

RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**PILOT PROGRAM**

1999 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: Tammy J. Rowan

AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; ESTABLISHING A RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL REWARDS TO EDUCATORS IN SCHOOLS DEMONSTRATING ENHANCED ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE; PROVIDING AN APPLICATION PROCESS FOR PARTICIPATION; PROVIDING REQUIREMENTS; ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR AWARDS; PROVIDING FOR AN ANNUAL ASSESSMENT REPORT; PROVIDING A \$1,000,000 APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This act affects sections of Utah Code Annotated 1953 as follows:

ENACTS:

53A-1a-601, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53A-1a-601** is enacted to read:

Part 6. Recognition of Academic Excellence

53A-1a-601. Recognition of Academic Excellence Pilot Program -- Purpose -- Termination date -- Application process -- Requirements -- Report.

(1) (a) There is established a Recognition of Academic Excellence Pilot Program to provide financial rewards to educators in schools demonstrating enhanced academic excellence as provided in this part.

(b) The pilot program shall last for three years and terminate on June 30, 2002 unless continued by the Legislature.

(2) (a) The State Board of Education, through the state superintendent of public instruction, shall:

28 (i) establish application deadlines for schools to participate in the pilot program; and
29 (ii) select a representative sample of schools with regard to socioeconomic status and other
30 factors it considers significant.

31 (b) The local school board of the district in which the applicant school is located shall
32 review and approve the school's application prior to its submission to the state board.

33 (c) The application process shall allow for individual schools to participate in the pilot
34 program, but total participation in the pilot program may not exceed 50,000 students and a single
35 district's participation may not exceed 10,000 students.

36 (d) Charter schools and schools with less than 15 students per grade are not eligible for
37 the pilot program.

38 (3) Participation in the pilot program is on a voluntary basis and subject to the following
39 requirements:

40 (a) current usage of and agreement to the annual administration of end-of-level
41 criterion-referenced tests to students at the participant school;

42 (b) a commitment by the school districts in which participant schools are located to a
43 dollar for dollar match of money allocated by the state according to each district's percentage of
44 students initially in the pilot program;

45 (c) agreement to assistance by an intervention team of highly effective teachers from the
46 district in which the school is located if a school, grade, or grades are consistently performing
47 below established expectations under the program; and

48 (d) agreement by the district in which the school is located to provide press announcements
49 of schools given awards under this section or reaching other benchmarks of excellence established
50 by the State Board of Education.

51 (4) The State Board of Education shall structure the pilot program to provide for the
52 following:

53 (a) alignment of tests given under Subsection (3)(a) with the state core curriculum;

54 (b) use of end-of-level test scores to give equal financial recognition to each teacher in a
55 given grade at a participant school based on:

56 (i) a progress recognition award that recognizes the extent by which the grade's median
57 score on the end-of-level criterion-referenced tests exceeded the average of the two previous years,
58 except that the first-year awards for the school year ending in 2000 may be based upon

improvement of the median score from the previous school year if the school has only been using those tests for a single year;

(ii) an excellence recognition award based on how much the median score exceeded the expected score; and

(iii) weighting of excellence awards under Subsection (4)(b)(ii) so that 67% of the money awarded under the pilot program is for these awards;

(c) calculation of expected scores under Subsection (4)(b)(ii) by the State Office of Education which takes into account such proven factors as student mobility, socioeconomic status, limited English proficiency, and the overall nature or status of the school, such as alternative schools or magnet schools; and

(d) financial recognition awards for the school's principal and assistant principals equal to the average award given to teachers at the school.

(5) The state superintendent of public instruction shall provide a report to the Education Interim Committee on the progress made under the pilot program by September 1 of each year, the first report due by September 1, 2000.

(6) (a) Except as provided in H.B. 4, Appropriations Coordination Act, there is appropriated from the Uniform School Fund for the fiscal year 1999-2000, \$1,000,000 to the State Board of Education to fund the pilot program established under this section.

(b) The board shall establish a distribution formula for the appropriation to include at least the following considerations:

(i) the number of educators, including principals and assistant principals, who are involved in the pilot program; and

(ii) the nature and weighting of the awards as referred to in Subsections (4)(b) and (d).

(c) The appropriation is nonlapsing.

(d) The appropriation for the second and third year of the pilot program shall include funding for intervention teams referred to in Subsection (3)(c).

Section 2. Effective date.

This act takes effect on July 1, 1999.

Legislative Review Note

as of 1-27-99 10:43 AM

A limited legal review of this legislation raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel