

Heidi Balderree proposes the following substitute bill:

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

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Candice B. Pierucci

Senate Sponsor: Heidi Balderree

LONG TITLE

General Description:

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

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

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

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

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

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53F-5-222 (Effective 05/06/26) (Repealed 07/01/28), as enacted by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 412

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

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

Section 1. Section **53F-5-222** is amended to read:

53F-5-222 (Effective 05/06/26) (Repealed 07/01/28). Mentoring and Supporting 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.