

UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Subject:

ACTION: Application to partner with the UofU for a federal (IES) special education research grant

Agenda item type:

Action Item

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the application for the special education section to partner with the University of Utah to apply for the federal IES research grant ALN 84.324S, FY2027: titled: "Evaluating Utah's Statewide Policy on Meaningful Inclusion for Students with Extensive Support Needs Using Longitudinal DLM and Implementation Data."

Purpose of Memo:

Staff recommendation

Background:

The USBE special education team is proposing to apply to partner with the University of Utah Department of Special Education and the Utah Education Policy Center for a research grant to study Utah's statewide policy on meaningful inclusionary practices for students with Extensive Support Needs (students with the most significant cognitive disabilities) using longitudinal Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessment and special education program Implementation data. (Institute of Education Sciences (IES) competition, Using Longitudinal Data to Support State Education Policymaking in Special Education (ALN 84.324S, FY 2027)).

According to policy 03-01, this application would qualify as a "Low-Impact Federal Grant" as it meets all of the following requirements: 1) Results in the state receiving \$1 million or less in federal funding per year; 2) Requires no additional permanent full/part-time employees; and 3) Requires no new state money to match or participate.

USBE will receive no funding or staff but will support the research by interacting with LEAs and providing expertise, as well as DLM assessment and LEA special education program services and placement data. The USBE already has a Master Data Sharing Agreement with the Utah Education Policy Center which will govern the data sharing needed to implement the research study.

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Attachments:

1. IES_2027_LOI_Inclusion_final
2. FY 2027 ALN 84.324S IES Using Longitudinal SpEd Data RFA
3. Special Education Policy Research Study UofU Partner Grant Request (Oct 2026)
4. IES SpEd Study Proposal Narrative_draft 2

