

USBE Legislative Request Form

(Policy, Funding, & Efficiency / Reductions)

2027 General Session

SECTION 1: THE BOTTOM LINE

Request Title: Modernize the Dual Language Immersion Program to Reflect Current Implementation

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- USBE Section: Student Achievement

Director Reviewer: Assistant Supt. Hunt

Nature of Request (Select all that apply):

☒ **Policy Change:** Creating, amending, or repealing Utah State Code.

(Complete Section 4)

☐ **New/Increased Funding:** Seeking new financial resources.

(Complete Section 3)

☐ **Efficiency / Reduction:** Proposing the elimination or reduction of a program, mandate, or funding stream. *(Complete Section 3 and/or 4)*

Purpose Statement (BLUF - Bottom Line Up Front):

Amend Utah Code [53F-2-502](#) and Administrative Rule [R277-488](#) to modernize the Dual Language Immersion program by aligning statute and rule with the program's transition from statewide expansion to long-term sustainability. The proposed

changes clarify USBE's role in providing recommended curriculum resources, reinforce local curriculum authority, and update program priorities to support high-quality implementation of existing DLI programs.

As Utah's Dual Language Immersion program has matured, the state's role has evolved from establishing programs to sustaining excellence.

SECTION 2: THE BUSINESS CASE

The Problem:

The Dual Language Immersion statute and administrative rule were developed during the initial statewide implementation and expansion of the program. As the program has matured, USBE's role has evolved from supporting rapid expansion to supporting high-quality implementation, long-term sustainability, and continuous improvement of existing programs. Likewise, USBE's curriculum role has evolved from curriculum development to reviewing and maintaining recommended

curriculum resources while preserving LEA authority for curriculum selection and adoption. Updating the statute and rule will align them with current practice and Utah's Recommended Instructional Materials System (RIMS) model.

The Source:

This request originated from USBE's ongoing review of the Dual Language Immersion program and administrative responsibilities. The proposal reflects current operational practices and aligns with Utah's instructional materials framework, which provides recommended instructional resources while preserving local authority for curriculum selection and adoption.

Projected Results:

- Statute and rule accurately reflect current responsibilities of USBE and LEAs.
- Increased consistency between the Dual Language Immersion program and Utah's Recommended Instructional Materials System (RIMS).
- Greater clarity for participating LEAs regarding curriculum selection responsibilities and state support.

Consequence of Inaction:

Statute and rule will continue to describe responsibilities and funding priorities that no longer reflect the current stage of Utah's Dual Language Immersion program. The statute will continue to direct USBE to develop curriculum rather than provide recommended curriculum resources, and the rule will continue to prioritize establishing new programs, expanding existing programs, and funding LEAs without existing DLI programs rather than supporting the quality, sustainability, and continuous improvement of the statewide DLI system.

Evidence & Data:

Utah's Recommended Instructional Materials System (RIMS) provides a well-established model in which USBE reviews and maintains recommended

instructional materials while local education agencies retain authority for curriculum selection and adoption. Aligning the DLI statute with this existing framework provides consistency across USBE programs and reinforces local control. Since its inception, Utah's Dual Language Immersion initiative has grown from a statewide expansion effort into an established program serving schools across the state. As the program has matured, policy priorities should evolve from creating new programs to supporting high-quality implementation, educator capacity, and long-term sustainability of existing programs.

SECTION 4: POLICY & STATUTE

Code Sections Affected:

- Utah Code [53F-2-502](#)
- Utah Administrative Rule [R277-488](#)

Suggested Legislative Solution: [53F-2-502](#)

Amend Subsection (4)(a)(ii) by replacing

"developing curriculum related to dual language immersion"

with language similar to

"reviewing and maintaining a list of recommended dual language immersion curriculum resources as a service to participating local education agencies, which retain responsibility for curriculum selection and adoption in accordance with local policy."

R277-488

Amend the rule to remove references that prioritize establishing new Dual Language Immersion programs or expanding existing programs as a primary funding priority. Revise grant priority language to recognize the current statewide maturity of the DLI program by emphasizing high-quality implementation, program sustainability, educator capacity, student access, and continuous improvement of existing Dual Language Immersion programs.

Safeguards:

This proposal does not reduce access to Dual Language Immersion programs or limit local curriculum decisions. Instead, it reinforces local control by clarifying that LEAs retain authority for curriculum selection and adoption while USBE provides recommended resources and technical support. Existing DLI programs and participating students would experience no interruption in services.