

Prioritized Funding Requests

2026 Legislative Session



To better support Utah students and ensure the efficient use of state and federal resources, the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) recommends the following funding priorities.

ONGOING	ONE TIME
(#1) \$92,116,800 <u>WPU increase of 2% above the inflationary adjustment</u> Increases the value of the Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU) by 2% above the estimated 4% inflationary adjustment to help LEAs manage rising operational costs.	(#2) \$20,000,000 <u>Paraprofessional K-3 Grant Program</u> Establishes a statewide, competitive grant program providing matching funds to LEAs to hire and train paraprofessionals to support instruction in kindergarten through third-grade classrooms.
(#3) \$1,728,000 <u>Beverley Taylor Sorenson</u> Provides additional funding to sustain 466 current BTS Arts schools and expand the program to 23 waitlisted schools, serving an additional estimated 11,500 K-6 students with high-quality, integrated arts education.	
(#4) \$9,600,000 <u>K-8 Literacy/ Numeracy</u> Supports proven instructional strategies by increasing local coaches in order to advance student reading and math achievement and promote academic and lifelong success.	(#4) \$34,300,000 <u>K-8 Literacy/ Numeracy</u> Supports proven instructional strategies by increasing local coaches in order to advance student reading and math achievement and promote academic and lifelong success.

ONGOING**ONE TIME****(#5) \$3,479,300****(#6) \$4,800,000**USBE Critical FTE Funding Requests

Addresses critical capacity needs related to staffing roles, responsibilities, and compliance requirements to improve service to the field and respond to audit findings and program expectations.

Master Pilot Program

Extends funding for two years to continue the Mentoring and Supporting Teacher Excellence and Refinement Pilot Program based on demonstrated improvements in teacher effectiveness and retention.

(#7) \$32,000,000Pupil Transportation

Provides funding to address year-over-year increases in student transportation demand and operational costs, helping the state maintain funding levels and close the gap toward the statutory 85% funding target.

(#8) \$1,200,000Early Mathematics Benchmark Assessment

Provides ongoing funding to procure a comparable early mathematics assessment to meet code and rule requirements through a new statewide contract.

\$1,800,000 Ongoing: USDB Educator Retention

The Board recommends an additional appropriation to allow USDB to meet all staffing obligations for IEP legal requirements.

Total Ongoing:

\$140,574,100 (without USDB)
\$141,924,100 (with USDB)

Total One-Time:

\$59,100,000

