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**UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION**

June 5, 2009

For Immediate Release

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## **Four of Five Utah Seniors in 2009 Pass Basic Skills Test**

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah State Office of Education today announced that 81.85 percent of the class of 2009 passed all three sections of the Utah Basic Skills Competency Test (UBSCT), a slight increase from the 80.37 percent pass rate for the class of 2008.

There are three sections – math, reading, and writing – to the test. Results from 2009 show 5.79 percent of Utah students did not pass any of the three sections after being offered up to five attempts to pass. Another 5.69 percent of students passed both the reading and writing section of the test, but not the math, which proved the biggest sticking point for students.

“The increase in the percentage of student passing the UBSCT demonstrates the success of the many remediation programs occurring throughout the state,” said Judy Park, associate superintendent for Data, Assessment & Accountability. “A continued focus on improved math achievement will be the key to continuing to increase the percentage of students who pass the UBSCT.”

Utah students with disabilities – that is, students diagnosed with learning problems – continue to show the largest achievement gap with only 48 percent passing the math section (compared to 87 percent of students without disabilities), 67 percent passing the reading section

(compared with 93 percent of students without disabilities), and 55 percent passing the writing section (compared with 91 percent of students without disabilities). Achievement gaps between students who are not proficient in English compared to those who are also continue to exist as do gaps between economically disadvantaged children and ethnic minority students, although those gaps are not as pronounced.

More than three-quarters of the class of 2010 have already passed all three sections of UBSCT. Those who have not yet passed will have two more attempts during the 2010 school year. For the class of 2011, 65.5 percent of students passed all three sections on their first attempt in the spring.

Beginning with the class of 2006, Utah students have been required to take and pass the UBSCT in order to receive a high school diploma that indicates the student passed the UBSCT. Students who do not pass all three sections of the test, but who otherwise complete graduation requirements, will receive a high school diploma that indicates the student did not pass the UBSCT.

For more complete details on results of UBSCT, please visit,  
[http://www.schools.utah.gov/PR/UBSCT\\_2009.pdf](http://www.schools.utah.gov/PR/UBSCT_2009.pdf).

[www.schools.utah.gov](http://www.schools.utah.gov)