

Heidi Balderree proposes the following substitute bill:

Transportation Funding Revisions

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Heidi Balderree

House Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies and enacts provisions related to public school transportation funding.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ amends provisions to allow a charter school to be eligible for state transportation funding beginning on a certain date;
- ▶ requires the State Board of Education to conduct a study related to charter school transportation funding;
- ▶ creates reporting requirements;
- ▶ creates a sunset provision; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53E-1-201 (Effective 05/06/26) (Partially Repealed 07/01/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 9

53E-1-202 (Effective 05/06/26), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 7

53F-2-702 (Effective 05/06/26), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 186

63I-1-253 (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:

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

30 **53E-1-201 (Effective 05/06/26) (Partially Repealed 07/01/27). Reports to and**
31 **action required of the Education Interim Committee.**

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

- 34 (a) the report described in Section 9-22-109 by the STEM Action Center Board,
35 including the information described in Section 9-22-113 on the status of the computer
36 science initiative and Section 9-22-114 on the Computing Partnerships Grants
37 Program;
- 38 (b) the prioritized list of data research described in Section 53H-15-303 and the report
39 on research and activities described in Section 53H-15-305 by the Utah Data
40 Research Center;
- 41 (c) the report described in Section 53H-1-203 by the Utah Board of Higher Education on
42 career and technical education issues and addressing workforce needs;
- 43 (d) the annual report of the Utah Board of Higher Education described in Section
44 53H-1-203;
- 45 (e) the reports described in Section 53H-7-603 by the Utah Board of Higher Education
46 regarding activities related to campus safety;
- 47 (f) the State Superintendent's Annual Report by the state board described in Section
48 53E-1-203;
- 49 (g) the annual report described in Section 53E-2-202 by the state board on the strategic
50 plan to improve student outcomes;
- 51 (h) the report described in Section 53E-3-501 by the state board on students in an LEA
52 who receive academic credit through the packet method;
- 53 (i) the report described in Section 53E-8-204 by the state board on the Utah Schools for
54 the Deaf and the Blind;
- 55 (j) the report described in Section 53E-10-703 by the Utah Leading through Effective,
56 Actionable, and Dynamic Education director on research and other activities;
- 57 (k) the report described in Section 53F-2-522 regarding mental health screening
58 programs;
- 59 (l) the report described in Section 53F-4-203 by the state board and the independent
60 evaluator on an evaluation of early interactive reading software;
- 61 (m) the report described in Section 53F-6-412 by the program manager of the Utah Fits
62 All Scholarship Program;

- 63 (n) the report described in Section 63N-20-107 by the Governor's Office of Economic
64 Opportunity on UPSTART;
- 65 (o) the report described in Section 53F-5-215 by the state board related to a grant for an
66 elementary teacher preparation assessment;
- 67 (p) upon request, the report described in Section 53F-5-219 by the state board on the
68 Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program;
- 69 (q) the report described in Section 53F-5-405 by the state board regarding an evaluation
70 of a partnership that receives a grant to improve educational outcomes for students
71 who are low-income;
- 72 (r) the report described in Section 53H-1-604 regarding the Higher Education and
73 Corrections Council;
- 74 (s) the report described in Section 53G-7-221 by the state board regarding innovation
75 plans; and
- 76 (t) the reports described in Section 53F-6-412 regarding the Utah Fits All Scholarship
77 Program.
- 78 (2) In accordance with applicable provisions and Section 68-3-14, the following occasional
79 reports are due to the Education Interim Committee:
- 80 (a) in 2027, 2030, 2033, and 2035, the reports described in Sections 53H-1-502,
81 53H-1-503, and 53H-1-504;
- 82 (b) in 2025, the report described in Section 53H-6-203 by a degree-granting institution
83 regarding policies on abusive coaching practices;
- 84 (c) if required, the report described in Section 53E-4-309 by the state board explaining
85 the reasons for changing the grade level specification for the administration of
86 specific assessments;
- 87 (d) if required, the report described in Section 53E-5-210 by the state board of an
88 adjustment to the minimum level that demonstrates proficiency for each statewide
89 assessment;
- 90 (e) the report described in Section 53E-10-702 by Utah Leading through Effective,
91 Actionable, and Dynamic Education;
- 92 (f) if required, the report described in Section 53F-2-513 by the state board evaluating
93 the effects of salary bonuses on the recruitment and retention of effective teachers in
94 high-poverty schools;
- 95 (g) the report described in Section 53F-2-702 by the state board regarding transportation
96 funding for charter schools;

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

126 Section 2. Section **53E-1-202** is amended to read:

127 **53E-1-202 (Effective 05/06/26). Reports to and action required of the Public**
 128 **Education Appropriations Subcommittee.**

- 129 (1) In accordance with applicable provisions and Section 68-3-14, the following recurring
 130 reports are due to the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee:

- 131 (a) the State Superintendent's Annual Report by the state board described in Section
132 53E-1-203;
- 133 (b) the report described in Section 53E-10-703 by the Utah Leading through Effective,
134 Actionable, and Dynamic Education director on research and other activities; and
- 135 (c) the report by the STEM Action Center Board described in Section 9-22-109,
136 including the information described in Section 9-22-113 on the status of the computer
137 science initiative.
- 138 (2) In accordance with applicable provisions, the Public Education Appropriations
139 Subcommittee shall complete,[-] if required, the study described in Section 53F-4-304 of
140 scholarship payments.
- 141 (3) The report described in Section 53F-2-702 by the state board regarding transportation
142 funding for charter schools is due to the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee.
- 143 Section 3. Section **53F-2-702** is amended to read:
- 144 **53F-2-702 (Effective 05/06/26). Funding for charter schools.**
- 145 (1) Except as described in Section 53F-2-302, a charter school shall receive state funds, as
146 applicable, on the same basis as a school district receives funds.
- 147 (2)(a) As described in Section 53F-2-703, the state board shall distribute charter school
148 levy per pupil revenues to charter schools.
- 149 (b) As described in Section 53F-2-704, and subject to future budget constraints, the
150 Legislature shall provide an appropriation for charter schools for each charter school
151 student enrolled on October 1 to supplement the allocation of charter school levy per
152 pupil revenues described in Subsection (2)(a).
- 153 (3) Charter schools are eligible to receive federal funds if they meet all applicable federal
154 requirements and comply with relevant federal regulations.
- 155 (4) The state board shall distribute funds for charter school students directly to the charter
156 school.
- 157 (5)(a) Notwithstanding Subsection (1), a charter school is not eligible to receive state
158 transportation funding before July 1, 2028.
- 159 (b) Beginning July 1, 2028, a charter school is eligible to receive state transportation
160 funding under this section on the same basis as a school district, subject to legislative
161 appropriation and rules the state board adopts.
- 162 [(b)] (c) The state board shall also adopt rules relating to the transportation of students to
163 and from charter schools, taking into account Sections 53F-2-403 and 53G-6-405.
- 164 [(e)] (d) A charter school governing board may provide transportation through an

165 agreement or contract with the local school board, a private provider, or parents.

166 (6)(a)(i) In accordance with Section 53F-2-705, the State Charter School Board may
167 allocate grants for start-up costs to charter schools from money appropriated for
168 charter school start-up costs.

169 (ii) The charter school governing board of a charter school that receives money from
170 a grant under Section 53F-2-705 shall use the grant for expenses for planning and
171 implementation of the charter school.

172 (b) The state board shall coordinate the distribution of federal money appropriated to
173 help fund costs for establishing and maintaining charter schools within the state.

174 (7)(a) A charter school may receive, hold, manage and use any devise, bequest, grant,
175 endowment, gift, or donation of any property made to the school for any of the
176 purposes of Title 53G, Chapter 5, Charter Schools, or related provisions.

177 (b) It is unlawful for any person affiliated with a charter school to demand or request any
178 gift, donation, or contribution from a parent, teacher, employee, or other person
179 affiliated with the charter school as a condition for employment or enrollment at the
180 school or continued attendance at the school.

181 (8) The state board shall:

182 (a) to facilitate the eligibility transition described in Subsection (5)(b), study options for
183 providing transportation funding or services for charter schools;

184 (b) include in the study described in Subsection (8)(a):

185 (i) projected costs of providing transportation funding to charter schools statewide;

186 (ii) funding models, including:

187 (A) per-pupil allocations;

188 (B) route-based or mileage-based funding; and

189 (C) regional or cooperative transportation models;

190 (iii) potential impacts on existing school district transportation funding;

191 (iv) equity considerations for rural, suburban, and urban charter schools; and

192 (v) statutory or rule changes necessary to implement charter school transportation
193 funding;

194 (c) in conducting the study described in Subsection (8)(a), consult with:

195 (i) charter school governing boards and administrators;

196 (ii) school district transportation directors; and

197 (iii) the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst; and

198 (d) before the November 2027 interim meetings, report findings and recommendations

- 199 of the report to the:
- 200 (i) Education Interim Committee; and
- 201 (ii) Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee.
- 202 Section 4. Section **63I-1-253** is amended to read:
- 203 **63I-1-253 (Effective 05/06/26). Repeal dates: Titles 53 through 53G.**
- 204 (1) Section 53-1-122, Road Rage Awareness and Prevention Restricted Account, is
- 205 repealed July 1, 2028.
- 206 (2) Section 53-2a-105, Emergency Management Administration Council created --
- 207 Function -- Composition -- Expenses, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 208 (3) Section 53-2a-1103, Search and Rescue Advisory Board -- Members -- Compensation,
- 209 is repealed July 1, 2030.
- 210 (4) Section 53-2a-1104, General duties of the Search and Rescue Advisory Board, is
- 211 repealed July 1, 2027.
- 212 (5) Title 53, Chapter 2a, Part 15, Grid Resilience Committee, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 213 (6) Section 53-2d-104, State Emergency Medical Services Committee -- Membership --
- 214 Expenses, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 215 (7) Section 53-2d-503, Establishment of maximum rates, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 216 (8) Section 53-5a-302, Concealed Firearm Review Board -- Membership -- Compensation
- 217 -- Terms -- Duties, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 218 (9) Section 53-11-104, Board, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 219 (10) Title 53, Chapter 31, Department Interaction With Local Law Enforcement, is repealed
- 220 July 1, 2027.
- 221 (11) Subsection 53C-3-203(4)(b)(vii), regarding the distribution of money from the Land
- 222 Exchange Distribution Account to the Geological Survey for test wells and other
- 223 hydrologic studies in the West Desert, is repealed July 1, 2030.
- 224 (12) Subsection 53E-1-201(1)(q), regarding the Higher Education and Corrections Council,
- 225 is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 226 (13) Subsection 53E-1-201(2)(g), regarding a report to the Education Interim Committee on
- 227 transportation funding for charter schools, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 228 (14) Subsection 53E-1-202(3), regarding a report to the Public Education Appropriations
- 229 Subcommittee on transportation funding for charter schools, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 230 [~~(13)~~] (15) Subsection 53E-2-304(6), regarding foreclosing a private right of action or
- 231 waiver of governmental immunity, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 232 [~~(14)~~] (16) Subsection 53E-3-503(5), regarding coordinating councils for youth in care, is

- 233 repealed July 1, 2027.
- 234 [~~(15)~~] (17) Subsection 53E-3-503(6), regarding coordinating councils for youth in care, is
235 repealed July 1, 2027.
- 236 [~~(16)~~] (18) Subsection 53E-4-202(8)(b), regarding a standards review committee, is repealed
237 January 1, 2028.
- 238 [~~(17)~~] (19) Section 53E-4-203, Standards review committee, is repealed January 1, 2028.
- 239 [~~(18)~~] (20) Title 53E, Chapter 6, Part 5, Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission,
240 is repealed July 1, 2033.
- 241 [~~(19)~~] (21) Subsection 53E-7-207(7), regarding a private right of action or waiver of
242 governmental immunity, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 243 (22) Subsection 53F-2-702(5)(a), excluding a charter school from receiving state
244 transportation funding, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 245 (23) Subsection 53F-2-702(8), regarding a report by the state board regarding transportation
246 funding for charter schools, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 247 [~~(20)~~] (24) Section 53F-5-215, Elementary teacher preparation assessment grant, is repealed
248 July 1, 2028.
- 249 [~~(21)~~] (25) Section 53F-5-219, Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program, is
250 repealed July 1, 2026.
- 251 [~~(22)~~] (26) Title 53F, Chapter 10, Part 2, Capital Projects Evaluation Panel, is repealed July
252 1, 2027.
- 253 [~~(23)~~] (27) Subsection 53G-4-608(2)(b), regarding the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, is
254 repealed January 1, 2025.
- 255 [~~(24)~~] (28) Subsection 53G-4-608(4)(b), regarding the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, is
256 repealed January 1, 2025.
- 257 [~~(25)~~] (29) Section 53G-9-212, Drinking water quality in schools, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 258 [~~(26)~~] (30) Subsection 53G-9-703(4), regarding the parental video presentation concerning
259 student use of technology, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 260 [~~(27)~~] (31) Subsection 53H-1-402(1)(j), regarding the Higher Education and Corrections
261 Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 262 [~~(28)~~] (32) Section 53H-1-604, Higher Education and Corrections Council, is repealed July
263 1, 2027.
- 264 [~~(29)~~] (33) Subsection 53H-4-210(3), regarding the creation of the SafeUT and School
265 Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 266 [~~(30)~~] (34) Subsection 53H-4-210(4), regarding the appointment of the members of the

- 267 SafeUT and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 268 [(31)] (35) Subsection 53H-4-210(5), regarding the attorney general designating the chair of
269 the SafeUT and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 270 [(32)] (36) Subsection 53H-4-210(6), regarding the quorum requirements of the SafeUT and
271 School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 272 [(33)] (37) Subsection 53H-4-210(7), regarding a formal action of the SafeUT and School
273 Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 274 [(34)] (38) Subsection 53H-4-210(8), regarding compensation for members of the SafeUT
275 and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 276 [(35)] (39) Subsection 53H-4-210(9), regarding the support staff for the SafeUT and School
277 Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 278 [(36)] (40) Section 53H-4-306.1, Definitions -- Electrification of Transportation
279 Infrastructure Research Center, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 280 [(37)] (41) Section 53H-4-306.2, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
281 Center -- Designation -- Duties, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 282 [(38)] (42) Section 53H-4-306.3, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
283 Center -- Steering committee, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 284 [(39)] (43) Section 53H-4-306.4, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
285 Center -- Industry advisory board, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 286 [(40)] (44) Section 53H-4-306.5, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
287 Center -- Duties of the project director, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 288 [(41)] (45) Section 53H-4-306.6, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research
289 Center -- Project development and strategic objectives -- Reporting requirements, is
290 repealed July 1, 2028.
- 291 [(42)] (46) Section 53H-4-307.1, Center for Civic Excellence, is repealed July 1, 2030.
- 292 [(43)] (47) Section 53H-4-307.2, Center for Civic Excellence -- Duties -- Authority, is
293 repealed July 1, 2030.
- 294 [(44)] (48) Section 53H-4-307.3, Center for Civic Excellence -- Leadership, is repealed July
295 1, 2030.
- 296 [(45)] (49) Section 53H-4-307.4, Center for Civic Excellence -- Faculty, is repealed July 1,
297 2030.
- 298 [(46)] (50) Section 53H-4-307.5, Center for Civic Excellence -- Curriculum, is repealed July
299 1, 2030.
- 300 [(47)] (51) Section 53H-4-307.6, Center for Civic Excellence -- Oversight -- Reporting, is

301 repealed July 1, 2030.

302 [(48)] (52) Section 53H-4-313, Food Security Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.

303 [(49)] (53) Section 53H-8-305, Five-year performance goals, is repealed July 1, 2027.

304 [(50)] (54) Title 53H, Chapter 10, Part 4, Education Savings Incentive Program, is repealed
305 July 1, 2028.

306 Section 5. **Effective Date.**

307 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.