

## Agency: UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Program or Request Title: Pupil Transportation

**Summary of Request:** (briefly articulate the need for the policy change or funding request and the anticipated outcomes)

### What is the nature of your request?

Select one:

- POLICY REQUEST – You are seeking changes to Utah State Code to improve your program/services.
- BUSINESS CASE – You are seeking new or additional financial resources to support a program/service for education.
- BOTH POLICY and BUSINESS – You are proposing a new program or expansion of an existing program that will require new/amended state code and financial resources.

Questions? Please contact:

Dale Frost ([dale.frost@schools.utah.gov](mailto:dale.frost@schools.utah.gov)) for questions related to a business case/funding request and

Angie Stallings ([angie.stallings@schools.utah.gov](mailto:angie.stallings@schools.utah.gov)) for questions related to a policy request.

### USBE Lead Point of Contact:

Name: Ron Litchfield

Email Address: [ron.litchfield@schools.utah.gov](mailto:ron.litchfield@schools.utah.gov)

Phone Number: 801-538-7577

USBE Section: Financial Operations

### Additional USBE points of contact (as needed):

Name: Dale Frost

Email Address: [dale.frost@schools.utah.gov](mailto:dale.frost@schools.utah.gov)

Phone Number: 801-538-7706

USBE Section: Financial Operations

If you are already working with a policymaker or member of USBE leadership on this request, identify them below:

## **POLICY REQUEST**

*This section only needs to be completed if you are making a policy request (creating or changing existing Utah Code language).*

- 1. Section(s) of State Code to be addressed (if none, insert "N/A"):**  
N/A
- 2. Describe the issues or concerns the legislation will address:**
- 3. Describe the history of the issues or concerns including relevant context and timelines:**
- 4. What are the suggested legislative solutions? Include code references and suggested language where possible:**
- 5. What data needs to be collected to support this potential legislation? Include whether this data is currently collected and available:**

# BUSINESS CASE

*This section only needs to be completed if you are seeking new or additional funding.*

**1. Amount Requested:**

Funding Source	Amount (\$)
FY 2025 one-time funding	\$
FY 2026 one-time funding	\$
FY 2026 ongoing funding	\$32,000,000
<b>TOTAL funding requested</b>	<b>\$</b>

**2. Describe how the business case supports the goals and metrics of the [USBE Strategic Plan](#).**

- a. 3A: Support districts and schools in creating and maintaining conditions for safe and healthy learning environment. Pupil Transpiration aligns with providing support and equity to students and families.

**3. Identify how the business case aligns with specific action steps within Strategic Priority #2 (Education innovation and investment) of the [One Utah Roadmap](#).**

- a. Sustainable Growth Promotion – Take meaningful, long-range action to combat poor air quality and climate change
- b. FUNDING – Increase education funding to support students and effective teachers and leaders
- c. Equity – Provide every child with equitable opportunities and resources

**4. Explain how the business case advances the Board’s mission of “creating equitable conditions for student success: advocating for necessary resources, developing policy, and providing effective oversight and support.”**

- a. Decreases the amount of money that the district needs to subsidize transportation costs from their general budget. Providing transportation to students gives students and families equitable opportunities and resources.

5. **Which populations or geographic areas will benefit most from this request? What safeguards will be implemented to prevent inequities or other unintended distributional consequences as it relates to this request?**
  - a. All School Districts and students that receive state supported transportation.
  
6. **Which stakeholders have you engaged and coordinated with during the development of this request?**
  - a. Transportation Directors - to determine the effect at the district level of state-wide increases in bus driver salary, benefits, more full-time positions, and fuel costs.
  - b. Transportation Supervisors and staff - Maintained dialog through emails.
  - c. Business Administrators - To review transportation budgets
  
7. **Summarize the current budget for the project or program that is being funded. If this is a new project or program, summarize resources that are available for like-objectives within USBE.**
  - a. Funding request is 32 million.
    - i. For FY24 legislative funding shortfall to meet the 85% was 12 million dollars.
    - ii. For FY25 USBE estimates the funding shortfall is 24 million dollars.
      1. USBE's mid-year update utilizes the FY25 Annual Financial Report which isn't available until November.
      2. USBE predicted the allowed costs by using a 3 year rolling average.
    - iii. For FY26 USBE estimates the funding needed to meet the 85% is 32 million dollars.
      1. USBE uses a rolling average to determine the allowable costs.
        - a. In November the formula will be updated to provide the most accurate data available.
  
8. **What problems would be solved with the additional funding?** (Provide details and sources on any research or analysis that supports the evidence-basis for this request or the associated program such as a cost benefit analysis, program evaluation, results from a pilot program, etc.)
  - a. Decreases the amount of money that the district needs to subsidize transportation costs from their general budget. That savings can be used at the local level to support their individual programs.
  
9. **Provide an itemized budget, including revenue and expenditure sources, for how the funding will be utilized.**

**Funding Source(s):**

<b>Program Name</b>		
<b>Cost Category</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>
Personnel Services	\$	\$
Travel/In State	\$	\$
Travel/Out State	\$	\$
Current Expenses	\$	\$
Data Processing Current Expenses	\$	\$
Data Processing Capital Outlay	\$	\$
Capital Outlay	\$	\$
Other Charges/Pass Through	\$	\$
Transfers	\$	\$
Other	\$	\$
<b>Total</b>	\$	\$

<b>USBE FTEs</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>
USBE FTEs	0	0

**10. To what extent is this request scalable? Articulate the impacts if lower funding amounts were provided for this request.**

- a. State Supported Pupil Transportation funding level will be below the 85% statutory contribution level requiring more LEA funds to cover the costs of transportation.

**11. What has been done or considered to address this problem with existing resources, instead of requesting additional state funding?**

- a. Pupil transportation is only partially funded by the state. This puts a higher demand on district general funds to supplement the pupil transportation program.

**12. Are there any future funding obligations (operations and maintenance, multi-year scale up, etc.) created by this request? What are the long-term funding or policy needs for this project or program outside the current budget window of two years? How should the state prepare to address these longer-term needs?**

- a. Pupil transportation is growing year to year from the increase in the numbers of students transported and increase in transportation operational costs. Year to year transportation funding needs to be prioritized so that the state maintains funding levels for transportation and is closing the gap of 85% funding.

**13. What value will these additional resources create for Utah and how will this value be measured? List the performance measure(s) that will be used to track outcomes for this business case.**

- a. The goal of transportation funding is to reach the 85% in statute. As state support of pupil transportation increases, district general funds that would normally subsidize transportation costs would be available for the local needs of the district.

**14. Is this request related to an effort to streamline, modernize, or innovate state government? If so, describe how this request furthers those efforts.**

**15. Please create a quad chart for your business case and send to Dale Frost ([dale.frost@schools.utah.gov](mailto:dale.frost@schools.utah.gov)) when you submit your request. You can find examples of quad charts [here](#).**

Once you have created your business case, please upload it to this folder using the following naming convention GS2023.ProgramName.Month.Year. (Ex. Full Day Kindergarten would look like *GS2023.FullDayK.June.2025*)