## **REPORT TO THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD**

## **FROM THE SCHOOL CHILDREN’S TRUST SECTION**

## **UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **JANUARY 2019**

The School LAND Trust Program was created by the Utah State Legislature in 1999. The legislation requires schools to prepare a plan to address their most critical academic needs and prepare an action plan to meet those needs with school trust funds. Every K-12 public school is eligible to receive funding. All charter schools received funding for FY19 except Uintah River Charter School that has not participated for a few years.

Board rule requires charter schools to prepare a School LAND Trust plan and enter the information on the School LAND Trust website by April 1st. Ninety percent of the charter schools met the deadline. Six schools were asked to make changes to plans that were not in compliance with the law. This included schools that proposed to purchase firewalls, servers, operating systems, and reading tables and two schools that planned to use funds for behavioral needs not tied to an academic goal. All schools corrected the plans before final approval and received funding. Once the plans are approved on the website, funds are distributed to the schools. New charter schools must submit plans online before November 1st. All new charter schools met the deadline and received funding.

The law requires every charter school have a School Trust Land Committee. A Charter Governing Board may serve as the Trust Land Committee if the governing board’s membership includes at least two more members who are parents or guardians of students enrolled in the charter school than members who do not have students enrolled at the school. About half of the charter schools met these requirements and used their governing boards as their Trust Land Committees. The other half reported electing a council with a two-parent member majority under a process outlined by the Charter Governing Board.

Board Rule requires the School Children’s Trust Section to review and approve charter School LAND Trust Plans. In doing so, we look to ensure the plan is academic and all expenditures fall within the law. The plan must have an academic goal(s), a measurement to understand if the school reached the goal, an action plan for implementation that includes the expenditures needed to execute the plan. Each plan is unique to the needs of the school. The funds are distributed through a per pupil formula. There is a base for schools with small populations. When schools have a population that provides more than funding on a per pupil basis than the base, they receive the per-pupil amount. This school year the base is $39,291 and the per-pupil amount is $119.88.

The funds have grown substantially since the first distribution in 2001. In 2001, funding came through the district in which the school was located. The average per pupil amount statewide in that year was $10.02. The following is a list of the total amount charter schools have received. Please note that in 2001 the charter schools were included in the district distribution in which they were physically located.

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| YEAR | DISTRIBUTION TO CHARTER SCHOOLS | AVERAGE PER PUPIL AMOUNT |
| 2001 | $4,334 | $11.11 |
| 2002 | $20,382 | $37.96 |
| 2003 | $26,200 | $26.20 |
| 2004 | $42,940 | $28.79 |
| 2005 | $81,082 | $25.30 |
| 2006 | $188,879 | $30.97 |
| 2007 | $419,421 | $36.38 |
| 2008 | $897,748 | $46.54 |
| 2009 | $1,075,396 | $48.45 |
| 2010 | $1,144,100 | $41.86 |
| 2011 | $1,287,300 | $37.68 |
| 2012 | $1,679,077 | $41.88 |
| 2013 | $2,053,333 | $45.74 |
| 2014 | $3,163,358 | $61.77 |
| 2015 | $3,868,674 | $61.96 |
| 2016 | $4,439,972 | $70.71 |
| 2017 | $4,849,977 | $71.49 |
| 2018 | $6,319,504 | $91.52 |
| 2019 | $7,609,614 | $106.78 |
| 2020 | $9,822,677 | $119.88 |

In FY18, charter schools spent School LAND Trust funds in these categories