

Elementary Teacher Preparation Grant

53F-5-215 Sunset Recommendation

August 2024

53F-5-215 Elementary Teacher Preparation Grant

Repeal Date | July 1, 2025

- (2) Beginning September 1, 2021, subject to legislative appropriations, the state board shall award grants to educator preparation programs for the cost of the initial attempt of the required literacy preparation assessment for license applicants graduating from the institution or completing the preparation program during the year relevant to the grant.
- (3) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the state board may make rules to establish the license, type of license, or license concentration eligible for the grant described in this section.
- (4) An educator preparation program may apply for a grant described in this section by submitting to the state board an application, as provided by the state board, including an estimate of the number and names of prospective license applicants expected to graduate or complete the program in the year relevant to the grant application.

Background

Section [53F-5-215](#), the elementary teacher preparation grant, is scheduled to be repealed.

Unless action is taken by the Legislature, the program will be repealed on July 1, 2025.

Current Implementation Data

- Between January 2021 and May 13, 2024
 - 3,776 candidates have taken the required literacy preparation assessment for professional licensure
 - 2021-2022—soft pilot – partial participation
 - 2022-2023—full pilot implementation at all institutions
 - 2023-2024—second full pilot implementation
- Data from three years of implementation, led to establishing a cut score of 240.
- Passing score goes into effect for eligible teacher candidates starting September 1, 2024

Year 1: Voluntary Participation

2021-2022 Percentage of Candidates Who Scored 240 or Higher (Voluntary participation)

Institution of Higher Education	Total Test Takers	Percent Scored 240 or Higher
Southern Utah University	34	62%
University of Utah	3	Less than 10 test takers
Utah State University	142	54%
Utah Tech University	18	39%
Utah Valley University	65	65%
Weber State University	41	51%
Westminster University	11	64%
Total Utah Test Takers	315	57%

Year 2: Pilot Year 1

2022-2023 Percentage of Candidates Who Scored 240 or Higher by Institution (1st Full Year Pilot)

Institution of Higher Education	Total Test Takers	Percent Scored 240 or Higher
Brigham Young University	297	73%
Southern Utah University	137	73%
University of Utah	95	41%
Utah State University	225	44%
Utah Tech University	37	76%
Utah Valley University	151	55%
Weber State University	105	63%
Western Governors University	1,037	49%
Westminster University	9	Less than 10 test takers
APPEL Programs	141	50%
Total Utah Test Takers	2,234	54%

Year 3: Pilot Year 3

2023-2024 Percentage of Candidates Who Scored 240 or Higher by Institution (2nd Full Year Pilot)

Institution of Higher Education	Total Test Takers	Percent Scored 240 or Higher
Brigham Young University	113	70%
Southern Utah University	66	70%
University of Utah	39	51%
Utah State University	152	74%
Utah Tech University	25	92%
Utah Valley University	73	45%
Weber State University	63	75%
Western Governors University	600	60%
Westminster University	1	Less than 10 test takers
APPEL Programs	95	51%
Total Utah Test Takers	1,227	63%

****Please Note: Total data for the 2023-2024 school year will not be available until September 2024. Data shared above for the 2023-2024 school year are incomplete. The percentage of candidates who score 240 or higher during this school year may change significantly when data are complete.***

Data Results

- Increased 9 percentage points the number applicants achieving a passing score from 54% (Year 2) to 63% (Year 3)
- Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) have spent the last few years modifying their curriculum to more strongly align with the board's established literacy competencies to prepare candidates for the assessment using the assessment results.

Implications

If [53F-5-215](#) is repealed:

- Elementary, Early Childhood and Special Education teachers would be required to cover the cost (approximately \$140) for the required literacy preparation assessment in Section 53E-6-301 out of the teachers' own pockets.

Recommendation

The Utah State Board of Education recommends that the Legislature not allow Utah Code [53F-5-215](#), Teacher Preparation Grant, to sunset but extend the effective date or make the program permanent.

Thank you

- Jennie Earl, Vice Chair Utah State Board of Education
- Angie Stallings, Deputy Superintendent of Policy
- Julie Clark, P-12 Literacy / Early Learning Coordinator