the state) which has experienced the same growth patterns as the former Jordan School District.

Whereas, according to recent polls, 75% of Salt Lake County residences believe that this split was unfair to the children in the Jordan School District, 72% say it was unfair to Jordan taxpayers and 61% believe it was unfair to ALL Salt Lake County taxpayers in general.

Whereas, by equalizing the funding not only would it be fair to all Utah's school children, but we can also hold schools districts even more accountable for overhead cost, lobbying dollars and how efficiently they are using taxpayer funds.

**Therefore, we resolve that as Republicans we do not support forcing school districts in situations where they have to increase taxes or alternatively have to lay off teachers and increase class size to meet financial shortfalls.**

**Therefore, we resolve that the Salt Lake County Republican Party urges Republican legislators (from both the east and west side) to vote for equal funding for ALL Utah school children. We also urge the Governor's new *Commission on Excellence in Education* to recommend equal funding for all Utah school children.**

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\* If you are interested in or supportive of this issue, please join the Facebook Group:

**“We need to provide EQUAL FUNDING to All of Utah's school children!!!”**