

1 **Statewide Catalyst Campus Model**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Mike Schultz

Senate Sponsor:

3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill establishes a grant program to help local education agencies create or expand
6 catalyst centers.

7 **Highlighted Provisions:**

8 This bill:

9 ▶ creates the Catalyst Center Grant Program (program) to support local education agencies
10 (LEA) in creating or expanding catalyst centers;

11 ▶ allows for multi-year grants and capital expenditures;

12 ▶ requires alignment with labor market needs, LEA strategic plans, and state career and
13 technical education goals;

14 ▶ establishes accountability measures, including limits on carryforward funds and annual
15 reporting;

16 ▶ requires Talent Ready Utah and the Utah Leading through Effective, Actionable, and
17 Dynamic Education to create a marketing campaign for the program;

18 ▶ exempts certain individuals from educator licensing requirements;

19 ▶ amends the Public Education Economic Stabilization Restricted Account to fund the
20 program; and

21 ▶ makes technical changes.

22 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

23 None

24 **Other Special Clauses:**

25 None

26 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

27 AMENDS:

28 **53E-6-204**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 186

29 **53F-9-204**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 322

30 ENACTS:

31 **53E-3-507.1**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

32

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

34 Section 1. Section **53E-3-507.1** is enacted to read:

35 **53E-3-507.1 . Catalyst Center Grant Program.**

36 (1) As used in this section:

37 (a) "Catalyst center" means a program or facility operated by an LEA that:

38 (i) provides learning experiences and instruction that replicate professional
39 environments and workplace practices;

40 (ii) provides profession-based learning experiences by partnering with local industry,
41 business, and community organizations to develop and implement student projects
42 that address specific needs or objectives identified by those partners;

43 (iii) aligns programs with high-skill, high-demand career pathways and
44 postsecondary education opportunities;

45 (iv) incorporates industry-standard tools, technologies, and methods into instruction
46 and student work;

47 (v) prioritizes student activities and profession-based learning projects to build
48 durable professional skills aligned with industry standards and needs;

49 (vi) facilitates mentorship and participation by industry professionals to guide a
50 student and evaluate the student's work;

51 (vii) includes an advisory board composed of industry, postsecondary, and
52 community representatives to review program direction and ensure alignment with
53 workforce needs; and

54 (viii) establishes programs or activities that address gaps in training or resources
55 within the local or regional workforce.

56 (b) "Director" means the employee described in Subsection (3).

57 (c) "LEA" means:

58 (i) a school district;

59 (ii) charter school; or

60 (iii) the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

61 (d) "Program" means the Catalyst Center Grant Program created in this section.

62 (2) Subject to legislative appropriation as described in Section 53F-9-204, the state board
63 shall establish the Catalyst Center Grant Program to provide funding to an LEA to create
64 or expand an existing catalyst center.

- 65 (3) The state board shall hire a director to oversee the program who:
- 66 (a) has demonstrated abilities in:
- 67 (i) developing and implementing innovative initiatives that transform traditional
- 68 education delivery models;
- 69 (ii) establishing public-private partnership frameworks that create student pathways
- 70 into high-growth industries; and
- 71 (iii) scaling programs that integrate real-world experiences directly into educational
- 72 environments;
- 73 (b) possesses expertise in:
- 74 (i) managing complex multi-stakeholder initiatives across education, industry, and
- 75 government sectors;
- 76 (ii) implementing data-driven organizational change strategies; and
- 77 (iii) developing sustainable funding models for innovative education programs;
- 78 (c) maintains active leadership roles in:
- 79 (i) state or national workforce innovation organizations;
- 80 (ii) industry associations focused on talent development; and
- 81 (iii) public-private collaboratives addressing workforce transformation;
- 82 (d) reports directly to the state superintendent or a deputy superintendent to ensure
- 83 appropriate program oversight and cross-departmental coordination while
- 84 maintaining distinct program objectives and outcomes;
- 85 (e) establishes formal collaboration mechanisms with the state board's career and
- 86 technical education director to align catalyst center initiatives with existing career
- 87 and technical education programs; and
- 88 (f) facilitates training and a collaborative network of experienced catalyst center
- 89 administrators and instructors across all participating LEAs.
- 90 (4) The director shall:
- 91 (a) administer the program;
- 92 (b) collaborate with the director of career and technical education to align the program
- 93 with the career and technical education standards described in Section 53E-3-507;
- 94 (c) create a web-based application system to streamline submissions and allow for linked
- 95 supporting documentation;
- 96 (d) ensure that grant funds are used in accordance with this section; and
- 97 (e) allow grant funds to be used for planning, including:
- 98 (i) feasibility studies;

- 99 (ii) stakeholder engagement;
- 100 (iii) labor market analysis;
- 101 (iv) initial program design and rollout; and
- 102 (v) teacher and staff training specific to the delivery of profession-based learning.
- 103 (5) An LEA applying for a grant shall demonstrate capacity for workforce alignment
- 104 programs within the LEA or provide a plan to establish or enhance alignment by:
- 105 (a) describing current or planned efforts to align programming with labor market needs
- 106 and local industry demands;
- 107 (b) outlining steps to establish or enhance partnerships with:
- 108 (i) local industries and employers to ensure workforce relevance; or
- 109 (ii) technical colleges, degree-granting institutions, or other postsecondary entities to
- 110 support postsecondary transitions for students;
- 111 (c) identifying proposed programming goals and how the goals address gaps in regional
- 112 workforce training or opportunities; and
- 113 (d) as the LEA determines relevant, planning to incorporate:
- 114 (i) career and technical student organizations;
- 115 (ii) advisory boards with representation from local industries and workforce experts;
- 116 (iii) professional learning opportunities for instructors to improve workforce-focused
- 117 skills; and
- 118 (iv) strategies for using labor market data to refine and improve program offerings.
- 119 (6)(a) An LEA may apply for a grant by submitting an application to the state board.
- 120 (b) The application shall include:
- 121 (i) a plan to:
- 122 (A) create or expand one or more catalyst centers; or
- 123 (B) create or expand current career and technical education offerings within the
- 124 LEA to bring the LEA's career and technical education offerings in alignment
- 125 with the definition of a catalyst center in Subsection (1);
- 126 (ii) a detailed multi-year budget, identifying proposed expenditures for each year of
- 127 the grant;
- 128 (iii) justification for any capital expenditures, including plans for building use;
- 129 (iv) a description of how the grant will be used to improve student outcomes,
- 130 including:
- 131 (A) increased access to career pathway offerings;
- 132 (B) measurable improvements in career readiness, including certifications,

- 133 credentials, or apprenticeships;
134 (C) increased offerings that advance students' progression toward postsecondary
135 education or advanced training; and
136 (D) plans for enhanced student engagement through real-world, profession-based
137 learning;
138 (v) evidence of any existing partnerships with industry, including letters of
139 collaboration;
140 (vi) evidence of alignment with the LEA's strategic plan and local labor market needs;
141 (vii) an explanation of how awarded funds will be used without unnecessary
142 carryforward;
143 (viii) as applicable, a description of how the catalyst center programming will align
144 with or enhance programs funded by the weighted pupil unit add-on described in
145 Section 53F-2-311;
146 (ix) for applications submitted by a consortium of LEAs, a description of how:
147 (A) the catalyst center will serve students across the consortium;
148 (B) costs and resources will be shared; and
149 (C) economies of scale will be achieved; and
150 (x) a description of any proposed planning activities, including expected timelines
151 and outcomes.
152 (7) The director shall:
153 (a) prioritize an LEA that:
154 (i) proposes innovative programming supported by local labor market data;
155 (ii) collaborates with local postsecondary institutions and industry;
156 (iii) demonstrates the ability to sustain the catalyst center after the grant period;
157 (iv) demonstrates a strong focus on student outcomes and workforce alignment;
158 (v) addresses gaps in high-demand, high-skill career pathways;
159 (vi) ensures funds are used to enhance programming quality before expansion; and
160 (vii) provides for a large number of students to participate in catalyst center programs
161 without limiting participation to students based on socio-economic challenges;
162 (b) allow an LEA to apply for:
163 (i) smaller grants to bring existing career and technical education programs to
164 high-quality standards the state board establishes;
165 (ii) larger multi-year grants for capital expenditures and program expansion; and
166 (iii) ensure that grant funding does not duplicate existing resources provided by other

- 167 state or local entities; and
- 168 (c) consider the unique challenges and opportunities faced by rural LEAs in developing
169 and sustaining a career and technical education program or catalyst center, including:
- 170 (i) encouraging collaborative applications from rural consortia or regional education
171 service agencies described in Section 53G-4-410 to maximize resources and
172 impact; and
- 173 (ii) grant awards that consider both rural and non-rural applicants, recognizing
174 regional workforce needs and program readiness.
- 175 (8)(a) An LEA that receives a grant shall submit an annual report to the state board.
- 176 (b) The report shall include:
- 177 (i) the use of grant funds;
- 178 (ii) progress in meeting proposed goals and benchmarks;
- 179 (iii) updates on partnerships with industry and postsecondary institutions;
- 180 (iv) a demonstration of the alignment of programming with labor market data; and
- 181 (v) a description of student participation and outcomes.
- 182 (c) The state board shall ensure that awarded funds:
- 183 (i) are used in accordance with an LEA's application; and
- 184 (ii) that are not used are returned for reallocation.
- 185 (d) Upon request, the director shall submit a report on the program to the Education
186 Interim Committee and the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee.
- 187 (9) The Talent Ready Utah Program described in Section 53B-34-103 and the Utah Leading
188 through Effective, Actionable, and Dynamic Education established in Section
189 53E-10-702, shall collaborate with the state board to develop and execute a marketing
190 and outreach plan for the Catalyst Center Grant Program.
- 191 (10) Talent Ready Utah and the Utah Leading through Effective, Actionable, and Dynamic
192 Education shall:
- 193 (a) execute the marketing and outreach plan described in Subsection (9); and
- 194 (b) submit an annual report to the state board that includes:
- 195 (i) the number of LEAs reached through marketing efforts;
- 196 (ii) a description of outreach activities and events conducted; and
- 197 (iii) feedback from LEAs regarding program accessibility and clarity.
- 198 (11) The state board:
- 199 (a) may provide up to 1% of the funds appropriated by the Legislature as described in
200 Section 53F-9-204 to administer the program;

201 (b) in fiscal year 2026, shall provide up to 1% of the funds appropriated by the
 202 Legislature as described in Section 53F-9-204 to Talent Ready Utah and the Utah
 203 Leading through Effective, Actionable, and Dynamic Education for the purposes
 204 described in Subsections (9) and (10); and

205 (c) shall make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
 206 Rulemaking Act, to implement this Subsection (11).

207 Section 2. Section **53E-6-204** is amended to read:

208 **53E-6-204 . Exemptions from licensure.**

209 (1) Except as otherwise provided by statute or rule, a spouse of an individual serving in
 210 the armed forces of the United States while the individual is stationed within this state
 211 may work as an educator without being licensed under this title if:

212 [~~(1)~~] (a) the spouse holds a valid educator license issued by any other state or jurisdiction
 213 recognized by the state board; and

214 [~~(2)~~] (b) the license is current and the spouse is in good standing in the state or
 215 jurisdiction of licensure.

216 (2) An individual with industry experience as an LEA determines, may work as an educator
 217 without being licensed under this title if the individual:

218 (a) demonstrates expertise related to a career and technical education course or catalyst
 219 center program;

220 (b) passes a criminal background check as required by Section 53G-11-402; and

221 (c) completes any training required by the LEA prior to or during the teaching
 222 assignment.

223 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of state law, an educator employed pursuant to
 224 Subsection (2) shall be considered qualified in determining the state funding distribution
 225 of career and technical education funding.

226 Section 3. Section **53F-9-204** is amended to read:

227 **53F-9-204 . Public Education Economic Stabilization Restricted Account.**

228 (1) There is created within the Uniform School Fund a restricted account known as the
 229 "Public Education Economic Stabilization Restricted Account."

230 (2)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), the account shall be funded from the
 231 following revenue sources:

232 (i) 15% of the difference between, as determined by the Office of the Legislative
 233 Fiscal Analyst:

234 (A) the estimated amount of ongoing Income Tax Fund and Uniform School Fund

- 235 revenue available for the Legislature to appropriate for the next fiscal year; and
- 236 (B) the amount of ongoing appropriations from the Income Tax Fund and Uniform
- 237 School Fund in the current fiscal year; and
- 238 (ii) other appropriations as the Legislature may designate.
- 239 (b) If the appropriation described in Subsection (2)(a) would cause the ongoing
- 240 appropriations to the account to exceed 11% of Uniform School Fund appropriations
- 241 described in Section 53F-9-201.1 for the same fiscal year, the Legislature shall
- 242 appropriate only those funds necessary to ensure that the ongoing appropriations to
- 243 the account equal 11% of Uniform School Fund appropriations for that fiscal year.
- 244 (3) Subject to the availability of ongoing appropriations to the account, in accordance with
- 245 Utah Constitution, Article X, Section 5, Subsection (4), the ongoing appropriation to the
- 246 account shall be used to fund:
- 247 (a) except for a year described in Subsection (3)(b), one-time appropriations to the
- 248 public education system~~;~~ and , including at least \$65,000,000 to the Catalyst Center
- 249 Grant Program described in Section 53E-3-507.1; and
- 250 (b) the Minimum School Program for a year in which Income Tax Fund revenue and
- 251 Uniform School Fund revenue are insufficient to fund:
- 252 (i) ongoing appropriations to the public education system; and
- 253 (ii) enrollment growth and inflation estimates, as defined in Section 53F-9-201.1.
- 254 (4)(a) The account shall earn interest.
- 255 (b) All interest earned on account money shall be deposited in the account.
- 256 (5) On or before December 31, 2023, and every three years thereafter, the Office of the
- 257 Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall:
- 258 (a) review the percentages described in Subsections (2)(a)(i) and (2)(b); and
- 259 (b) recommend to the Executive Appropriations [~~Subcommittee~~] Committee any changes
- 260 based on the review described in Subsection (5)(a).
- 261 (6) In preparing budget bills for a given fiscal year, the Executive Appropriations
- 262 Committee shall make the one-time appropriations described in Subsection (3)(a) by
- 263 appropriating at least the lesser of 10% of the total amount of the one-time appropriations[
- 264 ~~;~~ or] to:
- 265 (a) the cost of providing 32 paid professional hours for teachers in accordance with
- 266 Section 53F-7-203; and
- 267 (b) the amount to make the distribution required under Section 53F-2-527.
- 268 Section 4. **Effective Date.**

269 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.