



OFFICE OF THE
UTAH STATE AUDITOR

News Release
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Office of the Utah State Auditor Releases
Steps to Improve College Graduation Rates
College Preparation and Student Success

Salt Lake City, UTAH –

The Office of the Utah State Auditor (Office) today released its latest analysis report, *Steps to Improve College Graduation Rates*. The complete report includes three sections:

- Preparation for College Readiness,
- Performance Measures Related to College Graduation, and
- Earning STEM Degrees Requires High Preparation.

The report highlights concerns that only 25% of Utah students taking the ACT are considered prepared for college success in all 4 major subject areas, even though over 80% of Utah students expect to attend college. Once in college, approximately 50% will graduate with either an Associate or Bachelor degree, a rate lower than states which have implemented more innovative tracking and assessment methods.

This report highlights several performance measures which are actionable and which provide strong indication of the likelihood of college graduation. Finally, the report provides insights for those who desire to increase the number and quality of STEM graduates. High school graduates who are well prepared, as indicated by an ACT score above approximately 27, are much more likely to earn such degrees.

The full Audit Report may be found on the Office's website, auditor.utah.gov, specifically at <http://financialreports.utah.gov/saoreports/2015/AR15-01StepsToImproveCollegeGraduationRatesStateBoardofRegentsoftheStateofUtah.pdf>

About the Office of the Utah State Auditor

The Office of the Utah 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 Utah State Auditor is a Constitutional Officer of the State of Utah, elected directly by the state's citizens every 4 years. The role of the Utah State Auditor is authorized in Article VII, Section 15 of the Utah Constitution. For more information, see auditor.utah.gov.

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