

Joseph Elison proposes the following substitute bill:

1 **Excellence in Education and Leadership Supplement Amendments**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore**

House Sponsor: Karen M. Peterson



3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill amends existing timeline and appropriation requirements to the Excellence in  
6 Education and Leadership Supplement.

7 **Highlighted Provisions:**

8 This bill:

- 9 ▶ amends existing timeline and appropriation requirements to the Excellence in Education
- 10 and Leadership Supplement;
- 11 ▶ requires the State Board of Education to obtain and house a web-based application portal;
- 12 and
- 13 ▶ makes technical changes.

14 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

15 This bill appropriates \$600,000 in operating and capital budgets for fiscal year 2026, all of  
16 which is from the various sources as detailed in this bill.

17 **Other Special Clauses:**

18 This bill provides a special effective date.

19 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

20 AMENDS:

21 **53F-2-526 (Effective upon governor's approval)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2024,  
22 Chapter 374



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

25 Section 1. Section **53F-2-526** is amended to read:

26 **53F-2-526 (Effective upon governor's approval). Excellence in Education and**  
27 **Leadership Supplement.**

28 (1) As used in this section:

29 (a) "Center" means the Center for the School of the Future at Utah State University

- 30 established in Section 53B-18-801.
- 31 (b) "Eligible teacher" means a teacher who is a top-performing teacher that the center  
32 determines using an LEA's assessment methods, including:
- 33 (i) student growth or achievement measures;
- 34 (ii) professional evaluations;
- 35 (iii) parent surveys; and
- 36 (iv) other data-driven criteria the LEA establishes and the center verifies for validity.
- 37 (c) "Eligible teacher" includes an individual whom an LEA participating in the program  
38 employs and who holds:
- 39 (i) a license the state board issues; and
- 40 (ii) a position that includes a current classroom teaching assignment.
- 41 (d) "High poverty school" means the same as the term is defined in Section 53F-2-513.
- 42 (e) "LEA" means:
- 43 (i) a school district;
- 44 (ii) a charter school;
- 45 (iii) the Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind; and
- 46 ~~[(iii)]~~ (iv) a regional education service agency.
- 47 (f) "Program" means the Excellence in Education and Leadership Supplement created in  
48 Subsection (2).
- 49 (g) "Tier performance level" means the following levels of performance for a teacher in  
50 comparison to all teachers the center determines in accordance with Subsection (7):
- 51 (i) the top 5% of teachers;
- 52 (ii) the next 6%-10% of teachers; and
- 53 (iii) the next 11%-25% of teachers.
- 54 (h) "Top-performing" means the top 25% of teachers in comparison to all teachers the  
55 center determines using the methods described in Subsection (1)(b).
- 56 (2) Beginning July 1, 2024, there is created a five-year pilot program known as the  
57 Excellence in Education and Leadership Supplement to provide a ~~[salary supplement]~~  
58 performance-based award to an eligible teacher in recognition for outstanding  
59 instructional talent.
- 60 (3)(a) No later than December 31, 2024, an LEA shall declare the LEA's intent to  
61 participate in the program to the center.
- 62 (b) If an LEA declares an intent to participate in the program, the LEA shall:
- 63 (i) develop a process for a school principal or the principal's designee to assess a

- 64 teacher's performance consistent with this section to determine if a teacher is an  
 65 eligible teacher, including the corresponding tier performance level; and  
 66 (ii) create an appeals process for an employee who is not nominated to be an eligible  
 67 teacher.
- 68 (4) No later than April [4] 15, 2025, an LEA shall:
- 69 (a) attend a training that the center creates regarding the guidelines for developing a  
 70 process described in Subsection (3); and  
 71 (b) develop and submit for approval the LEA's process described in Subsection (3) to the  
 72 center.
- 73 (5)(a) The center shall review the LEA's process described in Subsection (3) and  
 74 approve the process or request that the LEA make changes to the submitted process.  
 75 (b) If the center requests changes to the LEA's submitted process, the LEA shall work  
 76 with the center to make necessary changes to receive final approval from the center.  
 77 (c) No later than June 30, 2025, the center shall provide final approval or denial of an  
 78 LEA's process.
- 79 (6) Before the start of the 2025-2026 school year, an LEA with an approved process as  
 80 described in Subsection (5) shall:
- 81 (a) ensure each school principal or the principal's designee attends a training that the  
 82 center creates regarding:
- 83 (i) how to effectively use the LEA's approved process to select and submit to the  
 84 center nominations for eligible teachers, including the corresponding tier  
 85 performance level; and  
 86 (ii) how to protect student and educator data privacy when submitting nominations  
 87 and applications, as described in Subsection (9)(b)(ii).
- 88 (b) provide information to teachers within the LEA regarding the program and how the  
 89 school's principal or principal's designee will use the approved LEA process to make  
 90 nominations of eligible teachers; and
- 91 (c) ensure each school principal or the principal's designee ~~[uses]~~ is able to use the LEA's  
 92 approved process to evaluate and select which teachers within the school to nominate  
 93 as eligible teachers, including the corresponding tier performance level~~[-and]~~ .
- 94 ~~[(d) as provided in Subsection (9), submit to the center a list of the nominated eligible  
 95 teachers for the center to consider.]~~
- 96 (7) In assessing if a nominated teacher is an eligible teacher, the center shall create an  
 97 assessment process that:

- 98 (a) uses the methods described in Subsection (1)(b);
- 99 (b) calibrates the submissions an LEA submits to determine, for all nominated teachers
- 100 statewide, which teachers are eligible teachers, including the corresponding tier
- 101 performance level;
- 102 (c) may use additional criteria as determined by the center in consultation with
- 103 participating LEAs; and
- 104 (d) establishes a scoring rubric including the scores required for a designation in each
- 105 tier performance level.
- 106 (8)(a) The center shall collaborate with LEAs to create:
- 107 (i) selection and submission guidelines for:
- 108 (A) the approval of the LEA's process as described in Subsection (5); and
- 109 (B) the list of nominated eligible teachers described in Subsection (6);
- 110 (ii) methods to determine student growth and achievement measures for subject areas
- 111 that do not have standardized assessment data;
- 112 (iii) the weightings for each element of the assessment process described in
- 113 Subsection (7); and
- 114 (iv) the trainings described in this section.
- 115 (b) The center may provide program related technical assistance to an LEA.
- 116 (9)(a) An LEA shall:
- 117 (i) apply to the center on behalf of the nominated eligible teachers within the LEA
- 118 through a process and format that the center determines; and
- 119 (ii) ensure a school principal or the principal's designee reevaluates an eligible
- 120 teacher's designation under this section every three years.
- 121 (b) The center shall:
- 122 (i) create an application process for an LEA to submit the list of nominated eligible
- 123 teachers described in Subsection (9)(a), including a deadline for submission of the
- 124 list of nominated teachers to the center;
- 125 (ii) coordinate with the state board in the creation of the application process described
- 126 in Subsection (9)(b)(i) to ensure that any sharing of student and educator data
- 127 during the application process:
- 128 (A) complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 34 C.F.R. Part
- 129 99;
- 130 (B) complies with Title 53E, Chapter 9, Student Privacy and Data Protection; and
- 131 (C) uses disclosure avoidance techniques, including aggregating and otherwise

- 132 de-identifying data;
- 133 (iii) no later than October 1, 2026, determine if a nominated teacher is an eligible  
134 teacher through the process described in Subsection (7);
- 135 (iv) verify:
- 136 (A) the validity of the LEA's process and assessment of an eligible teacher as  
137 described in Subsections (4) and (5); and
- 138 (B) the nominations described in Subsection (7) with the LEA and school  
139 administrators;
- 140 (v) certify a list of eligible teachers, including the total amount of funding the LEA  
141 receives for the LEA's eligible teachers; and
- 142 (vi) provide the list described in Subsection [~~(9)(b)(iv)~~] (9)(b)(v) to the state board.
- 143 (10)(a) Subject to legislative appropriations, the state board shall:
- 144 (i) within 45 days of receiving the list described in Subsection (9)(b)(v) from the  
145 center, disburse funding to an LEA in the amount the center verifies that an LEA  
146 qualifies to receive for [salary supplement] performance-based awards under this  
147 section;[-and]
- 148 (ii)[~~(A) except as provided in Subsection (10)(a)(ii)(B),~~]allocate [~~1%~~] 3.75% of  
149 the funds appropriated under this section to the center; and
- 150 [~~(B) provide no more than \$500,000 to the center each fiscal year from the funds~~  
151 ~~described in Subsection (10)(a)(ii)(A).~~]
- 152 (iii) develop a method to compensate an LEA for program administration that:
- 153 (A) does not exceed 4% of the total funds appropriated under this section;
- 154 (B) first compensates an LEA for fixed efforts associated with development and  
155 management of the LEA's teacher performance-based award program; and
- 156 (C) allocates any remaining balance to compensate an LEA for variable efforts  
157 associated with ongoing program administration and management.
- 158 (b) The annual [salary supplement] performance-based award for an eligible teacher is:
- 159 (i) \$10,000 for a teacher in the top 5% of teachers;
- 160 (ii) \$5,000 for a teacher in the next 6%-10% of teachers; and
- 161 (iii) \$2,000 for a teacher in the next 11%-25% of teachers.
- 162 (c) If the eligible teacher is employed at a high poverty school, the eligible teacher shall  
163 receive an additional [salary supplement] performance-based award that is equal in  
164 amount to the eligible teacher's [salary supplement] performance-based award  
165 described in Subsection (10)(b).

- 166 (11)(a) An LEA shall:
- 167 (i) within 45 days of receiving the LEA's funds from the state board for all eligible
- 168 teachers, use the program funds to provide a [salary supplement]
- 169 performance-based award equal to the amount specified in Subsection (10) for
- 170 each eligible teacher in each tier performance level; and
- 171 (ii) provide the [salary supplement] performance-based award in an eligible teacher's
- 172 regularly occurring compensation in equal amounts through the contracted school
- 173 years related to the [salary supplement] performance-based award.
- 174 (b) An LEA:
- 175 [~~(i) may use up to 4% of the money appropriated to the LEA for salary supplements~~
- 176 ~~to cover administrative costs associated with implementing the program;~~]
- 177 [~~(ii)~~] (i) may use money appropriated to the LEA for the [salary supplement]
- 178 performance-based award for employer-paid benefits;[~~and~~]
- 179 [~~(iii)~~] (ii) may not include a [salary supplement] performance-based award received
- 180 under this section:
- 181 (A) in a retirement calculation; or
- 182 (B) as part of retirement contributions[~~;~~] ; and
- 183 (iii) may not reduce an eligible teacher's award to ensure the LEA maintains the
- 184 funds described in Subsection (10)(a)(iii).
- 185 (c) The [salary supplement] performance-based award is not part of an eligible teacher's
- 186 base pay, and is subject to the eligible teacher's designation as an eligible teacher.
- 187 (12) [~~Notwithstanding the provisions of this section~~] Except as provided for in Subsection
- 188 (11), if the appropriation for the program is insufficient to cover the costs associated
- 189 with [salary supplement] performance-based awards, an LEA may distribute the funds to
- 190 each eligible teacher of the same tier of performance level on a pro rata basis.
- 191 (13)(a)(i) [~~The center and the state board shall collaborate regarding data sharing and~~
- 192 ~~other relevant interactions to facilitate the successful administration of the~~
- 193 ~~program.] In accordance with state and federal privacy laws, the state board shall~~
- 194 provide the following data to the center:
- 195 (A) relevant student achievement data;
- 196 (B) relevant teacher data; and
- 197 (C) any other relevant data as the center determines.
- 198 (ii) If the center needs data from a non-participating LEA for purposes of the
- 199 program, the state board:

- 200           (A) provide the data; and
- 201           (B) may provide the data in a de-identified manner, including providing an
- 202                 individual teacher or student's data with a unique identifier that is not
- 203                 associated with the teacher or student's name or school provided identification
- 204                 number.
- 205       (b) The state board shall:
- 206           (i) consult with the center; and
- 207           (ii) contract with a third party to obtain and house a secure web-based portal for
- 208                 authorized LEA and state board users to:
- 209                 (A) allow a teacher to track the teacher's student's academic achievement and
- 210                 growth and assess within the teacher's LEA the teacher's individual progress
- 211                 toward becoming an eligible teacher nominee;
- 212                 (B) report results of the chosen model or models at the district, school, and subject
- 213                 or grade levels;
- 214                 (C) provide diagnostic data showing the growth and achievement trends for
- 215                 different groups of students associated with a teacher, school, charter system,
- 216                 or district; and
- 217                 (D) provide resources for teachers to interpret the model results, training modules,
- 218                 and receive or request technical support.
- 219       (c) The state board shall use up to 6.25% of the total funds appropriated under this
- 220                 section for the web-based access portal described in Subsection (13)(b).
- 221       (14)(a) An eligible teacher that receives a [salary-supplement] performance-based award
- 222                 under the program has no vested property right in the [salary-supplement]
- 223                 performance-based award or the designation as an eligible teacher.
- 224       (b) An eligible teacher's [salary-supplement] performance-based award and designation
- 225                 under this section are void if the school principal or principal's designee, LEA, or the
- 226                 center made or certified the designation improperly.
- 227       (15)(a) Subject to prioritization of the Audit Subcommittee, unless the state board
- 228                 contracts a private auditor in accordance with Subsection (15)(b), the Office of the
- 229                 Legislative Auditor General established under Section 36-12-15 shall, in any fiscal
- 230                 year:
- 231                 (i) conduct an audit of the program including:
- 232                         (A) an evaluation of the implementation of the program; and
- 233                         (B) the efficacy of the program, including program outcomes; and

- 234 (ii) prepare and submit a written report for an audit described in this section in  
235 accordance with Subsection 36-12-15(4)(b)(ii).
- 236 (b) Subject to legislative appropriations, the state board may contract with an external  
237 auditor to perform the audit described in this Subsection (15).
- 238 (16)(a) The center shall report to the Education Interim Committee no later than the  
239 2024 October meeting the following:
- 240 (i) the methodology and process the center develops to achieve the requirements of  
241 Subsection (7);
- 242 (ii) relevant data and updates resulting from the collaborations described in  
243 Subsection (8);
- 244 (iii) any recommendations for future legislation; and
- 245 (iv) data regarding ~~[salary supplement]~~ performance-based award programs, including:
- 246 (A) different approaches used to reward teacher performance, including different  
247 evaluation methods;
- 248 (B) research outlining the effectiveness and impact of different ~~[salary supplement]~~  
249 performance-based award amounts on teacher retention; and
- 250 (C) other considerations for impactful ~~[salary supplement]~~ performance-based  
251 award programs in relation to teacher retention.
- 252 (b) Beginning November 1, 2026, the center shall provide an annual report to the  
253 Education Interim Committee regarding:
- 254 (i) the statewide metrics used in accordance with Subsection (7);
- 255 (ii) de-identified and aggregated data showing the number of:
- 256 (A) ~~[salary supplement]~~ performance-based awards per school, including total  
257 number of eligible teachers in each school;
- 258 (B) eligible teachers in high poverty schools;
- 259 (C) eligible teachers in each tier performance level;
- 260 (D) eligible teachers in subject areas that do not have standardized assessments;  
261 and
- 262 (E) ~~[salary supplement]~~ performance-based award denials per school, including the  
263 reasons for a denial;
- 264 (iii) proportion of eligible teachers in:
- 265 (A) school districts; and
- 266 (B) charter schools; and
- 267 (iv) teacher retention data for a school where an eligible teacher is employed.



268 Section 2. **FY 2026 Appropriations.**

269 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,  
270 2025, and ending June 30, 2026. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for  
271 fiscal year 2026.

272 Subsection 2(a). **Operating and Capital Budgets**

273 Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, the  
274 Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts indicated for  
275 the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

276 ITEM 1 To State Board of Education - Minimum School Program - Related to Basic  
277 School Programs

278 From Public Education Economic Stabilization

279 Restricted Account, One-time 600,000

280 Schedule of Programs:

281 Effective Teachers in High Poverty Schools

282 Incentive Program 600,000

283 Section 3. **Effective Date.**

284 This bill takes effect:

285 (1) except as provided in Subsection (2), May 7, 2025; or

286 (2) if approved by two-thirds of all members elected to each house:

287 (a) upon approval by the governor;

288 (b) without the governor's signature, the day following the constitutional time limit of  
289 Utah Constitution, Article VII, Section 8; or

290 (c) in the case of a veto, the date of veto override.