

Dear School Community Council Member:

Below is a summary of two bills from the 2011 session by the state legislature that impact your school community council and the School LAND Trust Program.

House Bill 152 1st Substitute, School Community Council Amendments, by Rep. Wright (Holden), <http://le.utah.gov/~2011/bills/hbillint/hb0152s01.htm>, makes a number of substantive changes. Some of these changes are listed below.

- Elections for school community council positions must be held open for 3 days and must begin no later than 30 days after the first day of the school year.
- Each school's principal must sign a written assurance that the elections were held in accordance with the law.
- The State Board of Education may recommend that all or a portion of a school's allocation of School LAND Trust Program money be reduced or eliminated for a fiscal year if the school has failed to comply with the election requirements.
- The Legislative Auditor General must audit a sample of schools to determine compliance with the election requirements and submit a report to the Education Appropriations Subcommittee and the State Board of Education.
- School districts must allow council discussions of concerns raised by parents.
- Local school boards may approve or disapprove a plan for the use of School LAND Trust program money, but if a board disapproves of a plan, they must provide a written explanation of why the plan was disapproved and request revisions.