



Navigating the Public Education System

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A Thought as We Begin This Journey



The more that you read, the
more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the
more places you'll go.

~ Dr. Seuss

What Would You Do If . . .



- You don't agree with a policy?
- Your child started displaying academic challenges?
- Your child needed to learn about career choices?
- You are experiencing problems with your child's teacher?
- You found out that your child has been "cutting" school?
- Your child has a problem with speech?
- Your child started having behavioral difficulties?
- You have a special needs preschooler?

Space – The Final Frontier . . .



. . . to explore strange new worlds. To seek out new life and new civilizations. To boldly go where no man has gone before!

Captain James T. Kirk

Public School Governance Structure



Governor
State Legislature
State Board of Education
State Superintendent
Local Board of Education
Superintendent
Principal
Teacher

Governor



Governor Spencer Cox

- Responsible for managing the state budget.
- Proposing new programs and state laws.
- Signing or vetoing new legislation.
- Appointing member of various state boards.
- Etc.

Utah State Legislature



President Stuart Adams

Utah State Legislature

- Adopts State Budget
- Passes State Legislation
- Amends Existing Law



Speaker Brad Wilson

State Board of Education



President Mark Huntsman

Utah State Board of Education

Exercises general control and supervision over the public education system including:

- Establishment of state core standards;
- Educator licensing policies;
- State high school graduation requirements;
- Implementation of State Law;
- Etc.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction



Superintendent Sydnee Dickson

- Directs the Utah Department of Education in executing the policies set by the State Board of Education;
- Serves as the chief spokesperson for public education;
- Represents the needs of public education to the Governor's Office and State Legislature; and
- Provides direction to local school districts.

Local Boards of Education



- Hires the superintendent and business administrator;
- Adopts a budget for the school district;
- Sets policies for the local school district;
- Approves school's Land Trust and TSSA Plans; and
- Other functions as identified in Utah State Code.

Superintendent of Schools



- Serves as the chief executive officer;
- Serves as the district's budget officer;
- Serves as an instructional leader;
- Responsible for the implementation of Board policy;
- Writes procedures for the implementation of policy;
- Creates a positive image for the district and directs communication;
- Serves as a liaison with the community to resolve complaints or grievances;
- Etc.

Principal



- Instructional leader at the school;
- Liaison between the school and the community;
- Manages school budget;
- Implements district policy at school level;
- Supervises building staff;
- Manages facility;
- Etc.

Classroom Teacher



Your child's teacher is responsible for organizing and implementing an instructional program that will result in students achieving academic, behavior and social success.

Additional Support Staff



Remember . . .

- Every school's staff members are in place to assist with the needs of your children, but you need to know where to go for that assistance.
- You must be able to communicate you and/or your child's needs.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions.
- Knowing who to ask will avoid getting the "run around."

Support Personnel



- **Special Education Teacher** – provides an individualized education for students who are struggling academically and/or behaviorally based on that students' individual needs.
- **504 Coordinator** – assists students in obtaining accommodations that are necessary for them to access their educational program.
- **School Counselor** – assists students with making decisions that affect their personal and academic development; they often meet with students individually or in groups to provide counseling sessions.

Support Personnel



- **Social Worker** – serves as a link between students’ families and the school, working with parents, guardians, teachers, and other school officials to ensure that students reach their academic and personal potential; they also may handle truancy issues.
- **Academic Coach** – oversees the curriculum, observes classrooms to determine instructional strategies, assists in implementing school reforms, professional development, etc.
- **Paraeducator** – assists, supports, and works closely with teachers, administrators, and other team members in providing educational benefit for students.

Food for Thought



“Whether they stem from business or personal situations, our relationships are what support us, connect us, and allow us to progress in all aspects of our lives.”

– **Michelle Tillis Lederman**

In Closing . . .



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