

Educational Improvement Opportunities Outside of the Regular School Day

October 15, 2019 | Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Background

The Educational Improvement Opportunities Outside of the Regular School Day Grant Program (also known as the Program Quality Enhancement Grant) was created by S.B. 202 in 2018. It is a supplemental three-year grant program with a focus on improving the quality of existing afterschool program sites, based on quality standards described in [Utah Administrative Code](#). [Utah Code](#) directs the State Board of Education to consult with the Department of Workforce Services in creating the standards. Statute indicates that the standards should specify that a high-quality program "provide a safe, healthy and nurturing environment for all participants; develop and maintain positive relationships among staff, participants, families, schools, and communities; encourages participants to learn new skills; and is effectively administered." The Department of Workforce Services' (DWS) [Office of Child Care](#) is tasked with soliciting a private provider, nonprofit provider, or municipality to participate in the program. A selected program must provide private matching funds before receiving a grant.

USBE and DWS just completed the first full round of funding (2018-2019 school year). This issue brief details program funding and implementation.

The Compendium of Budget Information (COBI) and the State Board of Education have additional detail on this program, links below:

[Initiative Programs – Educational Improvement Opportunities Outside of the Regular School Day](#)

[USBE – Intergenerational Poverty Interventions \(IGPI\)](#)

Recommendations

- We recommend that the subcommittee rename the program "Afterschool Program Quality Enhancement Grant" to match USBE's name for the program.
- To provide better transparency and accountability, we recommend that the subcommittee consider creating a separate line item for this and other programs in the public education budget that are also funded in a different appropriations subcommittee (joint-funded programs).

Budget and Program Details

S.B. 202 authorized USBE to use up to \$125,000 in General Funds to provide grants to school districts and charter schools to promote high-quality afterschool programs. USBE allocated \$112,500 for grant awards and \$12,500 for the required program evaluation. The DWS Office of Child Care also received funding to provide grants for community-based organizations. Grantees must serve a student population with at least 40 percent qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch, identify private matching funds equal to the amount of funds requested, and participate in required program evaluation.

State Appropriated Budgets

In FY 2019, the Legislature appropriated \$125,000 each to USBE and DWS from the General Fund for the program. USBE was appropriated \$126,200 in FY 2020, with the extra \$1,200 going toward personnel services. Table 1 provides a history of the state appropriation.

Educational Improvement Opportunities – Budget, Performance, and Other Details

Initiative Programs - Educational Improvement Opportunities Outside of the Regular School Day State Budget (COBI)						
	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Sources of Revenue						
General Fund					\$125,000	\$126,200
Education Fund					\$0	\$0
Education Fund, One-time					\$0	\$0
Transfers					\$0	\$0
Beginning Nonlapsing					\$0	\$0
Closing Nonlapsing					\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$125,000	\$126,200
Categories of Expenditure						
Personnel Services					\$0	\$1,200
In-State Travel					\$0	\$0
Out-of-State Travel					\$0	\$0
Current Expense					\$12,500	\$12,500
DP Current Expense					\$0	\$0
Other/Pass Through					\$112,500	\$112,500
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$125,000	\$126,200

Table 1

Distribution to Locals

USBE received applications from nine interested parties over two calls for application (in Nov. 2018 and Jan. 2019). Seven of the nine applicants received funding for a three-year cycle. Grantees receive up to \$15,625 each year through the grant. The amount each grantee receives is based on the amount of private match identified, a match that is required to participate in the program.

\$84,620 (75%) of the \$112,500 appropriation available for grant funding was used for the first round of grants. According to self-reporting by the LEAs, 657 students participated in programs impacted by the grant. USBE will send out another call for applications in Spring 2021.

Grant Recipients	
LEA	Grant Amount
City Academy	\$15,625
Dual Immersion Academy	\$15,000
Entheos Academy – Kearns Campus	\$8,500
Guadalupe Charter School	\$15,625
Jordan School District – West Jordan Middle	\$15,000
Salt Lake Center for Science Education	\$3,199
Walden School of Liberal Arts – Teen Program	\$11,671
Total: 7 LEAS	\$84,620

Table 2

Performance Metrics

USBE reports that all LEAs that received grants either maintained or improved their quality improvement observation score utilizing a nationally validated afterschool observation tool, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.

Data on academic impact are collected and are currently being analyzed by the USBE Program Evaluator.

The following target outcomes are expected from each grantee:

Educational Improvement Opportunities – Budget, Performance, and Other Details

- Overall Quality: The overall quality of the grantee’s funded program will increase as measured by SAPQA or YPQA, nationally validated afterschool observation tools.
- Academic Improvement: At least 51% of youth will demonstrate academic improvement as measured by academic data reported to DWS, Office of Child Care, or USBE.
- Prevention and Education Components: At least 51% of youth will demonstrate increased knowledge around prevention and education components selected in the grantee’s application as measured by pre/post-tests.
- Professional Development: Professional development opportunities for afterschool professionals will be expanded to include 20 hours of training for front line staff with an additional 5 hours of specialized targeted training for site coordinators.

USBE staff monitor targets based on mid-year and annual reports, participation data submission, and review and program site observations.

Spending Plans

USBE has contacted each grant-receiving LEA to determine if there are additional reimbursement requests or carryover funds for FY19. Three LEAs—Dual Immersion Academy, Entheos Academy (Kearns), and Guadalupe School—each had carryover funds. These LEAs are required to submit a) a request to utilize carryover funding and b) a carryover plan and budget narrative. These carryover plans must address the following questions:

1. Describe how your school district will utilize state fiscal year 2019 carryover funds to support the purpose and outcomes of the PQE Grant.
2. With the addition of the state fiscal year 2019 carryover funds, describe how the organization will efficiently manage and track the 2019 budget funds in addition to the 2020 budget funds.
3. Due to spending state fiscal year 2019 funds first, will an updated state fiscal year 2020 budget be needed?