

# HB 161: Foreign Language Education Funding Amendments

## BILL OVERVIEW

This bill addresses two important components of Utah's language learning programs:

1. It will add the Dual Language Immersion program and the Bridge program to the list of programs that receive annual funding adjustments for enrollment growth and inflation increases.
2. Prohibits LEAS and educational entities from taking funding from restricted foreign entities, like the Chinese Communist Party.

## THE NEED

- Utah's Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Program is nationally renowned. Over 48,000 students in 325 schools in 29 LEAs gain essential language skills in Chinese, French, German, Portuguese, Russian, or Spanish as part of their classroom instruction.
- Utah's Bridge Program offers an advanced language pathway for high school students who have passed the Advanced Placement (AP) Language and Culture Exam, "bridging" the gap between completion of the exam and higher education. Initial program funding of approximately \$100/student and has slid down to \$70/student.
- Some districts in Utah have taken funding for language learning programs from China; Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classrooms have been identified as major propaganda outlets for the Chinese Communist Party.

## BENEFITS



The following entities have raised concerns over the Chinese Communist Party's efforts to fund Confucius Institutes & Confucius Classrooms:

- U.S. Department of State
- U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Senate Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
- American Association of University Professors
- National Association of Scholars