

SUPERINTENDENT'S Annual REPORT 2024

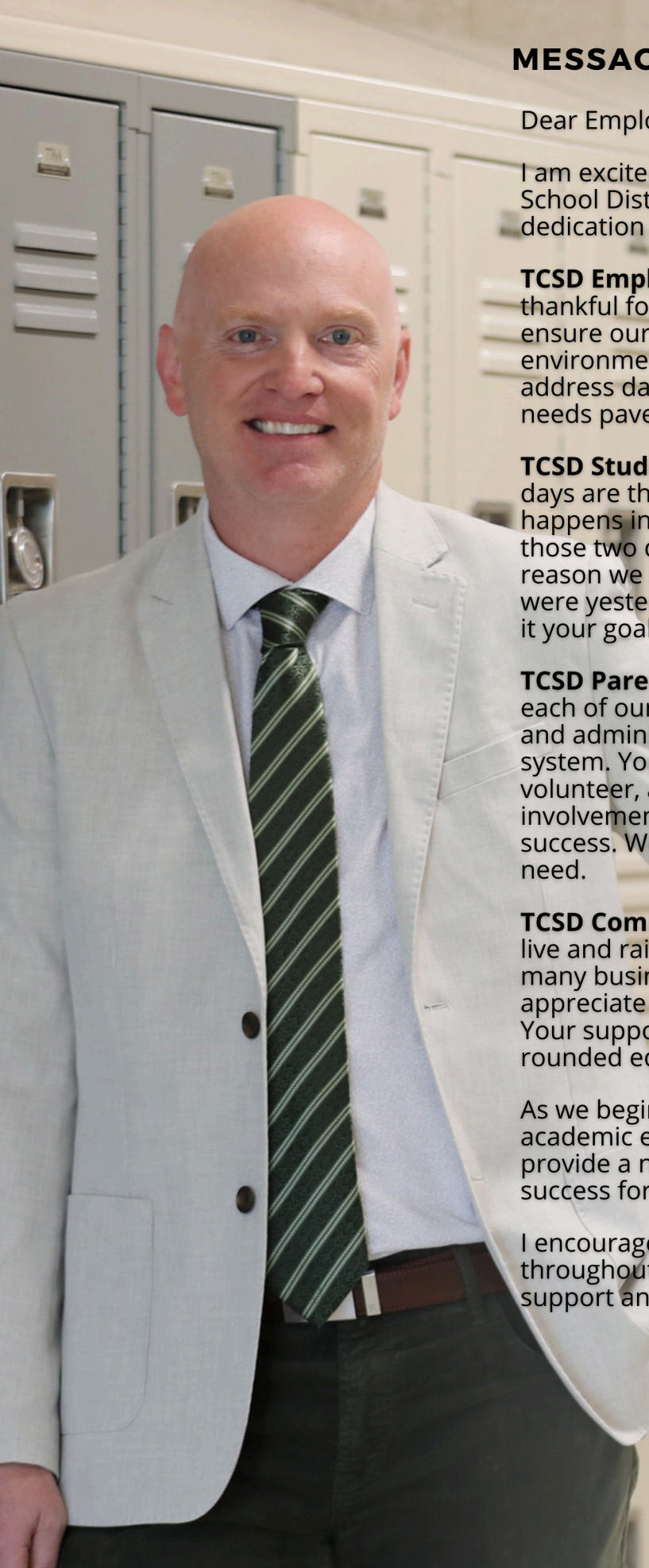


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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Employees, Students, Parents, and Community Members,

I am excited to share the annual report for the Tooele County School District (TCSD). I am grateful for your support and dedication to our educational community.

TCSD Employees: We have incredible teachers and staff. I am thankful for your commitment to our students; each day, you ensure our schools are safe with a nurturing learning environment. Our students have a range of needs that you address daily; meeting our students' emotional and physical needs paves the way for academic learning and growth.

TCSD Students: I love being in class with you. My two favorite days are the first day of school and the last. Your learning happens in class and during extra-curricular activities between those two days. Your desire to learn inspires us all; you are the reason we love our jobs. Strive to be better today than you were yesterday. Each day you improve, you are winning. Make it your goal to win each day.

TCSD Parents: We have exceptional parental involvement in each of our schools. Thank you for supporting our teachers and administrators; thank you for trusting in our school system. Your partnership is invaluable. As you visit our schools, volunteer, and help with homework and projects, your involvement is vital to your students' and our school district's success. We appreciate your willingness to help when there is a need.

TCSD Community Members: Tooele County is a great place to live and raise children. We have tremendous partnerships with many businesses, making life better for our students. I appreciate your commitment to the youth of Tooele County. Your support of the school district allows us to provide well-rounded educational opportunities for students.

As we begin the 2024-25 school year, our commitment to academic excellence remains steadfast while we strive to provide a nurturing environment that fosters growth and success for all.

I encourage everyone to commit to elevating education throughout Tooele County. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication.

Warmest regards,

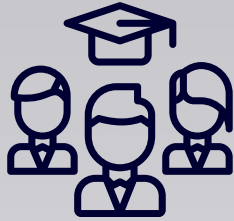
Dr. Mark Ernst

DR. MARK ERNST
Superintendent

District Quick Stats

2023-2024

15,588
Students



27
Schools

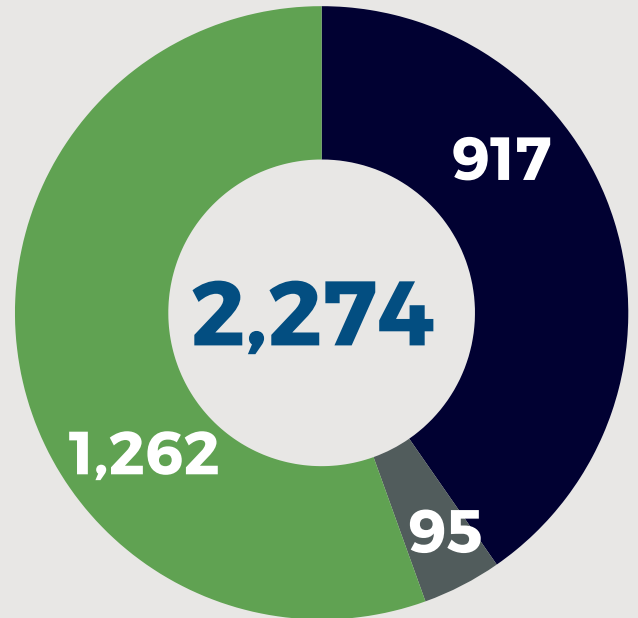


6,941
Square
Miles



TCSD Employees

■ Teachers ■ Other Certified ■ Classified



2023/2024 Employee Turnover

22	Certified Retired
9	Classified Retired
64	Certified Resignation
282	Classified Resignation



Strategic Model

A Framework for Comprehensive Success

The Tooele County School District's strategic model serves as a vital framework for guiding our efforts to become a comprehensively sound school district. This model is designed to ensure that all focus areas, activities, and initiatives are purpose-driven and aligned with our overarching goals for student success.

By establishing clear metrics for each component, the strategic model enables us to systematically monitor progress, celebrate growth, and maintain accountability at all levels. This approach ensures that our efforts are not only intentional but also effective in fostering an environment where every student has the opportunity to thrive.



Teachers, Leaders, Support Staff

Appropriate Knowledge and Competencies
Results-Focused Professional Learning
Quality Resource Allocation
Effective Implementation of Policy and Procedures



Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment

Credible and Consistently Implemented Curriculum
Embedded Use of High-Leverage Instructional Practices
Strategic Use of Assessment
Data-Informed Systems of Support



Communication, Culture, Relationships

Clear, Accurate, and Timely Communication
Responsive and Welcoming Atmosphere
Professional, Engaging, and Inclusive Interactions



Safe and Orderly Environment

High Quality and Well-Maintained Facilities and Equipment
Relevant and Ongoing Training
Policies, Procedures, and Safety Plans Embedded into Practice
Adherence to Policy and Procedure by Students, Staff, and Patrons








Systems of Operations

Frequent and Reliable Collaboration
Effective Distribution of Resources
Consistently Applied Standard Operating Procedures
Accountability Processes

Strategic Plan

2024/2025

The strategic plan is the action-oriented blueprint that puts Tooele County School District's strategic model into practice. By implementing this plan, the district initiates meaningful change by shifting behaviors and concentrating on high-leverage practices that directly impact student outcomes. This focused approach ensures that our efforts are not only aligned with our strategic goals but also effective in driving the improvements needed for student success across the district.

Goals	Impact	Actions
 <p>Tooele County School District, through networking and technology, will implement an improved process for updating and utilizing an employee handbook.</p>	<p>Having an applicable and accurate employee handbook will enhance efficiency, increase satisfaction, and improve informed decision-making for a more productive and engaged workforce.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with IT and Communications to develop the platform • Establish an actionable timeline for the year to accomplish tasks necessary to implement this in the 24/25 school year • Utilize input from various stakeholders to ensure final product satisfaction
 <p>The Teaching & Learning team will provide professional learning to principals on the TCSD Common Formative Assessments (CFA) philosophy, development process, and implementation process.</p>	<p>Providing principals with knowledge of the CFA cycle development process will prepare them to lead this work throughout the following school year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of principal leadership lessons • Pre- and post-survey of principal perceptions of knowledge of CFA cycle concepts
 <p>The Communications team will establish a comprehensive monthly update encompassing significant events, policy and procedural updates, and other essential information for staff reference.</p>	<p>This high-level, consolidated update will serve as a centralized resource for important information, streamlining internal communication across the district with essential messages for staff.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications will compile key updates and post following the monthly leadership meeting on the Staff Login portal under Communications • An all-staff email notice will be sent once posted • Archives of previous updates will be maintained in the same location
 <p>The Tooele County School District will facilitate training for staff on the Emergent 3 (E3) platform and incorporate the platform into our emergency response drills for the year.</p>	<p>Standard safety and security procedures will benefit stakeholders in the event of an emergency giving reassurance that the Tooele County School District is providing a safe learning environment for all students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all staff have access either through the mobile app or desktop software to the E3 emergency response system • Provide staff and administrators training on the use of E3 and how it functions • Conduct monthly drills using the E3 platform across the district • Continually evaluate the use and effectiveness of the software platform and make adjustments as necessary
 <p>Tooele County School District will improve system-to-system communication between various department software programs.</p>	<p>Improved system-to-system communication between department software programs will enhance efficiency, accuracy, and reliability of records, standardize structures, and reduce data duplication.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a direct connection between Active Directory, School ERP Pro, and Ed-Fi • Implement single sign-on with appropriate systems • Improve information system and data security



Teachers, Leaders, Support Staff



Find your home at
**Tooele County
School District**



Tooele County School District Feels Like Home

Tooele County School District is committed to achieving the best outcomes in every situation. As educators, leaders, and support staff, we are dedicated to providing an exceptional educational experience for our students. We continuously strive for self-improvement and encourage those around us to do the same. By collaborating, we strengthen our collective efforts, becoming essential components of the extraordinary system that is TCSD. We hope all employees feel at home in our district, knowing that when we work in harmony, we can accomplish remarkable things together.

Continuous improvement is essential for everyone, not just our students. This year, we launched several initiatives to support our journey of growth. For example, we have conducted a thorough review of our personnel systems to enhance the experience of new employees joining our district. With this review completed, we are ready to implement changes and keep improving along the way. We invite you to find your new home in our district, where growth and improvement are a shared commitment.

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment



Our Teaching and Learning Department focused on enhancing the quality and consistency of instruction across the district through targeted initiatives and collaborative efforts. They conducted calibration visits across the district, collaborating with school administrators to align classroom practices with district standards and build stronger connections between schools and district leaders.

Key highlights include:

- ✓ Updated nearly all curriculum guides to align with Utah Core standards, now serving as TCSD unit guidelines.
- ✓ Boosted kindergarten literacy proficiency from 51% in September to 69% in December with the support of our literacy coaches.
- ✓ Adopting a new K-12 math program after an in-depth evaluation and stakeholder input.



Our approach to improving curriculum, instruction, and assessment is built around a structured three-phase model. Through these

focused efforts, we are ensuring every classroom benefits from consistent, high-quality instruction that drives student success.

Study

Collaborated with district leaders to build understanding.

Train

Provided year-round training for principals.

Implement

Schools provided support and guidance to apply these practices.



Communication, Culture, Relationships

Tooele County School District is dedicated to creating an exciting and open educational environment. This year, our Culture, Communications, Relationships Committee has focused on enhancing communications and building stronger connections within our schools and community. Embracing openness, unity, and diverse viewpoints has enriched the educational experience for teachers, students, and the wider Tooele County community.



One of our more significant, and fun initiatives this year was the launch of **Elevated Insights: A TCSD Podcast**. Hosted by our superintendent, this weekly podcast has become a key platform for sharing stories and celebrating successes within our district.



Episode 23: Homework...What Is It Good For?



Episode 11: Preschool Adventures

Podcast Highlights



Season One: Launched with 26 episodes



Listenership Growth: Over 10,000 total listens as of August 1, 2024



Most Popular Episode: Episode 21, on the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program (over 1,600 listens)



Increased Engagement: Saw an 800% increase in total listens from the first 13 episodes to the second 13 episodes

The podcast has proven to be an effective tool for connecting with the community and showcasing the positive work happening within our district.



Listen and Subscribe To The Podcast @ tooeleschools.org/departments/communications

Safe and Orderly Environment



Student safety remains a top priority for Tooele County School District, and this past year, we have taken significant steps to enhance our security and preparedness. Our efforts have been focused on refining safety protocols and ensuring every aspect of our safety infrastructure is robust and effective. The following is a highlight of some of those achievements.

- ✓ **Monthly Drills:** We conducted regular drills to standardize safety routines across the district. These exercises helped everyone; administrators, teachers, and students understand and follow consistent procedures during emergencies.
- ✓ **Safety Evaluations:** We performed routine safety checks at each school, which led to securing grant funding for security improvements.
- ✓ **Communication Enhancements:** The evaluations also revealed the need for better communication tools. As a result, we acquired more radios and a dedicated emergency response program to streamline communication across the district.
- ✓ **School Safety Specialists:** In response to a legislative mandate, we designated School Safety Specialists in every school by October 1, 2023. These specialists received training in the Standard Response Protocol, the Standard Reunification Method, and participated in the School Safety Academy. Additional training this summer further strengthened their skills.





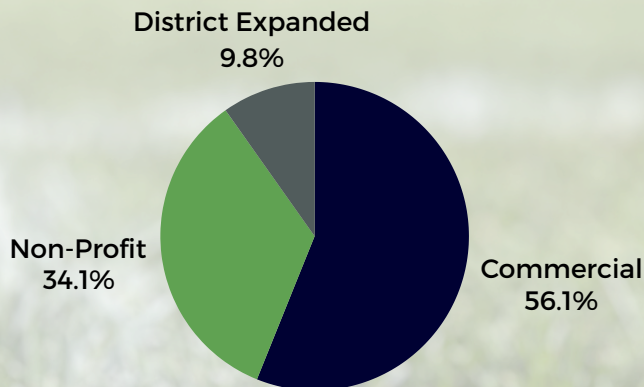
Systems of Operation

We are committed to enhancing community engagement and operational efficiency. The Tooele County School District Building Rental Coordinator is dedicated to improved communication, streamlined organization, and strengthened the relationship with the community.

The new website serves as a central hub for those interested in using district facilities. The webpage provides important information, making the scheduling process more transparent and accessible to our schools and community members.

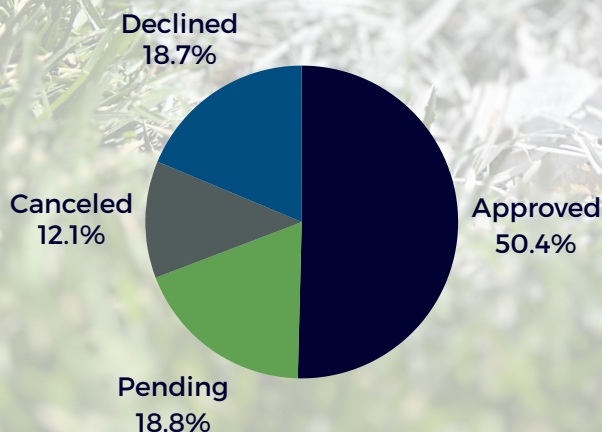
We have established clear building rental responsibilities to enhance communication with staff during events and prioritize strong relationships with our facilities teams and community. Fostering strong relationships is a top priority.

Renter Demographics



Booking Summary

Total Bookings: \$192,728.77





Tooele County School District Board of Education

The Tooele County School District Board of Education is a dedicated group of elected officials responsible for overseeing the educational policies and operations within the district. Committed to fostering a supportive and effective learning environment, the board works collaboratively to ensure that all students have access to high-quality education.

The Board is involved in decision making processes that affect curriculum, budgeting, and districtwide initiatives, always prioritizing the needs and success of the students. By engaging with the community and maintaining transparent governance, the board plays a crucial role in shaping the future of education in Tooele County.

Melissa Rich, President	District 6
Robert Gowans, Vice President	District 1
Julia Holt, Board Member	District 2
Scott Bryan, Board Member	District 3
ValaRee Shields, Board Member	District 4
Emily Syphus, Board Member	District 5
Elizabeth Smith, Board Member	District 7

tooeleschools.org/board-of-education



Special Education

Tooele County School District is dedicated to supporting every student with disabilities, creating an environment where all students feel valued and included. In 2024, the district provided services to 2,423 students with disabilities, focusing on helping them succeed both academically and socially.

Our district uses evidence-based practices to ensure students can access grade-level content, build positive peer relationships, and receive the support they need to meet high expectations. We work closely with families and IEP teams to develop personalized plans that allow each student to participate in classroom and extracurricular activities.

Here are some key highlights of our special education efforts:



Inclusive Learning: Ensuring students have access to grade-level content while fostering meaningful peer interactions.



Tailored Support: Customizing services to meet individual needs across various learning settings.



Dedicated Team: Over 100 special education teachers and specialists work daily to provide meaningful learning experiences for students with disabilities.

Our goal is to make sure every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential with the right support in place.



Annual Recognition Awards

Administrator of the Year

Camille Hansen



Ms. Hansen, the proud principal of Settlement Canyon Elementary, has been honored as the Administrator of the Year for her exceptional dedication to education and leadership. Her journey began at Stansbury Park Elementary, where she taught 2nd grade and served as a reading specialist, literacy, and instructional coach. Over the years, she has had the privilege of working with thousands of remarkable students, dedicated teachers, and supportive school communities. Ms. Hansen is committed to creating an environment where every child feels valued and inspired to achieve their best, embodying her belief that “there is nothing better than being a Settlement Canyon Elementary Badger!”

Classified Employee of the Year

Jennifer Benson

Ms. Benson, the Secretary for the Technology Department, has been named Classified Employee of the Year for her unwavering dedication and exceptional service. With more than 20 years of experience in the Tooele County School District, Ms. Benson has become the face of the IT department, greeting everyone who walks through the door with a warm smile and a readiness to help. She consistently goes above and beyond to assist others, often stepping outside her usual duties to ensure that everyone is taken care of. Her proactive approach and commitment to continuous improvement are evident in the innovative ideas she frequently recommends to enhance processes within the department.



Certified Employee of the Year

Madison Caldwell



Ms. Caldwell, a dedicated 2nd grade teacher at Old Mill Elementary, has been recognized as the Certified Employee of the Year for her outstanding commitment to education. Watching her teach is like witnessing a symphony, where each student plays their part under her skilled guidance, creating a beautiful harmony of learning. Her passion for teaching shines through in the innovative methods she employs, the engaging lessons she carefully crafts, and the genuine care she shows for every student. Ms. Caldwell’s impact shines through in the steady growth her students achieve in proficiency year after year.

Career and Technical Education

Career and Technical Education (CTE) offers students pathways to success through both secondary education and beyond. With structured training, students gain the skills needed to excel in their chosen careers or educational pursuits. CTE also provides opportunities for students to join Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO), where they develop leadership skills and achieve success at state and national levels.

Coordinators are available at each high school to assist with specific questions. CTE programs offer various pathways, each guiding students toward a particular career or college degree, with these pathways recognized upon graduation to highlight their acquired skills.

CTE Pathways District Totals

676

Total number of students that earned a CTE Pathway

1,159

Total number of CTE Pathways Earned

1,236

Total number of students that graduated in the Class 2024

55%

Percentage of the graduating class that received a CTE Pathway



Department Highlights

Federal Programs

- **Title I:** 5 Schoolwide Title I schools and 2 Targeted Assistance Title I schools
- **Title III:** 1,171 Actively Monitored Multilingual English Learner students
- **Title VI:** 191 Registered Title VI students, Native American Education Program

School Nurse Program

- **School Nurses:** 7 full-time
- **Documented Health Concerns:** 650 Students

Youth in Custody

- TCSD works to assist students in foster families. Each student is assigned a mentor.

McKinney Vento/ Students Experiencing Homelessness

- **Homeless Students:** 237
- Provide students with necessities at the back-to-school festival and throughout the year.

School Counseling

- **Elementary Counselors:** 10
- **Secondary Counselors:** 27

Social Workers

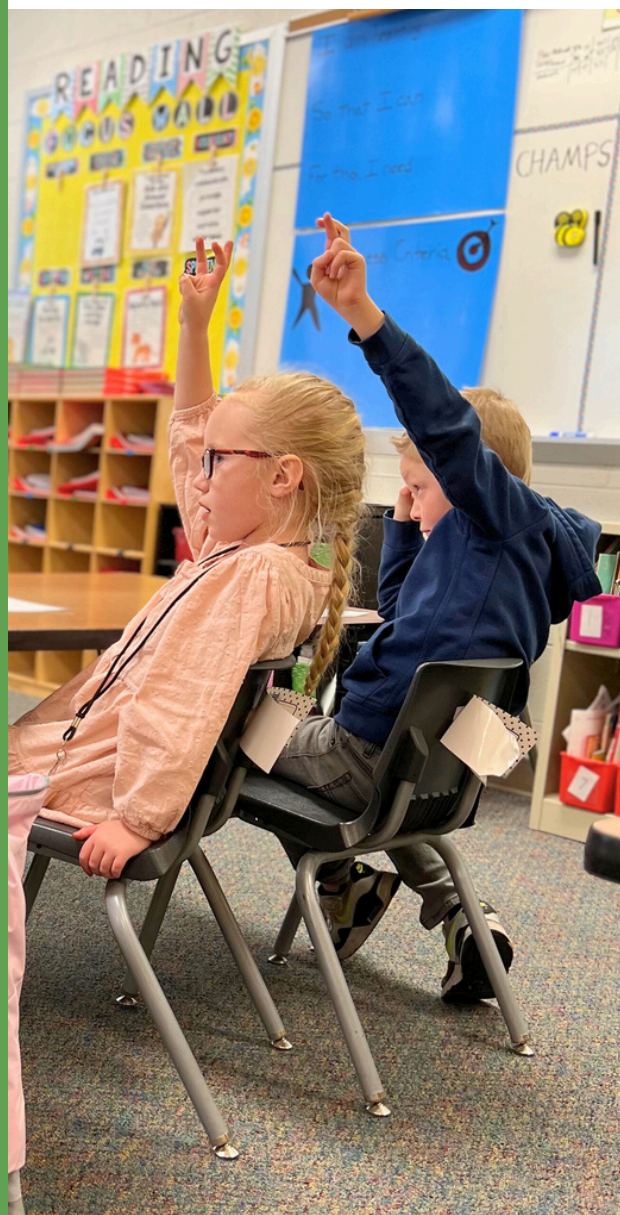
- **School Social Workers and Interns:** 7
- **Average number of students seen each week by School Social Workers:** 25

Prevention

- Focused on assisting teachers and schools as they deal with difficult classroom situations.
- **Tough Kid Training:** More than 140 staff trained in 2023
- **CHAMPS Classroom Management Training:** 120 teachers in 2024

Student Services

Student Services supports and advocates for students, their families, and district staff. We empower students and their families with the necessary skills to meet the challenges of education by strengthening and developing their physical, social, and cognitive wellness and by working with schools to provide a safe, equitable learning environment that prepares them for the future.





Student Involvement

2023
2024

Student involvement is key to learning as it deepens understanding, boosts motivation, and enhances critical thinking. By actively participating, students take ownership of their education, leading to better academic outcomes and the development of essential life skills.



Dual Language Immersion

Bridge Program

The DLI Bridge Program is an incredible opportunity designed to bridge the gap between students who have passed the AP test and their journey into higher education. This unique program offers three 3000-level college credit courses; an opportunity unmatched in any other content area. Notably, Utah stands as the only state with a bridge program that has an agreement with all public universities to accept these credits toward college graduation. By participating in the Bridge Program, our students can complete their high school careers just a few classes short of earning a minor in their language. Beyond academics, these students emerge as bilingual and biliterate, equipping them with skills that will open doors and create opportunities in their future careers and personal lives.



Grantsville High School - French

“ The highlight of my experience for my French Bridge Program is how much we have learned. I used to think about some cultures in a pretty stereotypical way, but now I see how much more there is to them. It's crazy how diverse the world really is: way more than I ever thought. This course has definitely opened my eyes. ”

-Hunter



Tooele High School - Chinese

“ I plan to get at least a minor in the language and also plan to further my language by working in foreign services or intelligence in order to utilize my language in my future career. I would like to someday travel to China and be able to speak to others using this second language. ”

-Liddie



Wendover High School - Spanish

“ Passing the [AP] test to me was a huge accomplishment. Being born and raised in the U.S. my parents always had a fear that my sisters and I would never be interested in learning Spanish. Luckily, growing up surrounded with my Hispanic family members my first language was Spanish. So, overall passing the test was something I passed for myself with the idea of making my parents proud. ”

-Evelyn

Tooele Education Foundation

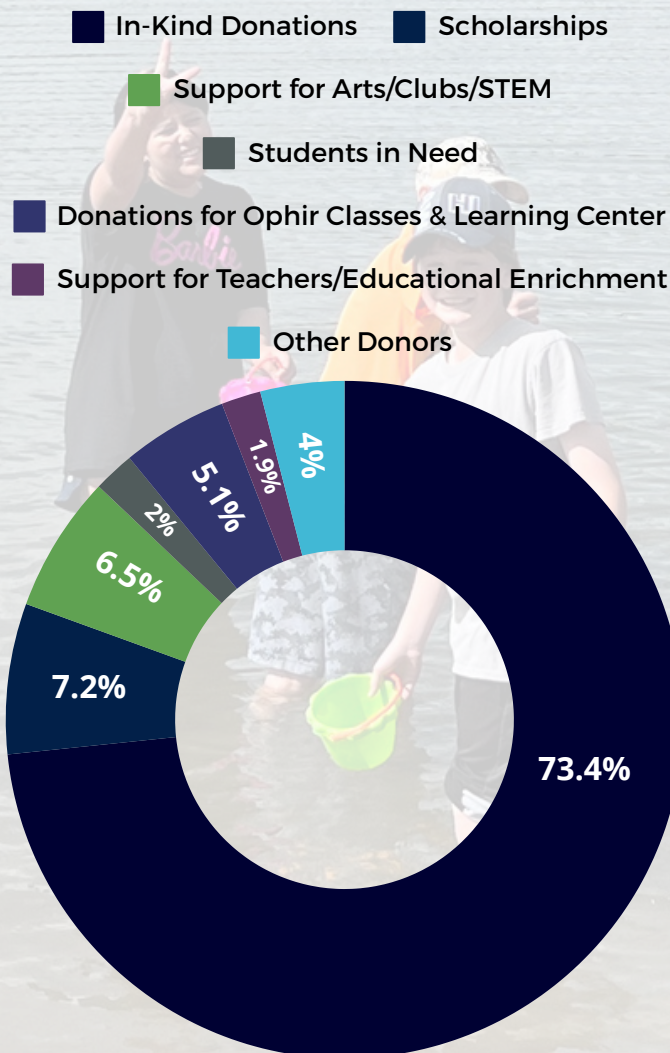


Our Cause Is Kids

The Tooele Education Foundation is a vibrant source of enthusiastic advocacy for the hundreds of teachers and thousands of students throughout Tooele County School District. The foundation focuses its efforts on enriching and enhancing educational opportunities that encourage students and teachers as they achieve success and enjoyment with teaching and learning. The foundation accomplishes many good activities; it strives to positively influence and inspire students to fulfill their own unique destiny by facilitating projects, programs, and distributing supplemental funding that helps all students succeed with their educational endeavors.

Our Cause Is Kids – The Tooele Education Foundation leads the way as it delightfully engages the entire community in making educational excellence a top priority, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to maximize their potential. By being the charitable partner of the Tooele County School District, the foundation provides steadfast support and a ripple of impact as it diligently equips teachers and students by showing an attitude of gratitude for their hard work.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the generous donors of the Tooele Education Foundation. Thanks to your unwavering support during the 2023/2024 school year, the foundation was able to provide over \$1.1 million in donations across our district. These contributions have made a profound impact on our students, educators, and programs, enriching the educational experience and opening doors to new opportunities. Your commitment to our community's future is truly inspiring, and we are immensely grateful for your partnership in shaping the success of our schools. Thank you for making a lasting difference!





Energy Department

The Energy Department for Tooele County School District is focused on creating and maintaining a comfortable and efficient learning environment for our students, teachers, and staff. The department carefully monitors and tracks data related to building usage and energy efficiency. This data allows us to identify trends, address issues, and make informed decisions that promote sustainability across the district.

The department is constantly developing innovative methods to conserve and manage energy more effectively. We work closely with maintenance and custodial staff to ensure that all systems are functioning properly, preventing unnecessary energy waste. Collaboration with other departments is also key to our success, as we strive to ensure that energy is used wisely and appropriately throughout all district facilities.



Upgraded lighting with LED across multiple facilities contributing to an estimated 292,000 kWh saved districtwide.



Secured \$75,000 in rebates from Rocky Mountain Power for various lighting upgrades and energy-efficient projects across the district.



Installed smart irrigation clocks at several schools to manage water usage more efficiently.



Improved lighting control with new panels at multiple schools, enhancing management and efficiency.



Professionally tuned all district boilers, establishing a baseline for ongoing maintenance and improved gas efficiency.

Tooele County School District

Elementary Schools

Anna Smith Elementary
Copper Canyon Elementary
Grantsville Elementary
Ibapah Elementary
Middle Canyon Elementary
Northlake Elementary
Old Mill Elementary
Overlake Elementary
Rose Springs Elementary
Settlement Canyon Elementary
Stansbury Park Elementary
Sterling Elementary
Twenty Wells Elementary
Vernon Elementary
West Elementary
Willow Elementary

Junior High Schools

Clarke N. Johnsen Junior High
Grantsville Junior High
Tooele Junior High

High Schools

Blue Peak High
Dugway School
Grantsville High
Stansbury High
Tooele High
Wendover High

Specialty Schools

Adult Education
Community Learning Center
Digital Education Center
Preschools

