

Agency: UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Program or Request Title: Pupil Transportation

Summary of Request: (briefly articulate the need for the policy change or funding request and the anticipated outcomes)

What is the nature of your request?

Select one:

- ☐ POLICY REQUEST – You are seeking changes to Utah State Code to improve your program/services.
- ☐ BUSINESS CASE – You are seeking new or additional financial resources to support a program/service for education.
- ☒ BOTH POLICY and BUSINESS – 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 (dale.frost@schools.utah.gov) for questions related to a business case/funding request and

Angie Stallings (angie.stallings@schools.utah.gov) for questions related to a policy request.

USBE Lead Point of Contact:

Name: Ron Litchfield

Email Address: ron.litchfield@schools.utah.gov

Phone Number: 801-538-7577

USBE Section: Financial Operations

Additional USBE points of contact (as needed):

Name: Dale Frost

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

Phone Number: 801-538-7706

USBE Section: Financial Operations

If you are already working with a policymaker or member of USBE leadership on this request, identify them below:

POLICY REQUEST

This section only needs to be completed if you are making a policy request (creating or changing existing Utah Code language).

1. Section(s) of State Code to be addressed (if none, insert "N/A"):

[53F-2-402](#) (4)(b) State Support of Pupil Transportation

(b) The state shall contribute up to 85% of approved transportation costs for each school district, subject to budget constraints.

2. Describe the issues or concerns the legislation will address:

This change has identified several issues:

- Providing incentives for districts to be inefficient
- Efficient districts now receive a portion of funding back on every dollar spent
- Districts have worked very hard to be efficient
- Rural districts are more heavily impacted

The proposed legislation change would allow USBE to continue to provide a level of efficiency in the transportation formula.

3. Describe the history of the issues or concerns including relevant context and timelines:

During the 2022 Legislative Session, the Legislature amended Subsection [53F-2-402](#)(3)(b) as follows:

(b) The state shall contribute up to 85% of approved transportation costs **for each school district**, subject to budget constraints.

The 85% pupil transportation funding cap for each district is capping the funds of efficient districts for FY23. The transportation formula has provided an efficiency measure for at least the last 20 years.

4. What are the suggested legislative solutions? Include code references and suggested language where possible:

We recommend a change to Section [53F-2-402](#) to allow the Board to set aside a percentage of transportation funding for distribution to districts that demonstrate efficiencies.

5. What data needs to be collected to support this potential legislation? Include whether this data is currently collected and available:

No additional data needs to be collected.

BUSINESS CASE

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

1. Amount Requested:

Funding Source	Amount (\$)
FY 2023 one-time funding	\$
FY 2024 one-time funding	\$
FY 2024 ongoing funding	\$12,000,000
TOTAL funding requested	\$

2. Describe how the business case supports the goals and metrics of the [USB E Strategic Plan](#).

- a. 3A: Support districts and schools in creating and maintaining conditions for safe and healthy learning environment. Pupil Transportation aligns with providing support and equity to students and families.

3. Identify how the business case aligns with specific action steps within Strategic Priority #2 (Education innovation and investment) of the [One Utah Roadmap](#).

- a. Sustainable Growth Promotion – Take meaningful, long-range action to combat poor air quality and climate change
- b. FUNDING – Increase education funding to support students and effective teachers and leaders
- c. Equity – Provide every child with equitable opportunities and resources

4. Explain how the business case advances the Board’s mission of “creating equitable conditions for student success: advocating for necessary resources, developing policy, and providing effective oversight and support.”

- a. Decreases the amount of money that the district needs to subsidize transportation costs from their general budget. Providing transportation to students gives students and families equitable opportunities and resources.

5. 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?
 - a. All School Districts
6. Which stakeholders have you engaged and coordinated with during the development of this request?
 - a. Transportation Directors - to determine the effect at the district level of state-wide increases in bus driver salary, benefits, more full-time positions, and fuel costs.
 - b. Transportation Supervisors and staff - Maintained dialog through emails.
 - c. Business Administrators - To review transportation budgets
7. 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.
 - a. Pupil Transportation has been impacted by a new statute change that capped to-from pupil transportation funding at 85% of each district's allowable costs. This change nullifies the efficiency incentive from the transportation formula and decreases the overall to-from pupil transportation funding. This legislative change resulted in an increase to the amount needed to fund each district at 85% of allowable transportation expenses. Based on school year 20-21 expenses an additional \$12,000,000 will be needed to fund each district at 85%. It is anticipated that this amount will increase substantially for school year 21-22 due to the increase costs of pupil transportation.
8. What problems would be solved with the additional funding? (Provide details and sources on any research or analysis that supports the evidence-basis for this request or the associated program such as a cost benefit analysis, program evaluation, results from a pilot program, etc.)
 - a. Decreases the amount of money that the district needs to subsidize transportation costs from their general budget. That savings can be used at the local level to support their individual programs.
9. Provide an itemized budget, including revenue and expenditure sources, for how the funding will be utilized.

Funding Source(s):

Program Name		
Cost Category	FY 2023	FY 2024
Personnel Services	\$	\$
Travel/In State	\$	\$

Travel/Out State	\$	\$
Current Expenses	\$	\$
Data Processing Current Expenses	\$	\$
Data Processing Capital Outlay	\$	\$
Capital Outlay	\$	\$
Other Charges/Pass Through	\$	\$
Transfers	\$	\$
Other	\$	\$
Total	\$	\$

USBE FTEs	FY 2023	FY 2024
USBE FTEs	0	0

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

- a. State Supported Pupil Transportation funding level will be below the 85% statutory contribution level requiring more LEA funds to cover the costs of transportation.

11. What has been done or considered to address this problem with existing resources, instead of requesting additional state funding?

- a. Pupil transportation is only partially funded by the state. This puts a higher demand on district general funds to supplement the pupil transportation program.

12. Are there any future funding obligations (operations and maintenance, multi-year scale up, etc.) created by this request? What are the long-term funding or policy needs for this project or program outside the current budget window of two years? How should the state prepare to address these longer-term needs?

- a. Pupil transportation is growing year to year from the increase in the numbers of students transported and increase in transportation operational costs. Year to year transportation funding needs to be prioritized so that the state maintains funding levels for transportation and is closing the gap of 85% funding.

13. What value will these additional resources create for Utah and how will this value be measured? List the performance measure(s) that will be used to track outcomes for this business case.

- a. The goal of transportation funding is to reach the 85% in statute. As state support of pupil transportation increases, district general funds that would normally subsidize transportation costs would be available for the local needs of the district.

14. Is this request related to an effort to streamline, modernize, or innovate state government? If so, describe how this request furthers those efforts.

15. Please create a quad chart for your business case and send to Dale Frost (dale.frost@schools.utah.gov) when you submit your request. You can find examples of quad charts [here](#).

Once you have created your business case, please upload it to this folder using the following naming convention GS2023.ProgramName.Month.Year. (Ex. Full Day Kindergarten would look like *GS2023.FullDayK.June.2022*)

[Draft 2023 Business Cases for Board Review](#)