



OFFICE OF THE
STATE AUDITOR

News Release

For Immediate Release

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**Office of the State Auditor Releases
Title I Program Effectiveness Report**

Enhanced dashboard is part of ongoing Project KIDS performance audit of education funding

Salt Lake City, UTAH –

The Office of the State Auditor (Office) today announces the release of a Title I Program Effectiveness Report as part of the Office's Project KIDS. The Title I program is a federally-funded program that is intended to provide supplementary funds to schools with high percentages of students from families with low incomes to help students meet state academic standards.

This dashboard explores the performance, demographic composition, and spending at Title I schools versus non-Title I schools. Students at Title I schools face heightened socioeconomic barriers and tend to have lower rates of educational achievement compared to their non-Title I peers.

This research shows that spending on the average student at Schoolwide Title I schools is 4% lower on average than at non-Title I schools, after adjusting for other factors that impact funding such as the percentage of students requiring special education services or English language learning services, despite the additional federal Title I funding. Further, demographic factors have a much stronger relationship with academic performance at Title I schools than per-student spending does, which highlights how current student spending methodologies fail to help many students overcome socioeconomic barriers. In other words, Title I funding is not always supplemental and does not sufficiently address the intent to reduce educational inequities and raise student achievement.

State Auditor John Dougall said, "While the Title I program is intended to enhance funding to improve achievement for students who face various disadvantages, frequently that is not the reality. We noted that, after adjusting for various other programs, Title I funding often does not effectively supplement state and local education funding. Funding must be strategically directed if students are to overcome the tyranny of their zip code."

Project KIDS is a special, in-depth performance audit of public education that integrates financial, operational, and performance data to create interactive visualizations. This informs Utah stakeholders where the money is going in public education so those stakeholders can better determine how well that money is being spent.

Project KIDS can be found at <https://auditor.utah.gov/kids/> and the Title I Program Effectiveness Dashboard can be found at <https://auditor.utah.gov/kids/title-1-program/>.

The news release and related information may be found on the Office's website at auditor.utah.gov.

About the Office of the State Auditor

The Office of the State Auditor provides Utah taxpayers and government officials with an independent assessment of financial operation, statutory compliance, and performance management for state and local government.

Specific activities of the Office include performing financial audits, conducting Federal funds compliance audits, providing local government oversight, conducting agency and program performance audits, performing fraud and compliance audits, and operating the State Auditor Hotline for citizens to report suspected financial issues or improprieties. These capabilities strengthen Utah State Government and help taxpayers have confidence in the integrity of Utah's government agencies.

The Office also provides interactive graphical tools to help taxpayers and policymakers gain greater insight into governmental financial activities.

The State Auditor is a Constitutional Officer of the State of Utah, elected directly by the state's citizens every four years. The role of the State Auditor is authorized in Article VII, Section 15 of the Utah Constitution. For more information, see auditor.utah.gov.

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