

THESIS

What is failing about Utah's schools is the one-track-fits-all model of our school curriculum.

SUPPORTING POINTS (REASONS):

(STATE THE REASON:) One way to improve student achievement is to stop requiring that all students be on a college prep track. (EXPLAIN THE REASON:) All students are not expected to be musicians or artists or athletes, and students who are not aiming for college should not be expected for take college prep classes. Students and parents should be able to choose from several types of curriculum, such as a technical, arts, or trade track. They would have basic knowledge classes until their junior year and then branch off to the field they are interested in.

(SUPPORT THE REASON:) **According to research by the National Schools Assessment Organization**, "College preparation was once just one of many outcomes for high school education" ("Who"). **Not everyone was expected to be a scholar, any more than everyone should be expected to be a welder or computer technician or X-ray tech.** Many well-paying and rewarding careers do not require a general college degree.

(NEXT REASON:) A better way to make sure all students succeed is to give students a wider choice of options for success. Schools should provide options and be able to help students find and choose an option that works for them. **Vice Principal Justin Keate said** that this is the idea in Europe. He said that students are tested and tracked according to their abilities and interests. **Many students agree with Mr. Keate.** They don't understand, for example, why they have to learn calculus when they know they want to become a chef or a hairdresser.