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# Nebo News

VOLUME III ISSUE VIII



APRIL 2014

## NEBO SCHOOL DISTRICT'S SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Nebo District has over 31,000 students 2013-2014.
- Nebo District has over 3,500 employees.
- Nebo District is the 6th largest district in Utah.
- Nebo District is the 5th largest employer in Utah County.

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## Legislative Budget Summary

- ◆ The legislature funded enrollment growth and funded a 2.5% increase on the Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU) or per pupil funding. This means that Nebo District will receive \$2,971 per student next year, compared to \$2,899 this year.
- ◆ Enrollment growth and WPU increase accounted for \$125 million of the \$133.5 million that was allocated to public education. The other funding goes toward legislative projects and initiatives.
- ◆ In Nebo, approximately ½ of the WPU funding increase will be required to cover the retirement rate increases mandated by the state. The remaining funding is available for a variety of needs (salary increases, funding steps/lanes, insurance increases, and other District needs) that are discussed in negotiations processes.
- ◆ Another \$33.5 million, in one-time money, was allocated to public education. Of this, \$30 million was for 5 programs: Teacher Supply Money (\$5 million), STEM Action Center (\$15 million), USOE funding (\$3 million), Beverly Taylor Sorensen Arts Program (\$4 million), and additional growth funding (\$3 million).

### Some General Public School Areas Affected by Bills

Curriculum/Assessment	8
Charter Schools/Home Schooling/Parent Rights	6
Construction/Bonds	5
Trustlands/School Community Council	4
Human Resources	3
Preschool	3
Technology/STEM	3

### Legislative Summary by the Numbers

Total number of bills filed	786
Total number of bills passed	486
Total number of bills filed that affected public education (some were abandoned or not considered)	145
Total number of public education bills tracked by education leaders	117
Total number of public education bills that passed	56

## Two Specific Bills of Interest

- ◆ SB209 modifies the School Grading Program in a dozen ways, hopefully to make it more palatable than the previous legislation. We still advocate for laws that replace grading schools with the State Board's Utah Comprehensive Accountability System (UCAS) which requires annual school improvement plans overseen by elected local boards of education.
- ◆ SB101 modifies the date for final implementation of the educator evaluation system. The District has until the 2016-2017 school year to have the complete educator evaluation system in place, meaning we can continue with our plan to gradually implement the required elements.

## Dates to Celebrate

April 1-30  
Autism Awareness Month

April 2  
Children's Book Day  
*Inspiring the love of reading*  
National Walking Day

April 7-11  
National Volunteer Week  
Blue Ribbon Week  
*Raising awareness for prevention of child abuse*

April 14-18  
National Library Week

April 20  
Easter

April 21-25  
Playground Safety Week  
National Park Week

April 22  
Earth Day  
*Started in the U.S. in 1970, now celebrated in more than 175 countries*

April 25  
Arbor Day  
*Encouraging tree planting*

April 25-27  
Global Youth Service Days  
*Celebrating the millions of children and youth who improve their communities through service and service learning*

## Transition: Planning for Adult Life

As a baby is born it becomes immediately necessary to acquire some life skills. The first of those skills are breathing, eating, and sleeping and many babies struggle to learn those first basic concepts. Throughout life, we continue to grow and gain the skills we need not only to maintain basic life, but also to grow into adult life.

Every one of our students is learning skills to enable them to be productive adults. Prior to the 16<sup>th</sup> birthday of every student in Special Education, the IEP team must develop a Transition Plan. This is a plan designed to assist the student to meet their own, self-identified, postsecondary goals and includes a coordinated set of activities focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the student.

Transition is important for every student, but most especially for those with disabilities-whether mild or severe. Transition can be participation in the Bridges program, which is a Nebo District program for some of our 18-22 year old students with disabilities, or helping a student contact the accessibil-

ity office at a college the student wants to attend. It can be helping a student study for the driver's test, or teaching soft skills for employability, or teaching self-determination and advocacy skills. Transition can be whatever our students need at any given moment.

Students participate in assessments designed to enable them to identify areas of interest and then to develop a coordinated set of goals, instruction, and activities to help the student achieve these goals. Although formal transition plans aren't required until students are in secondary schools, it is necessary for all of us to be cognizant of student needs for adult life and to be teaching necessary skills. We are always working on effective communication, task completion, and following directions, which are skills that students will require in any workplace situation.

*Please remember to encourage parents and students to LIKE Nebo School District on Facebook & FOLLOW @NeboDistrict on Twitter.*

*To participate in the "Where Are We Wednesday?" Challenge*

*sponsored by Wiggy Wash, Go to [www.nebo.edu](http://www.nebo.edu)*

## Retirement Questions Answered

As the April 15 retirement deadline draws near, many employees have been asking whether or not there will be changes to Nebo District's Separation Payment Plan (District Retirement) or State Retirement this year. Concerns have been heightened as employees heard about the legislature discussing a bill that could possibly affect our retirement plan.

Please know that Nebo School District retirement and Utah State Retirement will not be changing this year or next. House Bill (HB) 423,

"School District Post employment Health Insurance Benefits," did not pass, and the District will be continuing our plan as currently designed.

While it is always possible that State Law regarding retirement could change in the future, we don't foresee changes that would require a response from the District so immediate that employees would be penalized for having remained with the District through next year.

Hopefully this information helps employees to make their personal decisions about retirement with the knowledge that plans for this year and next are to remain intact.

# Nebo District's Mentor Program

The Nebo School District New Teacher Mentor Program features a structured system to support beginning teachers as they enter into the teaching profession. Administrators in each building choose highly effective practitioners to serve as mentors.

These mentors then work with new teachers for three years helping them fulfill their requirements to move to a Level 2 status. Currently, we have 37 elementary mentors serving 198 new elementary teachers and 33 secondary mentors serving 169 new secondary teachers.

These mentors offer support in the areas of classroom management, Big 8,

engagement strategies, curriculum planning, assessment development, and professionalism. As the mentors work with our new teachers, they maintain confidentiality and trust while building positive relationships. Differentiated, on-going professional development through monthly meetings, consultations, and observations is a key to their success.

Mentors encourage teachers to self-reflect so they gain independence and sustainability of their own pedagogical practices. Our wonderful mentors make Nebo the premier place to begin a career in the teaching profession.

## Administrative Appointment



Rhet Rowley  
Appointed  
Assistant Principal at  
Springville Junior

Retirement luncheon for all retirees on May 7, at 12:00. If you are planning on retiring, please make an appointment with Allen or Sandra in the Human Resource Department at 801.354.7414.

## Classified Employees of the Year



Bryan Hanks  
Technical Services



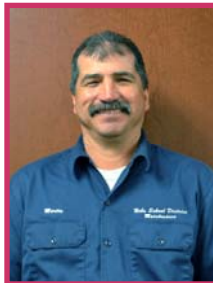
Cheri Emerick—District Classified Employee of the Year  
School Board President Rick Ainge, Sandra Jarvis,  
Superintendent Rick Nielsen



Cheri Emerick  
Educational Technician—East Meadows



Debbie Jarrett  
Food Service—Mt. Nebo Jr.



Martin Galindo  
Maintenance



James May  
Transportation



Melanie Wilde  
Secretary—Diamond Fork Jr.



Stan Littlefield  
Custodian Hobble Creek



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*If your successes are not listed above, please get awards to [iana.hiskey@nebo.edu](mailto:iana.hiskey@nebo.edu) with Award Nebo News in the subject line. (I may pull items off your school website if time permits.)*

### Nebo's Mission

is to provide each student with quality instruction, learning opportunities, and educational environments which inspire classroom success, personal excellence, and responsible citizenship.

# Nebo District's Celebrations

## Student Celebrations

### State Sterling Scholars:

Jacob Buhler, SHS, General Sterling Scholar  
Brenda Quintana, MMHS, Social Science

### Runner-Up Sterling Scholar:

Nathan Von Christiansen, SFHS, Business/Marketing

Amelia Weight, SHHS, First at State in Make It With Wool. 1st Runner Up at Nationals

ALC Robotics Second Place at State

ALC Film Students take First & Second Place

Ashley Chidester & Shalese Black, MMHS, win State at FCCLA Competition in Life Event Planning and will compete at Nationals

Shadoe Holm, MMHS, State Star in Agricultural Production & Agricultural Design & Fabrication Proficiency winner

Malinda Olsen, MMHS, won Area V Sheep Production Proficiency

Eric Harrison, Jeremy Anderson, & Nate Bertlesen, SHS, 1st Place Technology Quiz Bowl

Daniel Quintana, MMHS, 1st Place Technical Sketching

Spencer Duncan, SHS, 2nd Place Architecture 2D CAD

Spencer Duncan & Andre Parkinson, SHS, 3rd Place Technology Problem Solving

James Carrington, SHHS, received the America Award, at the FBLA State Competition

Chandler Schramm, Josh Jensen, & Mike Swanson, MMHS, First Place, Welding Fabrication State

SFHS Team, took Second Place, Welding State

### Nebo District Science Fair Winners

#### Elementary Students

Grand Champions: Braxton Robertson & Josh Cox, Sage Creek Elementary  
Fifth Grade

1st Place: Sam Jex & Hollister Hogle, East Meadows Elementary

2nd Place: Clark Warren & Zach Mitchell, Brookside Elementary

3rd Place: Caiden Richards, Mt. Loafer

4th Place: Kaiti Baker, Mt. Loafer Elementary  
Sixth Grade

1st Place: Westlee Jones, Barnett Elementary

2nd Place: Kirienn Marrott, Santaquin

3rd Place: Emma Rich, Brookside Elementary

4th Place: Caleb Hayward, Park Elementary

## Student Celebrations

### Secondary Winners

#### Seventh & Eighth Grades

Grand Champion: Haley Green, Mapleton Junior

1st Place: Emily Colton, Spanish Fork Junior

2nd Place: Ashlee Daley & Kiyoko Steinfeldt, Mt. Nebo Junior

3rd Place: Trevor Jeppson, Mapleton Junior

4th Place: Cameron Smith & Natalie Reese, Spanish Fork Junior

#### Ninth Grade

Grand Champion: Hannah Wheelwright, Mt. Nebo Junior

1st Place: Bailee Phillips, Brinley Day & Jaquelle Huff, Mt. Nebo Junior

2nd Place: Tosh Davis, Ben Warnick & Ethan Jacobson, Diamond Fork Junior

3rd Place: Johnathan Tanner, Diamond Fork Jr.

4th Place: Bridgett Lott, Mt. Nebo Junior

#### Tenth - Twelfth Grades

Grand Champion: Eric Harrison, Springville High

First Place: Jason Syndergaard & Tucker

Sandbakken, Maple Mountain High

Second Place: Heidi Ashcraft, Salem Hills High

Hannah Brokaw, Wilson, won First Place at BYU

Science Fair

## Employee/Program Celebrations:

Linda Baird, Hobbie Creek Secretary, received the Spirit of the PTA Award by the Springville/Mapleton PTA Council

Lisa Erickson, Westside Librarian, honored as the Utah Paraprofessional Librarian of the year

Superintendent Rick Nielsen received the Benjamin Cluff Jr. Award for Excellence in Education by Brigham Young University's David O. McKay School of Education.

Jesse Sorenson, Assistant Principal Payson Jr., honored with the Latino in Action Award for the State.

Maple Mountain High Selected as Cool School by Fox 13

Art City Chess Club Placed Second overall at State Tournament.

Spanish Fork Junior Band earns Superior Rating at District Assessment.

Melinda Barber, Health Teacher at Diamond Fork Jr., received Dean's Award of Excellence for Cooperating Teacher, from UVU