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**Mentoring and Supporting Teacher Excellence  
and Refinement Program Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

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3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill removes pilot related language from the Mentoring and Supporting Teacher  
6 Excellence and Refinement Pilot Program.

7 **Highlighted Provisions:**

8 This bill:

- 9 ▶ removes pilot related language from the Mentoring and Supporting Teacher Excellence  
10 and Refinement Pilot Program; and
- 11 ▶ makes conforming changes.

12 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

13 This bill appropriates \$2,400,000 in operating and capital budgets for fiscal year 2027, all  
14 of which is from the various sources as detailed in this bill.

15 **Other Special Clauses:**

16 None

17 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

18 AMENDS:

19 **53F-5-222 (Effective 05/06/26) (Repealed 07/01/28)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2024,  
20 Chapter 412

21 **63I-2-253 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special  
22 Session, Chapter 9

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24 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*25 Section 1. Section **53F-5-222** is amended to read:

26 **53F-5-222 (Effective 05/06/26) (Repealed 07/01/28). Mentoring and Supporting**  
27 **Teacher Excellence and Refinement Program.**

28 (1) As used in this section:

- 29 (a) "Master teacher" means a classroom teacher who has been approved by the teacher's  
30 administrator for an eligible initiative described in Subsection (6).
- 31 (b) "Mentoring and Supporting Teacher Excellence and Refinement [~~Pilot~~]Program" or  
32 "program" means the program created in Subsection (2).
- 33 (c) "Regional education service agency" or "RESA" means the same as the term is  
34 defined in Section 53G-4-410.
- 35 (d) "Teacher leader work" means nonadministrative leadership tasks that occur in  
36 conjunction with a teacher's main duties to provide instruction while avoiding formal  
37 administrative roles, other than those relating directly to teacher leadership or  
38 development, for the teacher engaging in the tasks, including:
- 39 (i) leading teachers;
- 40 (ii) mentoring teachers; and

- 41 (iii) providing observations or feedback to teachers.
- 42 (2) There is created a [~~two-year pilot~~]program known as the Mentoring and Supporting  
43 Teacher Excellence and Refinement [~~Pilot~~]Program to provide funding to an LEA to  
44 improve retention of strong educators who remain in the classroom and have access to  
45 growth opportunities in the form of innovative teacher leadership tracks outside of  
46 contractual educator steps and lanes to:
- 47 (a) foster development of leadership skills in participating teachers; and  
48 (b) provide the opportunity for a master teacher to impact and provide guidance for  
49 fellow teachers seeking to refine instructional skills.
- 50 (3) The state board shall:
- 51 (a) solicit proposals from LEAs and RESAs to receive a grant under this section; and  
52 (b) award grants to LEAs or RESAs on a competitive basis based on the LEA's or  
53 RESA's application described in Subsection (4)(a).
- 54 (4) To receive a grant under this section, an LEA or RESA shall:
- 55 (a) submit an application to the state board that:
- 56 (i) describes the program tier for which the LEA or RESA is applying;  
57 (ii) describes the eligible initiatives for which the LEA or RESA will use the grant  
58 amount;
- 59 (iii) provides evidence of the required matching funds described in Subsection (4)(b);  
60 (iv) describes how the proposal will further the purposes of the program described in  
61 Subsection (2); and  
62 (v) outlines the metrics the LEA or RESA will use to measure success of the  
63 program; and
- 64 (b) provide matching funds for a grant from a program tier as follows:
- 65 (i) a 10% match by the LEA or RESA for a tier 1 level grant amount;  
66 (ii) a 15% match by the LEA or RESA for a tier 2 level grant amount; and  
67 (iii) a 20% match by the LEA or RESA for a tier 3 level grant amount.
- 68 (5) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the  
69 state board shall make rules:
- 70 (a) subject to legislative appropriations, outlining the grant amount for each program tier  
71 described in Subsection (4)(b);  
72 (b) describing the application requirements, including:  
73 (i) the required format for submission; and  
74 (ii) relevant deadlines;

- 75 (c) establishing a scoring rubric; and  
 76 (d) describing any required reporting and performance measures.
- 77 (6) An LEA or RESA that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant award for  
 78 an eligible initiative to achieve the purposes described in Subsection (2), including:  
 79 (a) allowing a teacher to add to or be released from all or part of an existing teacher  
 80 contract to engage in teacher leader work, which may involve a new or amended  
 81 contract for a master teacher, for a period determined by the LEA and the teacher,  
 82 while maintaining the master teacher's status as a teacher;  
 83 (b) providing extended contracts outside of steps and lanes, resulting in increased pay  
 84 for increased work or for new roles involving teacher leader work on a schedule  
 85 outside of steps and lanes as determined by the LEA or RESA and the teacher; and  
 86 (c) building or expanding LEA or RESA leadership tracks, including incentives for  
 87 differentiated teacher leader work pay scales for classroom teachers.
- 88 (7) The state board may use up to 6.25% of the money appropriated for the purposes  
 89 described in this section to pay for administrative costs the state board, an LEA, or a  
 90 RESA incurs in implementing the program.
- 91 (8) Upon request of the Education Interim Committee, an LEA that receives a grant and the  
 92 state board shall report to the Education Interim Committee on the program's progress  
 93 and outcomes.

94 Section 2. Section **63I-2-253** is amended to read:

95 **63I-2-253 (Effective 05/06/26). Repeal dates: Titles 53 through 53G.**

- 96 (1) Title 53, Chapter 2c, COVID-19 Health and Economic Response Act, is repealed July 1,  
 97 2026.
- 98 (2) Section 53-22-104.1, School Security Task Force -- Membership -- Duties -- Per diem --  
 99 Report -- Expiration, is repealed December 31, 2025.
- 100 (3) Section 53-22-104.2, The School Security Task Force -- Public Education Advisory  
 101 Board, is repealed December 31, 2025.
- 102 (4) Section 53-25-103, Airport dangerous weapon possession reporting requirements, is  
 103 repealed December 31, 2031.
- 104 (5) Subsection 53-25-602(4)(b), regarding the rights of a peace officer placed onto a  
 105 prosecution agency's Brady identification system before May 7, 2025, is repealed  
 106 December 1, 2025.
- 107 (6) Subsection 53-29-302(2)(b)(ii), regarding the requirement for the Department of  
 108 Corrections to submit the results of risk assessments for sex offenders to the State

- 109 Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 110 (7) Subsection 53E-3-501(7)(e)(ii), regarding a report on the packet method, is repealed  
111 July 1, 2028.
- 112 (8) Subsection 53F-2-504(6), regarding a report on the Salary Supplement for Highly  
113 Needed Educators, is repealed July 1, 2026.
- 114 (9) Section 53F-5-221, Management of energy and water use pilot program, is repealed July  
115 1, 2028.
- 116 [~~(10) Section 53F-5-222, Mentoring and Supporting Teacher Excellence and Refinement~~  
117 ~~Pilot Program, is repealed July 1, 2028.~~]
- 118 [(11)] (10) Section 53F-5-223, Stipends for Future Educators Grant Program, is repealed  
119 July 1, 2028.
- 120 [(12)] (11) Subsection 53G-11-502(1), regarding implementation of the educator evaluation  
121 process, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 122 [(13)] (12) Section 53G-11-506, Establishment of educator evaluation program -- Joint  
123 committee, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 124 [(14)] (13) Section 53G-11-507, Components of educator evaluation program, is repealed  
125 July 1, 2029.
- 126 [(15)] (14) Section 53G-11-508, Summative evaluation timelines -- Review of summative  
127 evaluations, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 128 [(16)] (15) Section 53G-11-509, Mentor for provisional educator, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 129 [(17)] (16) Section 53G-11-510, State board to describe a framework for the evaluation of  
130 educators, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 131 [(18)] (17) Section 53G-11-511, Rulemaking for privacy protection, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 132 [(19)] (18) Subsection 53G-11-520(1), regarding optional alternative educator evaluation  
133 processes, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 134 [(20)] (19) Subsection 53G-11-520(2), regarding an exception from educator evaluation  
135 process requirements, is repealed July 1, 2029.

136 Section 3. **FY 2027 Appropriations.**

137 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,  
138 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for  
139 fiscal year 2027.

140 Subsection 3(a). **Operating and Capital Budgets**

141 Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, the  
142 Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts indicated for

143 the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.  
144 ITEM 1 To State Board of Education - State Board and Administrative Operations  
145 From Public Education Economic Stabilization  
146 Restricted Account, One-time 2,400,000  
147 Schedule of Programs:  
148 Teacher Excellence Program 2,400,000  
149 Section 4. **Effective Date.**  
150 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.