

**EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING AND  
EVALUATION**

2008 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Bradley G. Last**

Senate Sponsor: Darin G. Peterson

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill creates a pilot project using a home-based educational technology program to develop school readiness skills of preschool children.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ establishes within the public education system a pilot project known as UPSTART which uses a home-based educational technology program to develop school readiness skills of preschool children;
- ▶ directs the State Board of Education to contract with:
  - an educational technology provider, selected through a request for proposals process, for the delivery of a home-based educational technology program to develop school readiness skills of preschool children; and
  - an independent evaluator to evaluate the home-based educational technology program for preschool children;
- ▶ specifies standards for the home-based educational technology program for preschool children;
- ▶ provides for school district participation in the pilot project;
- ▶ requires an annual audit of the contractor's use of funds appropriated for UPSTART and an annual report on UPSTART to the Legislature; and





59 children.

60 Section 2. Section **53A-1a-1002** is enacted to read:

61 **53A-1a-1002. Pilot project to develop school readiness skills of preschool children.**

62 (1) UPSTART, a pilot project that uses a home-based educational technology program  
63 to develop school readiness skills of preschool children, is established within the public  
64 education system.

65 (2) UPSTART is created to:

66 (a) evaluate the effectiveness of giving preschool children access, at home, to  
67 interactive individualized instruction delivered by computers and the Internet to prepare them  
68 academically for success in school; and

69 (b) test the feasibility of scaling a home-based curriculum in reading, math, and science  
70 delivered by computers and the Internet to all preschool children in Utah.

71 (3) The State Board of Education shall contract with an educational technology  
72 provider, selected through a request for proposals process, for the delivery of a home-based  
73 educational technology program for preschool children that meets the requirements of  
74 Subsection (4).

75 (4) A home-based educational technology program for preschool children shall meet  
76 the following standards:

77 (a) the contractor shall provide computer-assisted instruction for preschool children on  
78 a home computer connected by the Internet to a centralized file storage facility;

79 (b) the contractor shall:

80 (i) provide technical support to families for the installation and operation of the  
81 instructional software; and

82 (ii) provide for the installation of computer and Internet access in homes of families  
83 that cannot afford the equipment and service, subject to the limitation in Section 53A-1a-1005;

84 (c) the contractor shall have the capability of doing the following through the Internet:

85 (i) communicating with parents;

86 (ii) updating the instructional software;

87 (iii) validating user access;

88 (iv) collecting usage data;

89 (v) storing research data; and

- 90 (vi) producing reports for parents, schools, and the Legislature;
- 91 (d) the program shall include the following components:
- 92 (i) computer-assisted, individualized instruction in reading, mathematics, and science;
- 93 (ii) a multisensory reading tutoring program; and
- 94 (iii) a validated computer adaptive reading test that does not require the presence of
- 95 trained adults to administer and is an accurate indicator of reading readiness of children who
- 96 cannot read;
- 97 (e) the contractor shall have the capability to quickly and efficiently modify, improve,
- 98 and support the product;
- 99 (f) the contractor shall work in cooperation with school district personnel who will
- 100 provide administrative and technical support of the program as provided in Section
- 101 53A-1a-1003; and
- 102 (g) the contractor shall solicit families to participate in the program as provided in
- 103 Section 53A-1a-1004.
- 104 (5) The contract shall provide funding for a home-based educational technology
- 105 program for preschool children for one year with an option to extend the contract for additional
- 106 years or to expand the program to a greater number of preschool children, subject to the
- 107 appropriation of money by the Legislature for UPSTART.
- 108 Section 3. Section **53A-1a-1003** is enacted to read:
- 109 **53A-1a-1003. School district participation in UPSTART.**
- 110 (1) A school district may participate in UPSTART if the local school board agrees to
- 111 work in cooperation with the contractor to provide administrative and technical support for the
- 112 pilot project.
- 113 (2) Family participants in UPSTART shall be solicited from school districts that
- 114 participate in UPSTART.
- 115 (3) A school district that participates in UPSTART shall:
- 116 (a) receive funding for:
- 117 (i) paraprofessional and technical support staff; and
- 118 (ii) travel, materials, and meeting costs of the program;
- 119 (b) participate in program training by the contractor; and
- 120 (c) agree to adopt standardized policies and procedures in implementing the pilot

121 project.

122 Section 4. Section **53A-1a-1004** is enacted to read:

123 **53A-1a-1004. Family participation in UPSTART.**

124 (1) The contractor shall solicit families to participate in UPSTART through a public  
125 information campaign and referrals from participating school districts.

126 (2) Preschool children who participate in UPSTART shall:

127 (a) be from families with diverse socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds; and

128 (b) reside in different regions of the state in both urban and rural areas.

129 (3) A family that cannot afford a computer and Internet service to operate the  
130 instructional software may obtain a computer and peripheral equipment on loan and receive  
131 free Internet service for the duration of the family's participation in the pilot project, subject to  
132 the limitation in Section 53A-1a-1005.

133 (4) The contractor shall make the home-based educational technology program  
134 available to families at an agreed upon cost if the number of families who would like to  
135 participate in UPSTART exceeds the number of participants funded by the legislative  
136 appropriation.

137 Section 5. Section **53A-1a-1005** is enacted to read:

138 **53A-1a-1005. Equipment and service provided through the pilot project.**

139 (1) No more than one-third of the families who participate in UPSTART may receive  
140 computers, peripheral equipment, and Internet service from funds appropriated for UPSTART.

141 (2) The State Board of Education or a school district may purchase computers,  
142 peripheral equipment, and Internet service for families who cannot afford them through  
143 cooperative purchasing contracts administered by the state Division of Purchasing and General  
144 Services.

145 Section 6. Section **53A-1a-1006** is enacted to read:

146 **53A-1a-1006. Audit and evaluation.**

147 (1) The state auditor shall:

148 (a) conduct an annual audit of the contractor's use of funds for UPSTART; or

149 (b) contract with an independent certified public accountant to conduct an annual audit.

150 (2) The State Board of Education shall:

151 (a) require by contract that the contractor will open its books and records relating to its

152 expenditure of funds pursuant to the contract to the state auditor or the state auditor's designee;

153 (b) reimburse the state auditor for the actual and necessary costs of the audit; and

154 (c) contract with an independent, qualified evaluator, selected through a request for

155 proposals process, to evaluate the home-based educational technology program for preschool

156 children.

157 Section 7. Section **53A-1a-1007** is enacted to read:

158 **53A-1a-1007. Annual report.**

159 (1) The State Board of Education shall make a report on UPSTART to the Education

160 Interim Committee by November 30 each year.

161 (2) The report shall address the extent to which UPSTART is accomplishing the

162 purposes for which it was established as specified in Section 53A-1a-1002.

163 Section 8. Section **63-55b-153** is amended to read:

164 **63-55b-153. Repeal dates -- Titles 53, 53A, and 53B.**

165 (1) Section 53-3-210 is repealed February 1, 2007.

166 (2) Section 53A-1-403.5 is repealed July 1, 2012.

167 (3) Subsection 53A-1a-511(7)(c) is repealed July 1, 2007.

168 (4) Tile 53A, Chapter 1a, Part 10, UPSTART, is repealed July 1, 2014.

169 [~~4~~] (5) Section 53A-3-702 is repealed July 1, 2008.

170 [~~5~~] (6) Section 53A-6-112 is repealed July 1, 2009.

171 [~~6~~] (7) Section 53A-17a-152 is repealed July 1, 2010.

172 Section 9. **Appropriation.**

173 As an ongoing appropriation subject to future budget constraints, there is appropriated

174 from the Uniform School Fund for fiscal year 2007-08, \$9,600,000 to the State Board of

175 Education for UPSTART as provided in Title 53A, Chapter 1a, Part 10, UPSTART, including

176 costs of:

177 (1) a home-based educational technology program provided by a contractor;

178 (2) computers, peripheral equipment, and Internet service for families who cannot

179 afford the equipment and service;

180 (3) administrative and technical support provided by school districts;

181 (4) an audit of the contractor's use of funds appropriated for UPSTART; and

182 (5) an evaluation of the home-based educational technology program.

183 Section 10. **Effective date.**

184 If approved by two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, this bill takes effect  
185 upon approval by the governor, or the day following the constitutional time limit of Utah  
186 Constitution Article VII, Section 8, without the governor's signature, or in the case of a veto,  
187 the date of veto override.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
as of 2-5-08 2:57 PM

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

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**H.B. 200 - Early Childhood Learning and Evaluation**

**Fiscal Note**

2008 General Session  
State of Utah

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**State Impact**

Enactment of this bill will appropriate \$9,600,000 ongoing from the Uniform School Fund to the State Board of Education for UPSTART program.

	<u>FY 2008</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2009</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2010</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2008</u> <u>Revenue</u>	<u>FY 2009</u> <u>Revenue</u>	<u>FY 2010</u> <u>Revenue</u>
Uniform School Fund	\$9,600,000	\$9,600,000	\$9,600,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,600,000</b>	<b>\$9,600,000</b>	<b>\$9,600,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

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**Individual, Business and/or Local Impact**

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs for individuals, businesses, or local governments.