



# DO PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEED MORE FUNDING?

Utah has experienced record increases in education spending since 2003, but fewer Utahns are graduating high school.

**FACT: PUBLIC EDUCATION SPENDING HAS GONE UP 10.7%, AND GRADUATION RATES HAVE FALLEN 1.3%**

If the average person were asked to invest in a company every year and were promised that their investment was guaranteed to go down, most would not invest. However, this investment scenario is exactly what has happened under the State Office of Education in Utah.

Between 2003 and 2006, per-pupil expenditures (pre-inflation) in Utah have grown by 10.7% according to the Utah State Office of Education. Over this same time period, the graduation rate has actually fallen 1.3%.

As the table below shows, there is no evidence of a relationship between annual per pupil expenditures and graduation rates over time, even after controlling for inflation.

Real per-pupil expenditures increased .16% between fiscal years 2003 and 2004, decreased by 3% between fiscal years 2004 and 2005, and then

decreased again by .72% between fiscal years 2005 and 2006. Graduation rates, on the other hand, decreased by .12% between academic years 2002-03 and 2003-04, decreased by 3.41% between academic years 2003-04 and 2004-05, and increased by 2.31% between academic years 2004-05 and 2005-06.

We can see a further lack of evidence in the Jordan and Granite School Districts where each posted some of the highest graduation rates in the nation for large school districts, with 88.5% and 80.1%, respectively, in academic year 2004-2005. Yet according to the Utah State Office of Education, Jordan had the 2nd lowest and Granite the 9th lowest current per-pupil expenditures that same year.

**Bottom Line:** per-pupil expenditures do not correlate with academic achievement.



Fiscal Year	Change in Real Per Pupil Expenditures from Previous Fiscal Year	Change in Graduation Rates from Previous Academic Year	Academic Years
2004	0.16%	-0.12%	2003-04
2005	3%	-3.41%	2004-05
2006	0.72%	2.31%	2005-06