

Agency: UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Request Title: *Additional WPU s for SPED Self-Contained Funding Formula*

Purpose Statement: *Provides an additional 1.5 Weighted Pupil Units (WPUs) per student who qualifies for the SPED Self-Contained funding formula.*

What is the nature of your request?

Select one:

POLICY REQUEST – You are seeking changes to Utah State Code to improve your program/services.

FUNDING REQUEST – You are seeking new or additional financial resources to support a program/service for education.

BOTH POLICY and FUNDING – 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 – USB E Minimum School Program Administrator –
dale.frost@schools.utah.gov

Current Funding for FY 2027: *\$58,089,400 ongoing*

FY 2028 Ongoing Funding = \$145,311,600 (\$87,222,200 ongoing additional)

FY 2028 One-Time Funding = \$0

Projected Results:

- LEAs will be able to cover much more of the costs for SPED services for Utah students whose services are the costliest without having to utilize other unrestricted funding sources.

Rationale: *The SPED Self-Contained formula currently provides 1.0 WPUs per full-time student who receives more than 180 minutes of SPED services according to the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). These are the students in Utah's system that need the most SPED services and, therefore, generate the highest SPED costs. Currently, many LEAs must supplement SPED funding with other unrestricted funds to cover these high SPED costs. With these additional funds, many more of these high-cost SPED services can be covered with SPED funds.*

Is there a current funding source that could be reduced or reallocated to fund this request?

No. Not without causing other funding shortfalls in other programs that would negate the benefits of this funding increase.

If not funded/approved: *Many LEAs will need to continue to supplement SPED funding with other unrestricted funds to cover these high SPED costs.*

USBE Lead Point of Contact:

Name: Dale Frost

Email Address: dale.frost@schools.utah.gov

Phone Number: 801-538-7606

USBE Section: School Finance

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

Name: Sam Urie

Email Address: sam.urie@schools.utah.gov

Phone Number: 801-538-7545

USBE Section: School Finance

Deputy Superintendent Name: Scott Jones

Email Address: scott.jones@schools.utah.gov

Phone Number: 801-538-7616

USBE Section: Financial Operations

FUNDING REQUEST

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

Board Action for Request: (Date/Board Item/Committee)

1. Summarize the request, the specific problem it will solve, and how it will solve the problem.

The SPED Self-Contained formula currently provides 1.0 WPU's per full-time student who receives more than 180 minutes of SPED services according to the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). These are the students in Utah's system that need the most SPED services and, therefore, generate the highest SPED costs. Currently, many LEAs must supplement SPED funding with other unrestricted funds to cover these high SPED costs. With these additional funds, many more of these high-cost SPED services can be covered with SPED funds.

2. Is there a funding source that could be reduced or reallocated to fund this request?

No. Not without causing other funding shortfalls in other programs that would negate the benefits of this funding increase.

3. Amount Requested:

Funding Source	Amount (\$)
FY 2028 one-time funding	\$0
FY 2028 ongoing funding	\$87,222,200 ongoing
TOTAL funding requested	\$87,222,200 ongoing

4. Provide an itemized budget, including revenue and expenditure sources, for how the funding will be utilized.

Funding Source(s): Uniform School Fund

Cost Category	FY 2027 (Current fiscal year)	FY 2028
Personnel Services	\$	\$
Travel/In State	\$	\$
Travel/Out State	\$	\$
Current Expenses	\$	\$
Data Processing Current Expenses	\$	\$
Data Processing Capital Outlay	\$	\$
Capital Outlay	\$	\$
Other Charges/Pass Through	\$0	\$87,222,200 ongoing
Transfers	\$	\$
Other	\$	\$
Total	\$0	\$87,222,200 ongoing
NEW USBE FTEs being requested as part of the funding request	FY 2027 (Current fiscal year)	FY 2028
NEW USBE FTEs	0	0

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

This funding request is scalable. However, the lower the amount of new funding provided, the more LEAs will need to continue to supplement SPED funding with other unrestricted funds to cover high SPED costs.

6. 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.

The SPED Self-Contained formula currently provides 1.0 WPUs per full-time student who receives more than 180 minutes of SPED services according to the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). For FY27, the total amount appropriated ongoing from the Uniform School Funding for the SPED Self-Contained program is \$58,089,400.

7. Does this request create any future funding obligations (operations and maintenance, multi-year scale up, etc)?

The only additional future funding obligations would be future WPU value increases for these additional SPED Self-Contained WPUs.

8. Describe how the funding case supports the goals and metrics of the [USBE Strategic Plan](#).

9. What value will additional resources create for Utah? What performance measures for that value will be reported or are already reported?

10. Provide details, sources, research, and analysis to which forms evidence-basis for this request or the associated program (e.g, cost benefit analysis, program evaluation, results from pilot program, etc).

11. 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?

The LEAs that will benefit the most from this request are those that have high percentages of students who qualify for the SPED Self-Contained formula.

12. Which stakeholders have you engaged and coordinated with during the development of this request?

- **Last Step:** When the Legislative Request Form is complete and has been reviewed by your Deputy Superintendent, email Greg Connell, Greg.Connell@schools.utah.gov to inform him the request is ready for next steps.