

GS2026 (FY27) Funding Request Tracker, Draft 1, 10/02/2025

Priority	Request Title	Summary of Request	Requested FTE	How is the Request linked to Student Achievement Gains and/or the Board Strategic Plan	Ongoing \$	One-Time \$
1	WPU Increase of 2% above the inflationary adjustment	This request increases the WPU allocation.	0	This request will provide the needed funding for LEAs to provide the quality of education that Utah Students require.		
2	Paraprofessional K-3 Grant Program (\$20,000,000 one-time)	This request proposes the creation of the K-3 Classroom Excellence Grant Program. This statewide, competitive grant would provide matching funds to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to hire and train paraprofessionals for service in kindergarten through 3rd-grade classrooms.	0	This request directly supports USBE's strategic goals of Operational Excellence and Effective Governance. By investing in a best-practice compliance framework, we reinforce the integrity and efficiency of our operations.	\$0.00	\$20,000,000.00
3	Beverly Taylor Sorenson (\$1,728,000 increase)	This additional funding is essential to, first, sustain our 466 current BTS Arts schools. Second, to expand the program to 23 new schools (list available upon request) that have been waitlisted in FY26 expanding the BTS Arts program to an additional estimated 11,500 K-6 students who will receive high-quality, integrated arts education.	0	Additional resources for the BTS Arts program will create significant and quantifiable value for Utah by ensuring the continuity of a proven program, fostering well-rounded students, enhancing academic performance, and improving school culture.	1,728,00	\$0.00
4	K-8 Literacy/Numeracy (\$9,644,300 ongoing)	The purpose of this bill is to elevate reading and math proficiency for all students, equipping them with critical skills for their academic journey and future through comprehensive support for educators and evidence-based learning initiatives.	1	Supports work in the previous Strategic Plan for each of the goals Early Learning, Effective Educators and Leaders, Safe and Healthy Schools, Personalized Teaching and Learning. We look forward to aligning this work with the Board's future goals and strategic plan.	\$9,600,000.00	\$34,300,000.00
5	USBE Critical FTE Funding Requests UPPAC Critical FTE (\$404,200 ongoing) Internal Audit Critical FTE (\$1,760,000 ongoing) Data & Compliance FTE (Superintendent FTE request) (\$424,200 ongoing) Compliance FTE (Superintendent FTE Request) (\$778,500 ongoing)	The purpose of this request is to seek funding for critical FTE needs for the Agency. The USBE is seeking funding for FTEs for UPPAC, Internal Audit, Data and Compliance, Compliance, and Financial Monitoring.	17	This request will provide the needed FTEs to effecuate the Boards mission and vision.	\$3,479,300.00	\$0.00
6	Master Pilot Program (\$4,800,00 ongoing)	State code 53F-5-222 (established 07/01/2024). The Mentoring and Supporting Teacher Excellence and Refinement Pilot Program was established by the 2024 legislative session and was funded for two years. The early indicators of the impact of this program on teacher effectiveness and teacher retention has been very promising. In order to continue the pilot program and collect more data on its effectiveness, this request seeks the same amount of funding for two more years, and small adjustments to the policy to accommodate the expanded timeline.	0	Current Board Strategic Plan Goals: Law and Licensing: "to increase the presence of highly qualified educators for every student in Utah" 2018 Historical Strategic Plan 2A: Support districts and schools in providing effective mentoring for beginning educators and leaders 2B: Assist districts and schools in providing continuous personalized professional learning for each educator and leader 2E: Promote equitable access to highly effective teachers 2F: Increase the supply of transformational school leaders across the state	\$0.00	\$4,800,000.00
7	Pupil Transportation (\$32,000,000 ongoing)	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.	0	This request directly supports USBE's strategic goals of Operational Excellence and Effective Governance. By investing in a best-practice compliance framework, we reinforce the integrity and efficiency of our operations.	\$32,000,000.00	\$0.00
8	Early Mathematics Benchmark Assessment (\$1,200,000 ongoing)	Our current contract to administer this assessment expires in June 2026. When this code was originally written, we were allocated \$300,000 of ongoing funding for student assessment licenses. That equates to approximately \$1.50 per student in the required grades K-3. Our current vendors have sunsetted that original platform and implemented a new digital version, with significant cost increases. Thus, the assessment department utilized carryforward funds to supplement the existing budget and allow for transition to the digital platform in December 2023. The current annual budget allocated for this contract is \$1,200,000 which equates to approximately \$6.00 per student. In order to meet the requirements of code and rule, USBE will need additional ongoing funding to provide a comparable early mathematics assessment to procure a new contract.	0	The required assessment helps LEAs, individual schools, and teachers identify students that may need extra support as well as identifying potential math difficulties early through the assessment and progress monitoring. Through analysis of the data, teachers can provided targeted math instruction and/or intervention. Additionally, this assessment helps the state establish goals regarding early mathematics.	\$1,200,000.00	\$0.00
9	Adobe Creative Cloud (\$2,250,000 ongoing)	To request \$2,250,000.00 for the continuation of the Adobe creative cloud funding. Current contracts for this program, held by UETN are expiring and UETN is not proposing to request the contract again. This request will allow USBE to continue the program for public K-12 schools across Utah.	0	The Adobe Create Utah program aligns to the USBE Strategic Plan by providing resources and opportunities for students and educators thereby providing continuous personalized learning; supporting LEAs in providing a personalized learning plan for each student, and promoting teacher development and effectiveness.	\$2,250,000.00	\$0.00

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	1st Credential FTE (Superintendent FTE request) (\$92,100 ongoing)	This request is to add an additional FTE specific to the 1st credential program and ensuring compliance and alignment with state law and work with USHE.	1	This request directly supports USBE's strategic goals of Operational Excellence and Effective Governance. By investing in a best-practice compliance framework, we reinforce the integrity and efficiency of our operations.	\$92,100.00	\$0.00
	Financial Monitoring FTE (Superintendent FTE request) (\$112,400 ongoing)	This request is to add an additional financial compliance monitor to support the above mentioned compliance team.	1	This request directly supports USBE's strategic goals of Operational Excellence and Effective Governance. By investing in a best-practice compliance framework, we reinforce the integrity and efficiency of our operations.	\$112,400.00	\$0.00
	Compliance FTE (Superintendent FTE Request) (\$778,500 ongoing)	We are requesting funding to expand our Policy Team by adding five new compliance and internal control specialists and 3 data specialists working in the compliance support team. This strategic investment is essential to strengthen our regulatory adherence and internal governance framework, directly mitigating financial and reputational risks in an increasingly complex operating environment.	5	This request directly supports USBE's strategic goals of Operational Excellence and Effective Governance. By investing in a best-practice compliance framework, we reinforce the integrity and efficiency of our operations.	\$778,500.00	\$0.00
	Data & Compliance FTE (Superintendent FTE request) (\$424,200 ongoing)	We are requesting funding to expand our Policy Team by adding five new compliance and internal control specialists and 3 data specialists working in the compliance support team. This strategic investment is essential to strengthen our regulatory adherence and internal governance framework, directly mitigating financial and reputational risks in an increasingly complex operating environment.	3	This request directly supports USBE's strategic goals of Operational Excellence and Effective Governance. By investing in a best-practice compliance framework, we reinforce the integrity and efficiency of our operations.	\$424,200.00	\$0.00
	Internal Audit Critical FTE (\$1,760,000 ongoing)	Increase Internal Audit department capacity to support the governance and oversight of public education and the Board through: Timely and objective internal audits, Timely and effective processing of concerns received on the Public Education Hotline, Timely and comprehensive audit tracking, and Facilitation of external audit responses and submission of corrective action updates for external audits (e.g., OLAG, OSA, federal).	5	Board goals are specific to transparency, excellence, efficiency, high-quality, and accountability. The result of Internal Audit department critical functions, which additional funds will help with, is as follows: Maintaining or decreasing the average time to respond to and/or refer allegations received on the Public Education Hotline, Performing audit analyses to inform Board policy making, Complying with new requirements in Utah Code and Board Rule to facilitate increased accountability for complaints that are received. Enhancing reporting of data related to the Public Education Hotline, Reducing internal audit completion timelines, Maintaining external audit (e.g., OLAG, OSA, federal) liaison efficiency and ensuring compliance with related laws and	\$1,760,000.00	\$0.00
	UPPAC Critical FTE (\$404,200 ongoing)	UPPAC is experiencing large growth in referrals and cases opened for allegations of educator misconduct. Given the growing number of UPPAC referrals, UPPAC staff is struggling to keep up with investigations into educator misconduct. UPPAC requests funds to hire two full-time attorneys on an ongoing basis and to bring the attorneys' pay rates to a more competitive level.	2	Adequate UPPAC staffing is necessary to deal with threats to students that may arise and helps ensure educators that have problems in one LEA don't go on to repeat the problem in other places. We need to be able to recruit and retain good attorneys to address concerns over misconduct.	\$404,200.00	\$0.00