



UTAH ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Legislative Update - February 4, 2026

Secondary Principals,

Please take a few minutes to review the following Legislative Summary, JLC Summary and Bill Tracker.

[Legislative Summary](#)

[JLC Summary](#)

[Bill Tracker](#)

A few things to note:

1. School Fees Update – There was a meeting with Jonathan Ball on school fees and the \$35M allocated last year. There might be a possibility that we will get the \$17.5M allocated this year but we will **not** get the remaining \$17.5M.

2. HB 293 imposes rigid, state-mandated requirements on interscholastic athletic associations that undermine local control and risk disrupting student athletic opportunities. By threatening to bar schools from association membership, the bill could create unintended consequences for scheduling, competition, and student participation, particularly for smaller or rural schools. Additionally, the prescriptive policy mandates add administrative burden and legal risk without evidence that existing governance structures are failing, potentially diverting time and resources away from students and schools.

*UHSAA Executive Director Rob Cuff presented to the committee on Friday. Principals Todd Dawson and Dina Kohler spoke as well. *The decisions about moratoriums, transfers, region discipline, etc. should be left to the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees at the UHSAA. The BOT was legislatively added to State Statute as the group that should be making these decisions, not through legislative action. Passing this bill could also give strength to Club programs, which would impact low income students and rural areas that do not have Club programs.*

3. **HB256**: School District Election Amendments (Representative Kyle) has been assigned to the House Government Operations Committee. HB256 would change local school board elections from nonpartisan to partisan. **JLC is taking an opposing position to this bill.**

A reminder about other talking points for legislators:

- A. Continue funding CTSO's at the state level. *Tell Your Story* about the importance for students.
- B. Ask NOT to pull the \$17M back from schools that was allocated to help with school fees. (See update in #1)
- C. PRESS PAUSE – Some states have a law that only allows education bills every other year. That gives schools/districts time to stay caught up (or at least try).
- D. Governor's Literacy Focus – Secondary schools also need interventions for students that have continued through the system without learning how to read.
- E. If there is any safety money that will be allocated this year, we want it to go directly to the schools for their safety plans.

If you have any questions, contact a member of the UASSP Board.

Rhonda
#leadwithfocus
#connectandcommunicate

