

HB0150S02 compared with HB0150

~~{Omitted text}~~ shows text that was in HB0150 but was omitted in HB0150S02

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0150 but was inserted into HB0150S02

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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:

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53F-2-504 (Effective 07/01/26) (Partially Repealed 07/01/26), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 394

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

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

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

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

(1) As used in this section:

(a)

(i) "Eligible teacher" means a teacher who:

[(i)] (A) has a qualifying assignment;

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

[(iii)] (C)

[(A)] (I) is a new employee; or

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

(ii) "Eligible teacher" includes a:

(A) speech-language pathologist; and

(B) speech-language technician.

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

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

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

(2)

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

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

(ii) the amount of the salary supplement;

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

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- 49 (A) allowing a teacher to appeal eligibility as an eligible teacher with a qualifying assignment on the
basis that the teacher has a teaching assignment that is substantially equivalent to a high-needs area;
and
- 52 (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;
- 56 (iv) a process for determining if ~~[a teacher]~~ an individual is an eligible teacher, including a
verification process; and
- 58 (v) a process for certifying a list of eligible teachers ~~[to be awarded]~~ whom the LEA awards a salary
supplement under this section.
- 60 (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.
- 62 (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:
- 66 (a) for charter schools:
- 67 (i) distributing an amount that is equal to the product of:
- 68 (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
- 72 (B) the total amount available for distribution; and
- 73 (ii) allocating to each charter school:
- 74 (A) an equally divided portion of 20% of the amount described in Subsection (3)(a)(i); and
- 76 (B) 80% of the amount described in Subsection (3)(a)(i) on a per-student basis; and
- 77 (b) for school districts and the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind^[‡] ,
- 78 ~~[(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:
- 81 ~~[(A)]~~ (i) an equally divided portion of 20% of the amount described in Subsection (3)(b)(i); and
- 83 ~~[(B)]~~ (ii) 80% of the amount described in Subsection (3)(b)(i) on a per-student basis.
- 84 ~~[(c)]~~ (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:

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- 86 [(i)] (a) the eligible teacher is an employee of a regional education service agency, as defined in Section
53G-4-410; and
- 88 [(ii)] (b) the LEA is a member of the regional education service agency that employs the eligible
teacher.
- 90 [(4)] (5)
- (a) An LEA shall include employer-paid benefits in the amount of each salary supplement.
- 92 (b) Employer-paid benefits are an addition to the salary supplement amount [established by an LEA] an
LEA establishes under Subsection (2).
- 94 [(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.
- 96 [(6)] (7) The state board shall annually report to the Education Interim Committee:
- 97 (a) which [teaching-]assignments LEAs have designated as high-needs; and
- 98 (b) the number of eligible teachers.
- 99 [(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:
- 101 (a) first ensures proper distribution of funds the LEA receives under the program to the [the-]LEA's
eligible teachers; and
- 103 (b) experiences a carry forward or leftover balance.
- 104 Section 2. Section 53F-2-527 is amended to read:
- 105 **53F-2-527. (Effective 07/01/26) Appropriations for teaching supplies and materials.**
- 21 (1) As used in this section:
- 22 (a)
- (i) "Classroom teacher" means a teacher [who] {or licensed education professional, including a speech-
language pathologist or speech-language technician,} that:
- 24 [(i)] (A) [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,}
individual or two or more job-sharing [teachers { } employed by an LEA] individuals an LEA
employs;
- 28 [(ii)] (B) is licensed and paid on an LEA's salary schedule;
- 29 [(iii)] (C) is employed for an entire contract period; and
- 30

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~~[(iv)]~~ (D) 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.

118 (ii) "Classroom teacher" includes a:

119 (A) speech-language pathologist; and

120 (B) speech-language technician.

33 (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.

133 Section 3. **Effective date.**

Effective Date.

This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.

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