

Research supported social skill development program

[Edit Request](#)

Requester Information

Legislator: Fillmore, Lincoln

Creation Date: 2024-01-25

Submission Date: 2024-01-26

Section 1: Request Details

Description:

This request allows for the continuation and expansion of an existing grant program awarded in 2023 (contract 24RSEI Research Supported Social & Emotional Instr) to a Utah non-profit entity focused on improving the lives of children tasked with implementing a program that connects pre-K through 3rd grade students in Utah schools with a National Science Foundation supported organization that utilizes software instruction to improve social skills in neurotypical and neurodivergent children. The program is aligned with USBE's social emotional learning guidelines. Targeted social skills for improvement shall include self-esteem, confidence, eye contact, listening, facial expressions, good posture, answering and asking questions, greeting and closing conversations, self-regulation and mindfulness, developing solutions, good manners, making friends, resolving conflict, and caring for self. Other issues that shall be considered include sensory integration, working memory, attention span, processing speed, auditory processing, anxiety, depression, and coordination.

Legislative designee contact information:

- Name: Trent Christensen
- Organization: Focusing on Children Individual Success
- Position: President

Section 2: Funding Information

How will the appropriation be used?

	One-time	Ongoing
Personnel Services	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$540,000.00	\$0.00
In-State Travel	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$16,000.00	\$0.00
Out-of-state Travel	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies and Equipment	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Technology Purchases	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$600,000.00	\$0.00

Infrastructure/Capital Investments		2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Other Charges/Pass Thru		2024: \$0.00 2025: \$44,000.00	\$0.00
Expenditure Total			
One-time 2024	One-time 2025	Ongoing 2025	
\$0.00	\$1,200,000.00	\$0.00	

Funding Sources:

Income Tax Fund

- Amount Requested 2024 (One-time) \$0.00
- Amount Requested 2025 (One-time) \$1,200,000.00
- Amount Requested 2025 (Ongoing) \$0.00

Revenue Total

One-time 2024	One-time 2025	Ongoing 2025
\$0.00	\$1,200,000.00	\$0.00

Should unused funding be returned to the state at the end of the fiscal year?

No

Is this project scalable if the Legislature does not fund the full requested amount?

Yes

A short explanation describing how the project might be scaled

The funding amount requested allows for the continuation of the existing program and the expansion to include more schools and students on an ongoing basis.

Section 3: Agency Information**Subjects:**

Education and Research

Agency:

400 / State Board of Education

Type of entity to receive pass-through funding

- State Government

Section 4: Performance Outcome Measurement**Who would benefit from this request (who is the target audience)?**

Students in grads pre-k - 3rd grade, teachers and parents.

What is this project or program intended to accomplish?

This is intended to continue the already successful program that is improving social skill development and behavior in Utah students. The program is targeted toward improving foundational non-verbal skills, communication skills, emotional skills, and behavioral and social awareness skills.

How will the Legislature know whether the project or program achieved its intended purpose?

Baseline and ongoing data collection that is aligned with performance measures has been implemented and is already showing positive results. To show success students are evaluated on improvements on these target social skills comparing students using the program against students who are not using the program. Additionally, there are currently 627 students part of an intense research group, 304 students involved with ongoing research surveys, and another 2,140 students participating in the program where satisfaction surveys are given and evaluated. Results from the current program are seen in the included documents.

Section 5: Other Supporting Documents

Intent Language

Previous State Funding