



# PCSD LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 2023

WEEK 1: JANUARY 17-20, 2023

## OUR MISSION

OUR MISSION IS TO **INSPIRE AND SUPPORT ALL STUDENTS** EQUITABLY TO ACHIEVE THEIR ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL POTENTIAL

## OUR VISION

PARK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT IS **STUDENT-CENTERED** WITH A FOCUS AND EMPHASIS ON THE WHOLE CHILD - OUR STUDENTS ARE **SAFE, SUPPORTED, ENGAGED, CHALLENGED, AND HEALTHY.**

DATE: WEEK 1	BILLS TO WATCH	UPCOMING CALENDARS
January 20, 2023	<b>HB215 Funding for Teacher Salaries and Optional Education Opportunities</b> <i>Rep. Pierucci, C.)</i>	<a href="#">Week 2 House</a> <a href="#">Week 2 Senate</a>

## HIGHLIGHTS WEEK 1

•**And so it begins!** 2023 [General Legislative Session](#) began January 17th with swearing in of new members, and each member receiving a copy of the Base Budget. The 2023 Base Budget includes funding for enrollment growth and a 3.4% inflationary increase on the Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU) based on 2021 legislation.

•**Putting the FUN in funding:** The Education Appropriations Committee met Tuesday with a review of recommendations of the Salt Lake School District Audit and review of Utah State Board of Education and Governor’s office education funding priorities.

•**Debate right out of the gate.** **HB215 Funding for Teacher Salaries and Optional Education Opportunities** ties increases in the Educator Salary Adjustment (ESA) – for all licensed educators in the state, to passage of the “Utah Fits All” voucher bill. A Leadership priority, the bill was heard in the House Public Education Committee on January 19<sup>th</sup>. With the Committee room filled to capacity (and two overflow rooms) , the bill was presented and approximately 30 public comments heard. After a failed effort by Rep. Angela Romero to separate teacher raises from the bill, the [committee voted 12-4](#) to send HB215 for full consideration of the House. On January 20<sup>th</sup>, HB215 went to the front of the line and was debated on the House floor with members [voting 54-20](#) to send for further consideration by the Senate.

<p><b>What does HB215 do?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The current ESA of \$4200 is a state contribution included in the PCSD Licensed Salary Schedule and would double to \$8400, contingent upon passage of the “Utah Fits All” voucher program.</li> <li>•Under HB215, \$8,000 in public education dollars could be applied to other education opportunities such as homeschooling, private schools, etc, which is anticipated to serve 5000 students at a cost of \$42m.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Supporters see...</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a ‘win-win’ with increased teacher salaries and <b>more choice options</b> for education opportunities.</li> <li>•empowerment to use the \$8K tax dollars to fund the <b>best educational fit for their child</b>.</li> <li>•www.utahfitsall.com states that HB215 is “<b>your tax dollars coming back to you</b>”, public education funding will not be impacted if this bill passes, and that the dollars could be used to purchase tutors, learning therapies, curriculum, extracurricular activities, field trips, pay tuition at private school, or any combination.</li> <li>•<b>solution</b> to those students who “fall through the cracks” of public school or who need alternate educational opportunities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opposition includes...</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• calls for a <b>separation of the two issues</b> and an opportunity to “debate each on its own merits.” (“it feels like a bribe” – public comment)</li> <li>• need to increase salaries for licensed educators <b>and all other positions</b> in our schools and districts to recognize the critical contributions of all school employees, especially in the ‘talent wars’ current labor market.</li> <li>•concerns <b>public dollars going to private schools that do not have the same accountabilities</b> as Utah’s public schools, are <b>free to limit enrollment</b> and <b>require parents to waive rights</b> under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA).</li> <li>•worries about <b>government regulation</b>, especially for parental rights for homeschooling families who accept funds. (“What government funds, government controls” – Natalie Cline)</li> <li>•<b>inequities of funding</b> in \$ for scholarship/voucher versus public school students</li> <li>•varying levels of <b>access</b>, especially in rural areas and where transportation would be problematic</li> <li>•<b>public rejection of vouchers</b> (2007 referendum with 62%+ overturning legislation)</li> </ul> <p>The Joint Legislative Council (Superintendents, School Boards, Business Administrators), UEA and PTA all have positions of opposition to HB215.</p>

COMMITTEE MEETING LINK	WON'T WANT TO MISS...	INTERESTING	FOR THE POLICY WONK	NOTES
<p><b>1.18.23 <u>Education Appropriations</u> (\$)</b></p>	<p><b>SLCSD Audit (21:50)</b></p>	<p><b>Budget requests: USBE (140:30) Governor's (158:24)</b></p>	<p><b>Public Education Base Budget (110:11)</b></p>	<p>PCSD is currently undergoing the same audit by the Office of Legislator Auditor General (OLAG) as was completed in SLCSD. OLAG recommendations include potential legislation around local school board ethics/accountability and examination of Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) which currently allows participating districts to “receive additional state funding”. If your eyes are glossing over with TIF, don't worry! We got you and are watching it!</p>

<b>1.19.23 <u>House Education Committee</u></b>	<b>Committee member summation (226:30)</b>  O- USBE Carol Lear (speaking as an individual) (139:21) S - Really bright and articulate student (127:56) O-UEA Sara Jones (153:45)	<b>Rep. Angela Romero (221:47) proposing substitute to separate issues</b>	<b>Public comment (108:10)</b>	Hundreds attended! Passionate public comment (which Heidi missed by one person!) Bill Sponsor Rep Candice Pierucci proposed a <u>Substitute bill</u> , including the last 10 lines which hadn't been included, prioritized ongoing funding for scholarship once accepted, removed donation language, added that scholarships grow with inflation and included hybrid options.
<b>1.20.23 <u>House Floor</u></b>	<b>Rep Karen Peterson (30:14)</b> <b>Rep Sandra Hollins (53:03)</b> <b>Rep Carol Moss (53:17)</b> <b>Rep Douglas Welton (109:29)</b>	<b>Rep Jen Daily-Provost moves to circle (delay) (26.42)</b>  <b>Rep Mike Kohler (117:19)</b>	<b>Suspension of rules to fast track HB215 (13:10)</b>  <b>Rep Romero moves 6<sup>th</sup> sub (46:22)</b>	After suspending the rules to fast track HB215 without the required three readings, Bill Sponsor Candice Pierucci proposes a 3 <sup>rd</sup> Substitute to address concerns brought to House Ed. Rep. Angela Romero again proposes a 6 <sup>th</sup> Substitute bill to separate the issues which failed on a voice vote. Check out the link to your left and forward to the time indicated to hear powerful statements by our Representatives.

ISSUE	CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR	TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE EMAILS
<p><b>HB215 Funding for Teacher Salaries and Optional Education Opportunities</b></p> <p>Should educator salary increases be tied to vouchers? Should choice options for education extend to funding private schools? What about accountability? Regulation? Share your views on the different issues of Educator Salaries AND 'Utah Fits All' vouchers.</p> <p>Word on this Hill is the expectation that HB215 will pass and be signed by the Governor perhaps as early as next week.</p> <p>Make your voice heard!</p>	<p><u><a href="#">Find my Legislator</a></u> (link here to search by address/zip)</p> <p>HD4. <b>Rep. Kera Birkeland:</b> <a href="mailto:kbirkeland@le.utah.gov">kbirkeland@le.utah.gov</a></p> <p>HD23: <b>Rep. Brian King:</b> <a href="mailto:briansking@le.utah.gov">briansking@le.utah.gov</a></p> <p>HD59: <b>Rep. Mike Kohler</b> <a href="mailto:mkohler@le.utah.gov">mkohler@le.utah.gov</a></p> <p>SD3: <b>Sen. John Johnson</b> <a href="mailto:john@johnforutah.com">john@johnforutah.com</a></p> <p>SD 20: <b>Sen. Ron Winterton</b> <a href="mailto:rwinterton@le.utah.gov">rwinterton@le.utah.gov</a></p>	<p><u>Subject line should include:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You are a constituent</li> <li>2. Bill number</li> <li>3. Position</li> </ol> <p><u>Comments:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bill number and name</li> <li>2. Get to it – be brief and concise</li> <li>3. Personalize: how would this impact you, your values, our voting district/community – and especially OUR STUDENTS!</li> <li>4. Be polite</li> <li>5. Include your contact info, including cell phone number if possible.</li> <li>6. Build a relationship, offer continued communication, thank them for their service.</li> </ol>

## LOOKING FORWARD TO WEEK 2:

---

The Senate will almost *assuredly* fast track HB215 in the same way that the House did this first week. Sparks may be flying at the Capitol for the Senate Education Committee meeting on Monday January 23, 2 pm in Senate Building room 210. Conversations are likely to heat up around the Leadership push for a Constitutional change to open up the Income Tax/Education Fund, especially in light of HB215. Look for bills on Curriculum Transparency ([Senate Bill 55](#)) and Equalization ([SB 83](#)).

Need a refresher on how a bill becomes a law? [School House Rock: "I'm just a bill"](#) [How ideas become bills, then law](#)