

Understanding Research on Education Outcomes

A Parent Resource Guide

Welcome: Why This Page Matters

As a parent, you play a powerful role in your child's education. Research shows that when families understand and engage with education data and outcomes, students are more likely to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally.

This page is designed to help you:

- Understand what "education outcomes" mean
- Learn how outcomes are measured
- Use research and data to support your child's success
- Navigate information provided by schools, districts, and the Utah State Board of Education (USBE)

What Are "Education Outcomes"?

Education outcomes describe what students know, can do, and how they grow over time.

Common Types of Outcomes

- **Academic Outcomes:** Reading, math, graduation rates
- **Social & Emotional Outcomes:** Relationships, behavior, well-being
- **College & Career Readiness:** Skills for life after high school
- **Program Effectiveness:** How well schools and programs support students

For younger children, outcomes often focus on:

- Social relationships
- Learning and problem-solving
- Meeting everyday needs

How Do Schools Measure Outcomes?

Schools and education agencies use multiple tools to understand student progress:

1. Assessments

- State tests (e.g., RISE in Utah)
- Classroom assessments
- National comparisons

2. Growth Measures

- Tracks improvement over time—not just scores

- Helps answer: *Is my child improving year to year?*

3. Program Data

- Graduation rates
- Attendance
- Participation in programs (CTE, special education, etc.)

4. Family & Student Feedback

- Surveys
- Conferences
- Observations

Families are an essential part of this process—your observations help schools better understand your child’s development.

What Does Research Say About Student Success?

Research consistently shows:

Family Engagement Matters

- Linked to **higher academic achievement**
- Improves **behavior and attendance**
- Supports **social skills and well-being**

Strong School–Family Partnerships Improve Outcomes

- Collaboration between schools and families strengthens learning environments

Whole-Child Development Is Key

- Outcomes include academic, social, and emotional growth
- Factors like family well-being and environment influence success

How to Read and Understand Education Data

When reviewing reports from your school or USBE, consider:

Ask These Questions:

- Is this showing **achievement (score)** or **growth (progress)**?
- How does my child compare to:
 - Their past performance?
 - Grade-level expectations?
- What supports are available if my child is struggling?

Key Tip:

A single test score does **not** define your child’s ability. Look for trends over time.

What Information Should Schools Provide to Parents?

Under federal and state laws, schools must share:

- Student assessment results
- School performance data
- Teacher qualifications (upon request)
- Program information (e.g., Title I)

Schools must also ensure communication is:

- Accessible
- In a language families understand
- Inclusive of parents with disabilities

Your Role in Supporting Outcomes

You are a key partner in your child's success.

You Can:

- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Ask questions about data and progress
- Support learning at home
- Participate in school decision-making

Research shows students do better when families actively engage in their education.

How USBE Uses Education Outcomes

The Utah State Board of Education uses outcomes data to:

- Improve teaching and learning
- Allocate resources
- Identify schools needing support
- Ensure equity for all students

This aligns with statewide efforts to build a strong, collaborative education system.

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