

HB0150S01 compared with HB0150

{Omitted text} shows text that was in HB0150 but was omitted in HB0150S01
inserted text shows text that was not in HB0150 but was inserted into HB0150S01

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School-based Speech-language Pathologist Funding Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jill Koford

Senate Sponsor:Ann Millner

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends definitions related to {funding} teaching supplies and a certain salary supplement.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- amends certain definitions and provisions to expand eligibility related to appropriations for {teaching supplies; and} :

- teaching supplies; and

- salary supplements; and

- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

HB0150 compared with HB0150S01

19 **53F-2-504 (Effective 07/01/26) (Partially Repealed 07/01/26), as last amended by Laws of**
20 **Utah 2025, Chapter 394**

21 **53F-2-527 (Effective 07/01/26), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 6**

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

24 **Section 1. Section 53F-2-504 is amended to read:**

25 **53F-2-504. Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators.**

27 (1) As used in this section:

28 (a) "Eligible teacher" means a teacher or licensed education professional, including a speech-language
29 pathologist or speech-language technician, who:

30 (i) has a qualifying assignment;

31 (ii) qualifies for the [teacher's] individual's assignment in accordance with an LEA's policy described in
32 Subsection (2); and

33 (iii)

34 (A) is a new employee; or

35 (B) has not received an unsatisfactory rating on the [teacher's] individual's three most recent
36 evaluations.

37 (b) "High-needs area" means at least two and up to five [teaching] assignments that an LEA designates
38 in a policy as challenging to fill or retain.

39 (c) "Program" means the Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators program.

40 (d) "Qualifying assignment" means [a teacher who is assigned to a high-needs area] an assignment to a
41 high-needs area.

42 (2)

43 (a) An LEA shall create a policy describing the administration of the Salary Supplement for Highly
44 Needed Educators program within the LEA, including:

45 (i) identifying the LEA's high-needs areas;

46 (ii) the amount of the salary supplement;

47 (iii) establishing an appeals process for [a teacher] an individual to follow if the [teacher] individual
48 does not receive a salary supplement, including:

HB0150 compared with HB0150S01

(A) allowing [a teacher] an individual to appeal eligibility as an eligible teacher with a qualifying assignment on the basis that the [teacher] individual has [a teaching assignment] an assignment that is substantially equivalent to a high-needs area; and

51 (B) requiring [a teacher] an individual to provide transcripts and other documentation to the LEA governing board in order for the LEA governing board to determine if the [teacher] individual is an eligible teacher with a qualifying [teaching] background;

55 (iv) a process for determining if [a teacher] an individual is an eligible teacher, including a verification process; and

57 (v) a process for certifying a list of eligible teachers [to be awarded] whom the LEA awards a salary supplement under this section.

59 (b) An LEA shall update the policy described in Subsection (2)(a) annually and provide notice of any changes to [teachers] potential eligible teachers within the LEA.

61 (3) Subject to legislative appropriations and an LEA having the policy described in Subsection (2), the state board shall allocate funding appropriated for the Salary [Supplements] Supplement for Highly Needed Educators program in accordance with this section by:

65 (a) for charter schools:

66 (i) distributing an amount that is equal to the product of:

67 (A) charter school enrollment on October 1 in the prior year, or, for a new charter school, projected enrollment for a charter school in the charter school's first year of operations, divided by enrollment on October 1 in public schools statewide in the prior year; and

71 (B) the total amount available for distribution; and

72 (ii) allocating to each charter school:

73 (A) an equally divided portion of 20% of the amount described in Subsection (3)(a)(i); and

75 (B) 80% of the amount described in Subsection (3)(a)(i) on a per-student basis; and

76 (b) for school districts and the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind[:],

77 [(i)] distributing the remainder of funds available for distribution after the distribution to charter schools under Subsection (3)(a)(i) by allocating to each school district:

79 [(A)] (i) an equally divided portion of 20% of the amount described in Subsection (3)(b)(i); and

81 [(B)] (ii) 80% of the amount described in Subsection (3)(b)(i) on a per-student basis.

82 [(e)] (4) An LEA shall use funds described in Subsections (3)(a) and (3)(b) to pay the LEA's proportional part of an eligible teacher's salary supplement if:

HB0150 compared with HB0150S01

84 [({i})] (a) the eligible teacher is an employee of a regional education service agency, as defined in Section
53G-4-410; and

86 [({ii})] (b) the LEA is a member of the regional education service agency that employs the eligible
teacher.

88 [({4})] (5)

89 (a) An LEA shall include employer-paid benefits in the amount of each salary supplement.

90 (b) Employer-paid benefits are an addition to the salary supplement amount [established by an LEA] an
LEA establishes under Subsection (2).

91 [({5})] (6) The salary supplement is part of an eligible teacher's base pay, subject to eligible teacher's
qualification as an eligible teacher every year, semester, or quarter.

92 [({6})] (7) The state board shall annually report to the Education Interim Committee:

93 (a) which [teaching] assignments LEAs have designated as high-needs; and

94 (b) the number of eligible teachers.

95 [({7})] (8) An LEA may increase the amount of funds the LEA provides to the LEA's eligible teachers
under the program if the LEA:

96 (a) first ensures proper distribution of funds the LEA receives under the program to the the LEA's
eligible teachers; and

97 (b) experiences a carry forward or leftover balance.

98 Section 2. Section **53F-2-527** is amended to read:

99 **53F-2-527. (Effective 07/01/26)Appropriations for teaching supplies and materials.**

100 (1) As used in this section:

101 (a) "Classroom teacher" means a teacher [who] or licensed education professional, including a speech-
language pathologist or speech-language technician, that:

102 (i) [is assigned by an LEA in] an LEA assigns to a permanent [teacher] instructional or related service
position filled by one teacher, speech-language pathologist, speech-language technician, or two or
more job-sharing teachers [employed by an LEA] an LEA employs;

103 (ii) is licensed and paid on an LEA's salary schedule;

104 (iii) is employed for an entire contract period; and

105 (iv) is primarily responsible to provide instruction, therapy, or a combination of instructional,
therapeutic, and counseling services to [students in public schools] a student in a public school.

HB0150 compared with HB0150S01

(b) "Teaching supplies and materials" means consumable and non-consumable items that are used for educational or therapeutic purposes by [teachers] a classroom teacher in a classroom [activities] activity that [are approved by the LEA] an LEA approves.

36 (2) ~~[For the fiscal year that begins on or after July 1, 2024, and except]~~ Except as provided in Subsection (3), the state board shall distribute money appropriated for teaching supplies and materials as follows:

39 (a) \$500 to each classroom teacher position for pre-kindergarten special education and kindergarten through grade 6; and

41 (b) \$250 to each classroom teacher position for grades 7 through 12.

42 (3) If funding is insufficient to provide the per-teacher amounts described in Subsection (2), the state board may proportionally adjust the per-teacher amount based on the amount of available funding.

129 **Section 3. Effective date.**

Effective Date.

This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.

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