This vision statement is intended to raise education levels in Utah. The goal of 66% by 2020 is based upon seminal research indicating that 66% of jobs in Utah will require a postsecondary certificate or degree by 2020. The Governor is issuing a call to action for all Utahns to raise their education levels to meet Utah’s current and future workforce demands and to take advantage of the economic opportunities available.

The following are 8 proposals for the Utah State Legislature to consider in 2011. These 8 proposals initiate the ten-year action plan adopted by the Governor’s Education Excellence Commission and endorsed by public and higher education, the business community, parent and teacher associations, and others. The 8 proposals are the first steps toward accomplishing the goal of 66% by 2020; the proposals were selected because they are deemed to be the most critical and/or the most cost effective.

Proposal No. 1: Optional Extended-Day Kindergarten
Reinstate optional extended-day kindergarten funding.

Proposal No. 2: Reading and Literacy
Augment instruction and assessment in K-3 reading and achieve proficiency for 90% of 3rd graders.

Proposal No. 3: Common Core State Standards
Implement Common Core State Standards and promote quality instruction.

Proposal No. 4: Assessment Improvements
Adopt computer-adaptive and formative, college- and career-ready assessments for secondary students.

Proposal No. 5: Mission-Based Funding
Finalize and implement a mission-based funding system for Utah’s institutions of higher education.

Proposal No. 6: Internal Alignments
Improve internal alignments within government to align education with economic development objectives.

Proposal No. 7: External Alignments
Expand private industry/public education partnerships, such as Utah Cluster Acceleration Program.

Proposal No. 8: Online Early College
Create an online system for high school students to complete core college general education courses.