

H.B. 215 FUNDING FOR TEACHER SALARIES AND OPTIONAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

THIS BILL DOES TWO IMPORTANT THINGS:

PROVIDES MORE MONEY DIRECTLY TO TEACHERS

- Gives teachers a **\$6,000** compensation increase.
- Increasing teacher pay benefits every child in every class across the entire state that attends public school by keeping good teachers in the system.

EMPOWERS PARENTS AND PROVIDES OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS

- Supporting education means supporting the best approach for educating each individual child in the state.

How will H.B. 215 help Rural Utah?

- Arizona has consistently ranked among the top states for education freedom and choice over the past two decades. Arizona's rural schools are improving much more than the national average.
- From 2007 to 2019, Arizona rural students' fourth and eighth-grade reading and math scores on the National Assessment for Educational Progress **increased by a combined 21 points, while scores in rural schools nationally decreased by 2 points.**
- On the most recent NAEP, post-pandemic, **Arizona's rural students were still up a combined nine points** while rural students nationally dropped 17 points from 2007.

Who is eligible for the Utah Fits All Scholarship?

- Utah resident eligible for grades K-12
- Not enrolled full-time in an LEA
- Students who participate in an LEA part-time are eligible for a prorated scholarship
- Not participating in Carson Smith Scholarship or Special Needs Opportunity Scholarship Programs

Parent Protections

- Parents have the option of opting in to an assessment
- Assessments are optional and only administered at the request of a scholarship student's parents. If a student takes an assessment, they are not required to submit a portfolio.
- Assessment results and portfolios are kept private by the program manager.

Priority will be given to

- Previous year scholarship recipients
- Family income at or below 200% of federal poverty level
- Siblings of applicants

"With H.B. 215, all K-12 students in the state of Utah will qualify for this scholarship. This bill will empower Utah parents by giving them a full host of resources and options to personalize their child's education whether it be via private school tuition, tutoring, text books, or other educational service expenses. Arizona, West Virginia, and New Hampshire have recently led the way in expanding resources for students and parents, and this bill will bring Utah a step closer to education freedom."

- The Heritage Foundation