School LAND Trust Program

Training for Charter Governing Boards and Charter Trust Land Councils
What is the School LAND Trust Program?

First a bit of background:

- At statehood, Utah was granted four one square mile sections in each 36 square mile township numbered 2, 16, 32, and 36 to support public education.

- The lands are managed by the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) to generate money for public schools.
All the blue squares and some blocked up lands are trust lands.
How does the land make money for schools?
Revenue comes from what is under the ground.
Revenue comes from land sales and surface leases.

St. George, Utah
1500 acres, 130 tenants, 100 buildings
Revenue comes from grazing throughout Utah.
Funding Flow Chart

Revenues Generated From Activities on School Trust Lands (SITLA)

Permanent State School Fund Invested in a Diversified Portfolio (SITFO)

Annual Distribution

School LAND Trust Program

Land Management Expenses

Fund Management Expenses

School Children’s Trust Expenses
Growth of the permanent State School Fund...
20 years ago the fund was just $96 million
The Permanent State School Fund is now over $2.4 Billion

This year, schools received $74 million
WHAT IS THE SCHOOL LAND TRUST PROGRAM
School LAND
Trust Program
Is authorized by the legislature
Every public school may receive funding

▶ Charter Schools must have a Charter Trust Lands Council

▶ The Charter Governing Board may serve as the council if the board membership has at least a two parent member majority.

▶ Otherwise, the board must set up a procedure for establishing a council with a two parent member majority elected by parents including an election process.
School LAND Trust Funds

- Appropriated by the legislature
- Plans are not competitive
- Utah is the only state where local school councils determine how the funds will be spent
School Improvement Plan

- Charter Schools may use the School Charter in place of a School Improvement Plan

- Data Review is required of all schools
How to Write a School LAND Trust Plan

• Review data to determine CRITICAL ACADEMIC NEEDS

• Write your goals
  • Specific
  • Measurable
  • Attainable
  • Student Centered
How to Write a School LAND Trust Plan

• Determine your measurements
  • HOW CAN WE TELL?

• Prepare an ACTION PLAN
  • Who does what?
  • How will we spend the money to help meet the goal?
  • Entered expenditures must match the action plan steps!
School LAND Trust Plans may be amended

Amendment is needed if the council plans to:

- Add a funding category to any academic area (goal)
- Add a new goal
- Mid-year you have not spent the money as planned and cannot/will not
School LAND Trust Plans
• Explain carry-over > 10% of available funds
• Majority vote of a quorum is required
• Submit online for approval (include the vote)
• Implement approved plan (or amend)
  • Submit before April 1 with Governing Board approval
  • New Schools - November 1
  • Signature Form submitted online
  • Email option
Appropriate Expenditures

A school may not use School LAND Trust Program funds for the following:
• To cover the fixed costs of doing business (i.e.; Intercom, phones, servers, bells, desks & chairs, firewall, furniture, etc.)
• For construction, maintenance, facilities, overhead, security, or athletics
• To pay for non-academic in-school, co-curricular, or extracurricular activities
• Behavioral interventions must be part of an academic goal
• Character Ed/Leadership is limited to $7,000 and also must be part of an academic goal.
• Rewards/Incentives are limited to $2 per incentivized student per school year.

State Board Rule R277-477
See www.schoollandtrust.org for a more complete outline.
SCHOOL WEBSITES
Schools with Elected Charter Trust Lands Councils

- Notice of Meetings - One week prior to the meeting. Include the time, place, agenda, and draft minutes of the prior meeting.
- Before October 20 each year - (also provide to parents without internet access)
  - Council members with email address and/or phone number
  - Council meeting schedule for the year (can be changed when noticed)
  - Summary of the prior year’s School LAND Trust plan implementation and expenditures*
- Rules of Order and Procedure - adopted by the council
Charter Trust Land Councils that are **not** Charter Governing Boards

Subject to SCC Open and Public Meetings Requirements in 53G-7-1203

Meetings Open to Public
- Notices
- Agendas
  - Specific topics to be addressed
  - Only take action on agenda items
- Keep Minutes - Retain for 3 years
- **Rules of Order and Procedure**
  
  Council creates and adopts the rules

If your school is using their Governing Board as the Charter Trust Land Council, the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act applies...
SchoolLANDTrust.org

About Us

The School Children’s Trust Section at the Office of the Utah State Board of Education was created to represent, support and advocate for the public school beneficiaries. The section administers the School LAND Trust program, monitors the School and Institutional Trust Land Administration (SITLA) as they manage the trust lands for the benefit of the public schools, and oversees the investment of the permanent State School Fund by the School and Institutional Trust Fund Office (SITFO).
FALL REPORTING

► OCTOBER 1
  ► Business administrator enters expenditures for prior year

► OCTOBER 20
  ► Council Membership Form
    *Displays error messages to assure correct membership*
  ► Principal Assurance Form
    *Assurance that the council is seated according to the law*
  ► Final Report on prior year’s plan implementation
    *Narrative and financial report of prior year*
SPRING REPORTING - before April 1

- Progress Report
  
  *One number - estimate of total amount the school has spent or will spend in the current year*

- School Plan
  
  *Goals and expenditures*

- Signature Form
  
  *Council members indicate their involvement in preparing and implementing the school plans.*

Councils may choose to use a signed paper copy or use digital signatures initiated from the website.
New Schools - Submit before Nov 1

- Plan
- Membership Report
- Principal Assurance
Annual Distribution
Charter School Distribution

- Base is .4% of the total charter school distribution
  - All schools receive at least the base
- Remaining is distributed on a per pupil basis
- New schools
  - Based on the projected fall enrollment
  - Second year adjustment consistent with actual first year enrollment
USBE School Children’s Trust Section

Contact Us!

www.SchoolLANDTrust.org

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