NEWS RELEASE
Utah State Board of Education
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Utah Sees Continued Decline in Overall K-12 Public School Enrollment for the 2026-2027 School Year

SALT LAKE CITY — According to data released by the Utah State Board of Education (USBE), total public K-12 school enrollment in Utah decreased by 15,840 students, or 2.4 percent, from 2025-2026, with enrollment now standing at 640,471 students for the 2026–2027 school year (SY 26-27).

This represents the largest single-year percentage decline since at least 2014. Despite the recent downward trend since 2023, total statewide enrollment remains approximately 4.6 percent higher than it was in 2014, when 612,088 students were enrolled in Utah public schools.

While total public district enrollment dropped by 17,796 students (-3.1 percent) to 553,310, charter school LEAs continued their multi-year growth trajectory. Charter school enrollment increased by 1,957 students (+2.3 percent) to reach 87,161 students. Charter schools now account for 13.6 percent of Utah's total public K-12 student population. This divergence, charter enrollment rising while district enrollment contracts, has persisted across the last five consecutive school years.

At the grade level, a notable shift occurred in 12th grade, where enrollment decreased by 1,043 students (-1.9 percent) to 52,939. This marks the first time 12th-grade enrollment has declined year-over-year since at least 2014. In previous years, upper secondary grades had consistently trended upward or remained steady even as lower elementary grades experienced declines. Student demographic data revealed key shifts across specific student groups:

- **Students with Disabilities:** The proportion of students identified as "Student with a Disability" continued its steady annual increase, reaching 90,296 students (14.1 percent of total enrollment). This upward trend has continued every year since 2014, with the exception of 2021.
- **English Learners:** Students identified as "English Learner" decreased to 51,569 (8.1 percent of enrollment), marking the second consecutive year of decline following a peak of 61,481 in SY 24-25.
- **Economically Disadvantaged:** Students identified as "Economically Disadvantaged" declined for the third consecutive year to 177,069 (27.6 percent of total enrollment), down from 186,362 in SY 25-26 and 193,572 in SY 24-25.

"Effective resource allocation and policy development at the Utah State Board of Education are contingent upon robust enrollment data collection that undergoes rigorous quality control checks and analysis," said Director of Data and Statistics Aaron Brough. "These data provide critical insights into changing student demographics, grade-level shifts, and localized trends, enabling the Board and legislative leaders to make informed funding decisions that promote the success of all Utah students."

Additional detailed enrollment reports and breakdowns by county, LEA, and school can be found on the USBE website at:

https://www.schools.utah.gov/datastatistics/reports