

UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Subject:

ACTION: Early Literacy Research Study

Agenda item type:

Action Item

Recommended Action:

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board approve funding the Early Literacy Research Study, using Federal Mineral Lease funds from their discretionary account, at the expansion level of \$397,200.

Purpose of Memo:

Requested by 3 or more members of the board

Background:

We are requesting the potential approval of an early literacy research study to be funded through our Federal Mineral Release Funds. The funds would pay for family licenses to an app that trains parents on the Science of Reading along with providing activities for parents to do with Kindergarten and 1st grade students. The study would follow the Acadience scores of the students to see the impact of supporting parents.

This research study on early literacy directly advances the USBE Strategic Plan 2025 goals to Elevate Student Learning and Promote Educator Quality. By evaluating evidence-based reading instruction and classroom strategies, the study provides data to help more Utah students reach third-grade reading proficiency while equipping teachers with high-leverage instructional tools.

Additionally, the study supports the Board's duty of Oversight & Accountability by offering objective evidence on program effectiveness to guide state policy and funding decisions. It fulfills Board responsibilities under Article VII(5) of the USBE Bylaws by maintaining full transparency and ethical disclosure regarding all research partnerships and resources.

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Attachments:

1. A Utah Study of Family Literacy (USBE)
2. A Utah Study of Family Literacy_ One-Year Research Plan (v2) (1)
3. Board Disc Funds FY2026 - 5.28.26