

Ariel Defay proposes the following substitute bill:

Early Intervention for Dyslexia Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ariel Defay

Senate Sponsor: Ann Millner

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates the Dyslexia Screening Pilot Program.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- creates the Dyslexia Screening Pilot Program to:
 - provide dyslexia related resources to district and charter schools; and
 - create a dyslexia screener at the University of Utah College of Education and the University of Utah Education Policy Center;
- creates a reporting requirement upon request of the Education Interim Committee;
- requires the state board to:
 - administer and oversee the pilot program; and
 - make certain rules related to the pilot program;
- provides a repeal date for the pilot program; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

This bill appropriates \$1,500,000 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:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53E-1-201 (Effective 07/01/26) (Partially Repealed 07/01/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 9

63I-1-253 (Effective 07/01/26), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special

29 Session, Chapter 9

30 ENACTS:

31 **53F-5-224 (Effective 07/01/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

32

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

34 Section 1. Section **53E-1-201** is amended to read:

35 **53E-1-201 (Effective 07/01/26) (Partially Repealed 07/01/27). Reports to and**
36 **action required of the Education Interim Committee.**

37 (1) In accordance with applicable provisions and Section 68-3-14, the following recurring
38 reports are due to the Education Interim Committee:

- 39 (a) the report described in Section 9-22-109 by the STEM Action Center Board,
40 including the information described in Section 9-22-113 on the status of the computer
41 science initiative and Section 9-22-114 on the Computing Partnerships Grants
42 Program;
- 43 (b) the prioritized list of data research described in Section 53H-15-303 and the report
44 on research and activities described in Section 53H-15-305 by the Utah Data
45 Research Center;
- 46 (c) the report described in Section 53H-1-203 by the Utah Board of Higher Education on
47 career and technical education issues and addressing workforce needs;
- 48 (d) the annual report of the Utah Board of Higher Education described in Section
49 53H-1-203;
- 50 (e) the reports described in Section 53H-7-603 by the Utah Board of Higher Education
51 regarding activities related to campus safety;
- 52 (f) the State Superintendent's Annual Report by the state board described in Section
53 53E-1-203;
- 54 (g) the annual report described in Section 53E-2-202 by the state board on the strategic
55 plan to improve student outcomes;
- 56 (h) the report described in Section 53E-3-501 by the state board on students in an LEA
57 who receive academic credit through the packet method;
- 58 (i) the report described in Section 53E-8-204 by the state board on the Utah Schools for
59 the Deaf and the Blind;
- 60 (j) the report described in Section 53E-10-703 by the Utah Leading through Effective,
61 Actionable, and Dynamic Education director on research and other activities;
- 62 (k) the report described in Section 53F-2-522 regarding mental health screening

- 63 programs;
- 64 (l) the report described in Section 53F-4-203 by the state board and the independent
65 evaluator on an evaluation of early interactive reading software;
- 66 (m) the report described in Section 53F-6-412 by the program manager of the Utah Fits
67 All Scholarship Program;
- 68 (n) the report described in Section 63N-20-107 by the Governor's Office of Economic
69 Opportunity on UPSTART;
- 70 (o) the report described in Section 53F-5-215 by the state board related to a grant for an
71 elementary teacher preparation assessment;
- 72 (p) upon request, the report described in Section 53F-5-219 by the state board on the
73 Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program;
- 74 (q) the report described in Section 53F-5-405 by the state board regarding an evaluation
75 of a partnership that receives a grant to improve educational outcomes for students
76 who are low-income;
- 77 (r) the report described in Section 53H-1-604 regarding the Higher Education and
78 Corrections Council;
- 79 (s) the report described in Section 53G-7-221 by the state board regarding innovation
80 plans; and
- 81 (t) the reports described in Section 53F-6-412 regarding the Utah Fits All Scholarship
82 Program.
- 83 (2) In accordance with applicable provisions and Section 68-3-14, the following occasional
84 reports are due to the Education Interim Committee:
- 85 (a) in 2027, 2030, 2033, and 2035, the reports described in Sections 53H-1-502,
86 53H-1-503, and 53H-1-504;
- 87 (b) in 2025, the report described in Section 53H-6-203 by a degree-granting institution
88 regarding policies on abusive coaching practices;
- 89 (c) if required, the report described in Section 53E-4-309 by the state board explaining
90 the reasons for changing the grade level specification for the administration of
91 specific assessments;
- 92 (d) if required, the report described in Section 53E-5-210 by the state board of an
93 adjustment to the minimum level that demonstrates proficiency for each statewide
94 assessment;
- 95 (e) the report described in Section 53E-10-702 by Utah Leading through Effective,
96 Actionable, and Dynamic Education;

- 97 (f) if required, the report described in Section 53F-2-513 by the state board evaluating
 98 the effects of salary bonuses on the recruitment and retention of effective teachers in
 99 high-poverty schools;
- 100 (g) upon request, the report described in Section 53F-5-224 by a district or charter
 101 school or the state board regarding the Dyslexia Screening Pilot Program;
- 102 [(g)] (h) upon request, the report described in Section 53F-10-303 by the state board
 103 regarding the Rural School Sports Facilities Grant Program;
- 104 [(h)] (i) upon request, a report described in Section 53G-7-222 by an LEA regarding
 105 expenditure of a percentage of state restricted funds to support an innovative
 106 education program;
- 107 [(i)] (j) the reports described in Section 53G-11-304 by the state board regarding
 108 proposed rules and results related to educator exit surveys; and
- 109 [(j)] (k) the report described in Section 26B-5-113 by the Office of Substance Use and
 110 Mental Health, the state board, and the Department of Health and Human Services
 111 regarding recommendations related to Medicaid reimbursement for school-based
 112 health services.
- 113 (3) In accordance with applicable provisions and Section 68-3-14, every five years the
 114 Education Interim Committee shall review the programs described in the following
 115 sections of code:
- 116 (a) beginning July 1, 2027, [~~Title 53E, Chapter 10, Part 3~~] Chapter 10, Part 3, Concurrent
 117 Enrollment;
- 118 (b) beginning July 1, 2027, Section 53F-2-408, Enhancement for Accelerated Students
 119 Program;
- 120 (c) beginning July 1, 2027, Section 53F-2-409, Concurrent enrollment funding;
- 121 (d) beginning July 1, 2027, Section 53F-2-415, Student health and counseling support --
 122 Qualifying personnel -- Distribution formula -- Rulemaking;
- 123 (e) beginning July 1, 2028, Section 53F-2-416, Appropriation and distribution for the
 124 Teacher and Student Success Program;
- 125 (f) beginning July 1, 2028, Section 53F-2-510, Digital Teaching and Learning Grant
 126 Program;
- 127 (g) beginning July 1, 2028, Section 53F-9-306, Teacher and Student Success Account;
- 128 (h) beginning July 1, 2028, Title 53G, Chapter 7, Part 13, Teacher and Student Success
 129 Program; and
- 130 (i) beginning July 1, 2029, Section 53F-2-502, Dual language immersion.

- 131 Section 2. Section **53F-5-224** is enacted to read:
- 132 **53F-5-224 (Effective 07/01/26). Dyslexia Screening Pilot Program.**
- 133 (1) As used in this section:
- 134 (a) "Dyslexia" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53E-4-307.
- 135 (b) "Program" means the Dyslexia Screening Pilot Program created in Subsection (2).
- 136 (c) "Screening" means the use of evidence-based measures to identify whether a student
- 137 may:
- 138 (i) be at risk for characteristics of dyslexia; and
- 139 (ii) need additional assessment, progress monitoring, and intervention related to
- 140 dyslexia.
- 141 (2) There is created a four-year pilot program known as the Dyslexia Screening Pilot
- 142 Program to:
- 143 (a) provide dyslexia resources to a district and charter school; and
- 144 (b) create a dyslexia and reading disorder screener at the University of Utah Education
- 145 Policy Center and the University of Utah College of Education.
- 146 (3) The state board shall:
- 147 (a) administer and oversee the program in coordination with the University of Utah
- 148 Education Policy Center and the University of Utah College of Education;
- 149 (b) solicit proposals from and select district and charter schools to participate in the
- 150 program;
- 151 (c) identify and maintain an approved list of dyslexia and reading disorder screeners,
- 152 including the screener developed under Subsection (5), that, in identifying risks for
- 153 dyslexia and informing instructional decision-making, demonstrate evidence of
- 154 validity and reliability; and
- 155 (d) publish on the state board's website a webpage that:
- 156 (i) provides a list of dyslexia screeners the state board approves district and charter
- 157 schools to use for the program;
- 158 (ii) provides additional dyslexia resources for parents, teachers, and students,
- 159 including:
- 160 (A) information on early indicators and reported risk factors;
- 161 (B) characteristics of dyslexia and related literacy difficulties;
- 162 (C) information on evidence-based instruction and intervention practices;
- 163 (D) expectations for progress monitoring and communication; and
- 164 (E) guidance on a referral process for diagnosis; and

- 165 (iii) links to all other dyslexia resources the state board creates or approves.
- 166 (4)(a) To participate in the program, a district or charter school shall submit an
- 167 application to the state board.
- 168 (b) To participate in the program, a district or charter school shall:
- 169 (i) allocate funds from the district or charter school's budget to:
- 170 (A) pay for the state board approved dyslexia screener the district or charter
- 171 school selects; and
- 172 (B) pay other costs incurred under the program; or
- 173 (ii) use the free dyslexia screener the University of Utah Education Policy Center and
- 174 University of Utah College of Education develops in accordance with Subsection
- 175 (5)(a).
- 176 (5) The University of Utah Education Policy Center and the University of Utah College of
- 177 Education shall:
- 178 (a) work with the state board and stakeholders to develop and maintain a dyslexia
- 179 screening process a district or charter school may use in accordance with the
- 180 requirements of this section;
- 181 (b) ensure that the screening process described in Subsection (5)(a):
- 182 (i) is free to use for district and charter schools participating in the program;
- 183 (ii) uses scientifically sound, evidence-based measures;
- 184 (iii) aligns with nationally recognized best practices for dyslexia screening; and
- 185 (iv) identifies indicators of risk for dyslexia for the purpose of informing:
- 186 (A) instruction;
- 187 (B) interventions;
- 188 (C) progress monitoring;
- 189 (D) reporting; and
- 190 (E) further evaluation;
- 191 (c) recommend to the state board the data elements the district and charter schools
- 192 participating in the program should collect and report;
- 193 (d) evaluate the program screener's validity, reliability, and usefulness in:
- 194 (i) identifying a student at risk for dyslexia; and
- 195 (ii) informing instruction and interventions;
- 196 (e) use the reports the state board requires under Subsection (8)(b) to annually evaluate
- 197 the program; and
- 198 (f) provide professional learning for educators on:

- 199 (i) recognizing early indicators and characteristics of dyslexia;
200 (ii) using screeners and progress monitoring tools;
201 (iii) implementing evidence-based instruction and intervention practices; and
202 (iv) communicating with families.
- 203 (6)(a) A district or charter school shall use the state board approved list described in
204 Subsection (3)(c) when screening a student for dyslexia.
- 205 (b) A school district or charter school may use the dyslexia screening process the
206 University of Utah Education Policy Center and the University of Utah College of
207 Education develops under Subsection (5)(a), at no cost, to satisfy the requirements of
208 this section.
- 209 (7) Beginning July 1, 2027, a school district or charter school participating in the program:
- 210 (a) shall use the state board approved screener to screen a student for dyslexia who:
- 211 (i) scores below or well below average on the benchmark assessments described in
212 Section 53E-4-307; and
- 213 (ii) is in kindergarten, first grade, or was not tested in kindergarten or first grade and
214 is demonstrating characteristics of dyslexia in second or third grade;
- 215 (b) shall provide additional screening to a student in kindergarten or first grade when
216 screening data, teacher observation, or parent concern, indicates characteristics of
217 dyslexia; and
- 218 (c) may refer a student to a state board approved dyslexia screener for dyslexia screening.
- 219 (8) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
220 state board shall make rules to:
- 221 (a) create an application process for a district or charter school to participate in the
222 program;
- 223 (b) create reporting requirements for a district or charter school participating in the
224 program;
- 225 (c) in accordance with Subsection (7)(a), enforce required dyslexia screening under the
226 program;
- 227 (d) create a process for reviewing and criteria for approving dyslexia screeners;
228 (e) identify the intervals for administering the dyslexia screener; and
229 (f) maintain accessibility for the screener for district and charter schools.
- 230 (9) Upon request of the Education Interim Committee, a district or charter school that
231 participates in the pilot program or the state board shall report to the Education Interim
232 Committee on the program's progress and outcomes.

- 233 Section 3. Section **63I-1-253** is amended to read:
- 234 **63I-1-253 (Effective 07/01/26). Repeal dates: Titles 53 through 53G.**
- 235 (1) Section 53-1-122, Road Rage Awareness and Prevention Restricted Account, is
236 repealed July 1, 2028.
- 237 (2) Section 53-2a-105, Emergency Management Administration Council created --
238 Function -- Composition -- Expenses, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 239 (3) Section 53-2a-1103, Search and Rescue Advisory Board -- Members -- Compensation,
240 is repealed July 1, 2030.
- 241 (4) Section 53-2a-1104, General duties of the Search and Rescue Advisory Board, is
242 repealed July 1, 2027.
- 243 (5) Title 53, Chapter 2a, Part 15, Grid Resilience Committee, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 244 (6) Section 53-2d-104, State Emergency Medical Services Committee -- Membership --
245 Expenses, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 246 (7) Section 53-2d-503, Establishment of maximum rates, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 247 (8) Section 53-5a-302, Concealed Firearm Review Board -- Membership -- Compensation
248 -- Terms -- Duties, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 249 (9) Section 53-11-104, Board, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 250 (10) Title 53, Chapter 31, Department Interaction With Local Law Enforcement, is repealed
251 July 1, 2027.
- 252 (11) Subsection 53C-3-203(4)(b)(vii), regarding the distribution of money from the Land
253 Exchange Distribution Account to the Geological Survey for test wells and other
254 hydrologic studies in the West Desert, is repealed July 1, 2030.
- 255 (12) Subsection 53E-1-201(1)(q), regarding the Higher Education and Corrections Council,
256 is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 257 (13) Subsection 53E-2-304(6), regarding foreclosing a private right of action or waiver of
258 governmental immunity, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 259 (14) Subsection 53E-3-503(5), regarding coordinating councils for youth in care, is
260 repealed July 1, 2027.
- 261 (15) Subsection 53E-3-503(6), regarding coordinating councils for youth in care, is
262 repealed July 1, 2027.
- 263 (16) Subsection 53E-4-202(8)(b), regarding a standards review committee, is repealed
264 January 1, 2028.
- 265 (17) Section 53E-4-203, Standards review committee, is repealed January 1, 2028.
- 266 (18) Title 53E, Chapter 6, Part 5, Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission, is

- 267 repealed July 1, 2033.
- 268 (19) Subsection 53E-7-207(7), regarding a private right of action or waiver of governmental
269 immunity, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 270 (20) Section 53F-5-215, Elementary teacher preparation assessment grant, is repealed July
271 1, 2028.
- 272 (21) Section 53F-5-219, Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program, is repealed July
273 1, 2026.
- 274 (22) Section 53F-5-224, Dyslexia Screening Pilot Program, is repealed July 1, 2030.
- 275 [~~(22)~~] (23) Title 53F, Chapter 10, Part 2, Capital Projects Evaluation Panel, is repealed July
276 1, 2027.
- 277 [~~(23)~~] (24) Subsection 53G-4-608(2)(b), regarding the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, is
278 repealed January 1, 2025.
- 279 [~~(24)~~] (25) Subsection 53G-4-608(4)(b), regarding the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, is
280 repealed January 1, 2025.
- 281 [~~(25)~~] (26) Section 53G-9-212, Drinking water quality in schools, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 282 [~~(26)~~] (27) Subsection 53G-9-703(4), regarding the parental video presentation concerning
283 student use of technology, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 284 [~~(27)~~] (28) Subsection 53H-1-402(1)(j), regarding the Higher Education and Corrections
285 Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 286 [~~(28)~~] (29) Section 53H-1-604, Higher Education and Corrections Council, is repealed July
287 1, 2027.
- 288 [~~(29)~~] (30) Subsection 53H-4-210(3), regarding the creation of the SafeUT and School
289 Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 290 [~~(30)~~] (31) Subsection 53H-4-210(4), regarding the appointment of the members of the
291 SafeUT and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 292 [~~(31)~~] (32) Subsection 53H-4-210(5), regarding the attorney general designating the chair of
293 the SafeUT and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 294 [~~(32)~~] (33) Subsection 53H-4-210(6), regarding the quorum requirements of the SafeUT and
295 School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 296 [~~(33)~~] (34) Subsection 53H-4-210(7), regarding a formal action of the SafeUT and School
297 Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 298 [~~(34)~~] (35) Subsection 53H-4-210(8), regarding compensation for members of the SafeUT
299 and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 300 [~~(35)~~] (36) Subsection 53H-4-210(9), regarding the support staff for the SafeUT and School

301 Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
302 [~~(36)~~] (37) Section 53H-4-306.1, Definitions -- Electrification of Transportation
303 Infrastructure Research Center, is repealed July 1, 2028.
304 [~~(37)~~] (38) Section 53H-4-306.2, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
305 Center -- Designation -- Duties, is repealed July 1, 2028.
306 [~~(38)~~] (39) Section 53H-4-306.3, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
307 Center -- Steering committee, is repealed July 1, 2028.
308 [~~(39)~~] (40) Section 53H-4-306.4, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
309 Center -- Industry advisory board, is repealed July 1, 2028.
310 [~~(40)~~] (41) Section 53H-4-306.5, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
311 Center -- Duties of the project director, is repealed July 1, 2028.
312 [~~(41)~~] (42) Section 53H-4-306.6, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
313 Center -- Project development and strategic objectives -- Reporting requirements, is
314 repealed July 1, 2028.
315 [~~(42)~~] (43) Section 53H-4-307.1, Center for Civic Excellence, is repealed July 1, 2030.
316 [~~(43)~~] (44) Section 53H-4-307.2, Center for Civic Excellence -- Duties -- Authority, is
317 repealed July 1, 2030.
318 [~~(44)~~] (45) Section 53H-4-307.3, Center for Civic Excellence -- Leadership, is repealed July
319 1, 2030.
320 [~~(45)~~] (46) Section 53H-4-307.4, Center for Civic Excellence -- Faculty, is repealed July 1,
321 2030.
322 [~~(46)~~] (47) Section 53H-4-307.5, Center for Civic Excellence -- Curriculum, is repealed July
323 1, 2030.
324 [~~(47)~~] (48) Section 53H-4-307.6, Center for Civic Excellence -- Oversight -- Reporting, is
325 repealed July 1, 2030.
326 [~~(48)~~] (49) Section 53H-4-313, Food Security Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.
327 [~~(49)~~] (50) Section 53H-8-305, Five-year performance goals, is repealed July 1, 2027.
328 [~~(50)~~] (51) Title 53H, Chapter 10, Part 4, Education Savings Incentive Program, is repealed
329 July 1, 2028.

330 Section 4. **FY 2027 Appropriations.**

331 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
332 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for
333 fiscal year 2027.

334 Subsection 4(a). **Operating and Capital Budgets**

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

338 ITEM 1 To State Board of Education - Contracted Initiatives and Grants
339 From Public Education Economic Stabilization
340 Restricted Account, One-time 1,500,000

341 Schedule of Programs:
342 Dyslexia Screening Program 1,500,000

343 The Legislature intends that the state board may
344 use up to 5% of the appropriation to cover administrative
345 costs associated with the Dyslexia Screening Pilot
346 Program.

347 Section 5. **Effective Date.**
348 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.