

State Board of Education Funding Priorities

2014 Legislative Session

Adopted September 6, 2013

	Activity/Initiative	2014-15 (FY 15)	Brief Summary
Legislative Expectation	Full Funding of Actual Growth	\$70,000,000	Funding of growth within the Minimum School Program (xx,xxx additional students)
	Increase in Value of WPU	\$73,000,000 (2.7% increase)	1.0% – match anticipated State Employee COLA 1.0% – needed to fund required URS increases 0.7% – inflationary costs and maintain programs
		\$143,000,000	
Ongoing			
1	Middle and High School Math Initiative 90% Proficiency 8 th grade	\$5,000,000	Comprehensive Professional Learning Initiative for 6 th , 7 th , and 8 th grade math teachers – 5 days – digitally delivered materials
2	Early Intervention Initiatives – 90% 3 rd grade reading proficiency	\$20,000,000	- Improve K-3 reading proficiency – Expand early intervention programs – targeted extended day – targeted voluntary pre-school
3	USOE /State Board staffing/program needs	\$2,100,000	Assure confidentiality of student and teacher data – meet increased audit and performance measures accountability – Restore staff reductions – new fiscal management program
4	Graduation Initiative 90% Graduation Rate	\$8,000,000	\$4,000,000 reduce student to counselor ratio (1:350) – \$1,000,000 innovative graduation programs – \$3,000,000 student advocates
5	School Climate and Student Support	\$2,000,000	USOE Student Services – Suicide Prevention – Bullying Prevention –
6	Targeted Professional Learning	\$5,000,000	\$1,500,000 Utah Core Academy – \$3,500,000 grants to districts and charters for targeted professional learning
7	Concurrent Enrollment Initiative	\$1,500,000	Provide opportunities for students, statewide to earn an Associates Degree while in high school
8	High Cost Special Education Students	\$1,500,000	Assure adequate funding for the high-cost special education funding pool
		\$45,100,000	
One-Time			
1	School Improvement Initiative	\$10,000,000	Grants to schools based on school improvement plans designed to increase school grade
2	1 to 1 Device Initiative	\$50,000,000	Provide grants to districts and charters for devices, infrastructure, and technical support to fully implement technology-based learning
3	Educator Evaluation Implementation	\$450,000	Professional learning for building administrators to implement educator evaluations with fidelity
4	Innovative Transportation	\$20,000,000	Grants to districts and charters to address efficient and clean transportation
5	Beverly Taylor Sorenson Arts	\$5,000,000	Expand BTSA Program to additional schools
6	Teacher Supplies	\$5,000,000	Continue to reimburse individual teachers for out-of-pocket funded classroom supplies
7	New State Office of Education Building	\$25,000,000	Replace USOE building
		\$115,450,000	
	TOTAL REQUEST	\$303,550,000	



Utah State Board of Education

Legislative Expectation

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	Total Legislative Expectation	\$143,000,000	



Item: **Full Funding of Growth**

Priority: **Legislative Expectation**

Amount: **\$70,000,000** – This amount will fund the growth on xx,xxx new students calculated for the 2014-2015 school year. It is intended to fund all line items on the Minimum School Program impacted by enrollment growth.

Purpose: These funds allow for ongoing provision of services to students in charters and districts at the current level of funding. These funds are calculated using the current weighted pupil unit (WPU) value of \$2,899, and would allow for growth increases in the Minimum School Program.

Anticipated

Future Needs: It is anticipated that this level of investment will be needed each year in the future as Utah's school age population is projected to continue increasing at approximately 2.0% annually.



Item: Increase in the Value of the Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU)

Priority: **Legislative Expectation**

Amount: **\$73,000,000** – The Minimum School Program for FY 14 funds 685,076 WPUs at a value of \$2,899 and 96,941 WPUs at a value of \$2,659. A 2.7% increase in the value of the WPU results in the regular WPU valued at \$2,977 (increase of \$78 per WPU) and the Add-on WPUs valued at \$2,731 (increase of \$72 per WPU). It is estimated that it requires \$27,000,000 for each 1% increase in the value of the WPU.

Purpose: WPU funding is allocated to charters and districts with limited restrictions. Local decisions will determine how this funding will be used.

In arriving at the 2.7% increase, the State Board discussion noted that mandated increases in Utah Retirement cost will require almost \$25,000,000 or approximately 1% increase in the WPU. Charters and districts could provide a 1% compensation adjustment requiring a 1% increase in the WPU and 0.7% would help offset other inflationary costs and allow for some additional flexibility. Thus the requested increase of 2.7%.

**Anticipated
Future Needs:**

It is the desire of the State Board of Education that the value of the WPU increase each year as an investment in Utah's public education system. Increased expectations in student performance may require increased investments.



Ongoing Requests

Ongoing			
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	Total Ongoing Requests	\$45,100,000	



Item: Secondary Math Initiative

Priority: Ongoing Funding - Priority #1

Amount: \$5,000,000 – This level of funding will allow for a considerable impact in the 2014-2015 school year. However, to achieve 90% of our students proficient in math when they leave the 8th grade will require this funding for several years.

Purpose: Having students proficient in math when they leave the 8th grade has the potential to address multiple issues.

1. Students proficient in math when they leave the 8th grade will lead to greater success in high school math courses.
2. Students proficient in math when they leave the 8th grade will lead to increased numbers of students taking additional math courses and being better prepared to enter STEM careers and training.
3. Students proficient in math when they leave the 8th grade will lead to higher graduation rates. A major academic reason students drop out is failure in math.

Initial year funding will allow for intensive professional learning for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade math teachers. Teachers will become more proficient in math content, math pedagogy, and using technology in their classrooms. Much of the professional learning will be delivered using technology and digitally delivered instruction.

Anticipated

Future Needs: Additional funding in a similar amount will be needed to continue professional learning opportunities for all teachers of math.



Item: Early Reading Initiative

Priority: Ongoing Funding - Priority #2

Amount: \$20,000,000

Purpose: Assure that all students are reading at grade level when they leave the 3rd grade.

Potential programs to be funded include:

1. Targeted pre-school for the most at-risk students
2. Targeted extended learning opportunities for the most at-risk (intergenerational poverty) students in grades K-6
3. Expansion of Optional Extended-Day Kindergarten
4. Reduction in class sizes K-3
5. Innovation Grants to charters and districts
6. Expansion of current early reading educational technology program initiative

Anticipated

Future Needs: If the goal of 90% of students reading at grade level by 2020 is to be achieved, it is anticipated that additional investment will need to be made targeting early intervention and K-3 reading programs.



Item: USOE and State Board of Education Critical Needs
Data Security and IT, Auditing, Accounting Software

Priority: Ongoing Funding - Priority #3

Amount: \$2,100,000

Purpose: Cuts to USOE and State Board budgets during times of economic difficulties have never been restored. At the same time, requirements for data security (confidential student and teacher data), IT support for charters and districts, accountability and performance audits, and reporting requirements continue to increase. Additionally, the ever increasing number of charter schools has resulted in a 300% increase in the number of local education agencies (LEAs) being supported by USOE.

Data Security	\$192,000
Accounting and Budgeting Software	\$240,000
IT Staffing Needs	\$706,000
Internal Auditing	\$196,000
School Finance	\$170,000
USOE Staffing Needs	\$300,000
State Board Staffing Needs	\$296,000

Anticipated

Future Needs: If this level of funding is obtained, additional funding should not be needed for at least five years.



Item: **Graduation Initiative**

Priority: **Ongoing Funding – Priority #4**

Amount: **\$8,000,000**

Purpose: Increase high school graduation rate to 90% by 2020 and increase the number of high school graduates prepared to enter high-demand careers and rigorous college courses.

Activities potentially funded from this initiative include:

1. Additional well-prepared high school counselors
2. Hiring paraprofessionals to mentor and monitor potential dropouts
3. Reduce class sizes in critical subject areas
4. Implement additional effective software and computer-based programs
5. Provide innovation grants to local charters and districts address dropout issues

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Anticipated Future Needs: Additional investment may be required to achieve the goal of 90% graduation.



Item: **Student Support and School Climate Initiative**

Priority: **Ongoing Funding – Priority #5**

Amount: **\$2,000,000**

Purpose: In addition to the increasing emphasis on 3rd grade reading, 8th grade math, and high school graduation, we must continue to address the social and emotional needs of Utah's 600,000+ students. Additional investments are needed to support charters and districts in efforts to eliminate bullying and suicide, and assure that students feel safe and secure while attending school. Funding would support statewide leadership and grants to local schools to address these issues.

Anticipated

Future Needs: These are ongoing concerns and additional investments may be needed in the future.



Item: Targeted Professional Learning

Priority: Ongoing Funding – Priority #6

Amount: \$5,000,000

Purpose: Provide ongoing targeted professional learning opportunities for teachers.

The Utah Core Academy has provided highly successful professional learning opportunities for Utah teachers to gain additional skills needed to effectively teach the Utah Core Standards. \$1,500,000 is needed to continue this program. The additional \$3,500,000 would be available to district and charters through a competitive grant process to meet professional learning needs at the local school level.

Anticipated

Future Needs: This is an area where additional investments are likely to be needed. At an average daily salary of \$250.00 per teacher per day, \$5,000,000 provides one paid professional learning day for only 20,000 of Utah's approximately 26,000 classroom teachers.



Item: **Concurrent Enrollment Initiative**

Priority: **Ongoing Funding – Priority #7**

Amount: **\$1,500,000**

Purpose: Although available to some students and through some institutions of higher education in Utah, not all Utah students have an equitable opportunity to participate in concurrent enrollment courses. The intent of this initiative is to develop a program that allows an opportunity for all students to enroll in concurrent enrollment courses, many delivered through an on-line delivery system, that creates an opportunity for students to complete an associates degree while in high school.

Anticipated

Future Needs: No additional funding should be needed in the immediate future.



Item: **High Cost Special Education Students**

Priority: **Ongoing Funding – Priority #8**

Amount: **\$1,500,000**

Purpose: One state program funded through the Minimum School Program line labeled Special Education – State Programs is a program that reimburses charters and districts for special education services that exceed \$15,000 for any single student. Current funding in the Program (2,769 WPU) limits the reimbursement amount. An additional 517 WPU or approximately \$1,500,000 would allow for reimbursements for all expenses in excess of \$15,000 for any individual student.

Anticipated

Future Needs: This line item has not seen any significant increases for a number of years. If this full amount is funded, no additional increases should be needed for several years.



One-Time Requests

One-Time			
1	School Improvement Initiative	\$10,000,000	Grants to schools based on school improvement plans designed to increase school grade
2	1 to 1 Device Initiative	\$50,000,000	Provide grants to districts and charters for devices, infrastructure, and technical support to fully implement technology-based learning
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	Total One-Time Requests	\$115,450,000	



Item: School Improvement Initiative

Priority: One-Time Funding – Priority #1

Amount: \$10,000,000

Purpose: Although frequently discussed, no funding is currently available for schools to improve the grade they received through the recently implemented school grading legislation. This initiative would provide competitive grants to schools that received a low grade who have a plan to improve their grade. School-based improvement plans must include elements that the State Board determines as critical for school improvement and improvement will be strictly monitored. Grant continuation will be contingent upon improvement in specific academic areas as measured by state end-of-level testing.

Anticipated

Future Needs: If this initiative results in desired outcomes, ongoing, and possibly additional funding will be sought in the future.



Item: One-to-One Device Initiative

Priority: One-Time Funding – Priority #2

Amount: \$50,000,000 – To Include a Local Match

Purpose: The expansion of virtual learning experiences, computer assisted instruction, adaptive assessments, web-based knowledge access, etc. necessitates that all students have the devices needed to access these educational opportunities.
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Although this request is for one-to-one devices, many experts in this field are now suggesting that to maximize educational opportunities, a more ideal ration is two-to-one or three-to-one (that is three devices per student).

Funding is needed for additional devices, infrastructure to support these additional devices, IT and instructional design support to assure optimal use of devices.

Anticipated

Future Needs: If fully funded this request should meet the immediate needs for Utah's students.

If a device costs \$250.00 and devices are replaced every six years, 100,000 (600,000 students / six) devices will need to be replaced annually at a cost of \$25,000,000 (100,000 X \$250).



Item: **Educator Evaluation Implementation**

Priority: **One-Time Funding – Priority #3**

Amount: **\$450,000**

Purpose: Optimal implementation of the legislatively required statewide educator evaluation program (S.B. 64 – 2012) will occur with additional professional learning opportunities for Utah’s 1,200+ school level administrators. This level of funding will allow for effective training of all those involved in conducting teacher evaluations and better assure that the evaluations are valid and reliable statewide.

Anticipated

Future Needs: No additional funding is needed for this program.



Item: **Innovative Transportation Program**

Priority: **One-Time Funding – Priority #4**

Amount: **\$20,000,000**

Purpose: This program will provide grants to charters and districts to encourage innovative and “clean” alternatives in transporting Utah students. Potential uses for these funds include replacement of old “dirty” buses, infrastructure for using “clean” fuels, cooperative agreements with other transportation providers, etc. All funds will flow to charters and districts.

Anticipated

Future Needs: If this program is successful, additional funds may be sought in the future.



Item: **Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Program**

Priority: **One-Time Funding – Priority #5**

Amount: **\$5,000,000 – (\$1,000,000 increase over one-time funding of \$4,000,000 for FY 14)**

Purpose: Expand the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts program to additional schools. Expansion includes both additional schools and greater level of financial support for charters and districts.

Anticipated

Future Needs: A plan previously developed and presented by the Sorenson family and Art Works for Kids includes additional expansion and additional legislative funding in future years.



Item: **Teacher Supplies**

Priority: **One-Time Funding – Priority #6**

Amount: **\$5,000,000 (Same amount as FY 14)**

Purpose: Reimburse teachers for out-of-pocket expenses associated with classroom activities and instruction. Allocations per teacher as determined in the past have been successful and should be continued.

Anticipated

Future Needs: It is anticipated that future funding will be requested for this purpose.

