

Utah State Board of Education Final Remarks

Date: February 6, 2026

Public Education Appropriations Committee

Utah State Board of Education



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Final Remarks

- Utah State Board of Education Funding Requests Revisions-Five Priorities
- Plan 1 Reduction Recommendations Remain
- Plan 2 Reduction Recommendation Removes the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Program MSP Categorical and Related to Basic Program Reductions
- The Utah State Board of Education Requests No Removal of or Amendments to the Current Code and Methodology for the Weighted Average Salary Adjustments (WASA) for the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB)



Prioritized Funding Requests

2026 Legislative Session



To better support Utah students and ensure the efficient use of state and federal resources, the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) recommends the following statutory updates. These proposals aim to clarify existing code, reduce unnecessary burdens on LEAs, and improve operational effectiveness across key programs.

Priority	Funding Initiative	Summary of Request	Ongoing Funds	One-Time Funds
1	Paraprofessional K-3 Grant Program	Establishes a statewide, competitive grant program providing matching funds to LEAs to hire and train paraprofessionals to support instruction in kindergarten through third-grade classrooms.		\$20,000,000
2	Beverly Taylor Sorenson	Provides additional funding to sustain 466 current BTS Arts schools and expand the program to 23 waitlisted schools, serving an additional estimated 11,500 K-6 students with high-quality, integrated arts education.	\$1,728,000	
3	K-8 Literacy/ Numeracy	Supports proven instructional strategies to advance student reading and math achievement and promote academic and lifelong success.	\$9,600,000	\$34,300,000
4	USBE Critical FTE Funding Requests	Addresses critical capacity needs related to staffing roles, responsibilities, and compliance requirements to improve service to the field and respond to audit findings and program expectations.	\$3,479,300	
5	Master Pilot Program	Extends funding for two years and makes minor policy adjustments to continue the Mentoring and Supporting Teacher Excellence and Refinement Pilot Program based on demonstrated improvements in teacher effectiveness and retention.		\$4,800,000
Total:			\$14,807,300	\$59,100,000

Public Education Ongoing Reduction Items Plan 1

	<i>Target</i>	\$295,765,600.00					
	With EAC Adjustments Target is Reduced to:	\$163,426,500.00					
	With USBE Recommended Reductions Target is Reduced to:	\$12,434,323.00					
Item	Funding Item Name & Description	On-going	One-time	Description	Statute Change	Agency	Unit
1	Enrollment Growth Savings	\$12,505,500.00		EAC Adjustment (Red Sheet)			
2	Prior Year + Growth Ongoing	\$77,000,000.00		EAC Adjustment (Red Sheet)			
3	PED Stabilization Deposit	\$42,833,600.00		EAC Adjustment (Red Sheet)			
	Total EAC Adjustments:	\$132,339,100.00					
4	Policy and Communication		\$100,000.00		n/a	State Board of Education	PAO
5	School Turnaround and Leadership Development Act		\$1,000,000.00		53E-5-309	State Board of Education	PAF
6	Student Support Services	\$4,000.00				State Board of Education	PAE
7	Subsidy Program	\$54,000.00				State Board of Education	PEB
8	Statewide Charter School Training Programs	\$400,000.00			53G-5-202,	State Board of Education	PGB
9	Informal Science Education Enhancement	\$598,100.00			n/a	State Board of Education	PHA
10	National Board-Certified Teachers	\$296,300.00			53F-2-523 ; 53F-5-202	State Board of Education	PJC
11	STEM Endorsement Incentives	\$1,200,000.00			53E-6-903 ; 9-22-113	State Board of Education	PJB
12	Center for the School of the Future	\$200,000.00			53H-4-304, 53F-2-526, 53G-11-303	State Board of Education	POJ
13	Competency-Based Education Grants	\$2,093,100.00			53F-5-5,	State Board of Education	PKC
14	Computer Science Initiatives		\$244,100.00		9-22-113, 53H-13-306, 53H-13-305	State Board of Education	PKW
15	Elementary Reading Assessment Software Tools		\$100,000.00		n/a	State Board of Education	PKK
16	IT Academy	\$500,000.00			53E-3-506.	State Board of Education	PKN
17	ProStart Culinary Arts Program	\$375,300.00			n/a	State Board of Education	PKF
18	Software Licenses for Early Literacy	\$10,631,400.00		Eliminate the 'Screen Time' Associated with Early Literacy and Reallocate to the Board's Priorities	53F-3-1001	State Board of Education	PKB
19	Special Needs Opportunity Scholarship	\$3,809,900.00		\$300,000 reallocated to the USBE to Administer the Special Needs Opportunity Scholarship Program	53F-6-416; 53E-7-4	State Board of Education	POB
20	Upstart Administrative Funds	\$45,100.00		Eliminate the State Reporting Requirements and Reallocate to the Board's Priorities	63N-20; 5A-15-301; 35A-15-302; 53E-1-201	State Board of Education	PKE
21	Utah Private School Course Choice Empowerment Program	\$8,895,800.00		Eliminate/Reduce Public Funds Going to Private Schools or Private School Students and Reallocate to the Board's Priorities	53F-6-501	State Board of Education	POM
22	5% Reduction to Utah Fits All Program	\$6,131,700.00		Reduces Public Funds Going to School Choice Programs and Reallocate to Board's Priorities	53F-6-402; 53F-6-403; 53F-6-405	State Board of Education	POOAA
23	Foreign Exchange	\$1,902,500.00			53G-6-302	Minimum School Program	PPM
24	Financial Operations	\$114,000.00			53E-3-501	State Board of Education	PYA
	Total Ongoing USBE Funding Reduction Recommendations:	\$37,251,200.00	\$1,444,100.00				
	Funding Item Name & Description	On-going	One-time	Description	Status Change	Agency	Unit
25	Excellence in Education and Leadership Program		\$112,296,877.00	Reallocate remaining funds to the Board's Para Professional Program Priority Over Five Years	53F-2-526	State Board of Education	PYI

Public Education Ongoing Reduction Items Plan 2

	<i>Target</i>	\$295,765,600.00					
	With EAC Adjustments Target is Reduced to:	\$163,426,500.00					
	With USBE Recommended Reductions Target is Reduced to:	-\$179,100.00					
Item	Funding Item Name & Description	On-going	One-time	Description	Statute Change	Agency	Unit
1	Enrollment Growth Savings	\$12,505,500.00		EAC Adjustment (Red Sheet)			
2	Prior Year + Growth Ongoing	\$7,000,000.00		EAC Adjustment (Red Sheet)			
3	PED Stabilization Deposit	\$42,833,600.00		EAC Adjustment (Red Sheet)			
	Total EAC Adjustments:	\$132,339,100.00					
4	Policy and Communication		\$100,000.00		n/a	State Board of Education	PAO
5	School Turnaround and Leadership Development Act		\$1,000,000.00		53E-5-309	State Board of Education	PAF
6	Student Support Services	\$4,000.00				State Board of Education	PAE
7	Subsidy Program	\$54,000.00				State Board of Education	PEB
8	Statewide Charter School Training Programs	\$400,000.00			53G-5-202,	State Board of Education	PGB
9	Informal Science Education Enhancement	\$598,100.00			n/a	State Board of Education	PHA
10	National Board-Certified Teachers	\$296,300.00			53F-2-523 ; 53F-5-202	State Board of Education	PJC
11	STEM Endorsement Incentives	\$1,200,000.00			53E-6-903 ; 9-22-113	State Board of Education	PJB
12	Center for the School of the Future	\$200,000.00			53H-4-304, 53F-2-526, 53G-11-303	State Board of Education	POJ
13	Competency-Based Education Grants	\$2,093,100.00			53F-5-5,	State Board of Education	PKC
14	Computer Science Initiatives		\$244,100.00		9-22-113, 53H-13-306, 53H-13-305	State Board of Education	PKW
15	Elementary Reading Assessment Software Tools		\$100,000.00		n/a	State Board of Education	PKK
16	IT Academy	\$500,000.00			53E-3-506.	State Board of Education	PKN
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21	Utah Private School Course Choice Empowerment Program	\$8,895,800.00		Eliminate/Reduce Public Funds Going to Private Schools or Private School Students and Reallocate to the Board's Priorities	53F-6-501	State Board of Education	POM
22	5% Reduction to Utah Fits All Program	\$6,131,700.00		Reduces Public Funds Going to School Choice Programs and Reallocate to Board's Priorities	53F-6-402; 53F-6-403; 53F-6-405	State Board of Education	POOAA
23	Foreign Exchange	\$1,902,500.00			53G-6-302	Minimum School Program	PPM
24	Financial Operations	\$114,000.00			53E-3-501	State Board of Education	PYA
	Total Ongoing USBE Funding Reduction Recommendations:	\$37,251,200.00	\$1,444,100.00				
Funding Item Name & Description	On-going	One-time	Description	Status Change	Agency	Unit	
25	Student Mental Health Screenings	\$68,100.00			53E-1-2-201 ; 53F-2-5-522 ; 53G-9-2-203	State Board of Education	PAB
26	Suicide Prevention	\$68,100.00			53G-9-7 ; 53F-2-5-525 ; 53G-9-6-604 ; 53G-9-6-605	State Board of Education	PAAAA
27	Teacher Retention in Indigenous Schools Grants	\$49,400.00			53F-2-523	State Board of Education	PAX
28	Home School Student Support	\$68,100.00			53G-6-703 ; 53G-6-706 ; 53G-6-710	State Board of Education	PBB
29	Small High School Support	\$75,300.00			53F-4-518, 53F-4-5, 53H-3-607.	State Board of Education	PBC
30	Statewide Online Education Program	\$82,000.00			53F-4-5, 53H-3-607.	State Board of Education	PBA
31	Child Nutrition	\$0.00			53E-3-510	State Board of Education	PDA
32	Professional Outreach Programs in Schools	\$416,800.00			n/a	State Board of Education	PEC
33	New Charter School Start-up Funding	\$108,300.00			53F-2-702, 53F-2-705, 53F-2-707	State Board of Education	PGC
34	State Charter School Board & Administration	\$137,200.00			53G-5, 53F-2-7	State Board of Education	PGA
35	Regional Education Service Agencies	\$148,800.00			53G-4-410	State Board of Education	PIA
36	Educator Licensing	\$256,800.00			53F-5-223, 53F-9-204	State Board of Education	PIA
37	Carson Smith Scholarships	\$587,100.00			Title 53E, Chapter 7 Part 4, (specifically 402-409), Title 53F, Chapter 4, Part 3, (specifically 302-306)	State Board of Education	PKI
38	Child Sexual Abuse Prevention	\$68,100.00			53G-9-207	State Board of Education	POL

Public Education Ongoing Reduction Items Plan 2

39	Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Grant Program	\$34,100.00			53G-9-207	State Board of Education	POK
40	Contracts and Grants	\$6,800.00				State Board of Education	PKA
41	Early Warning Program	\$190,700.00			53F-4-207	State Board of Education	PKY
42	Education Technology Management System	\$122,600.00			n/a	State Board of Education	POC
43	General Financial Literacy	\$27,800.00				State Board of Education	PKH
44	High School Rodeo Athlete and Ambulance Grants	\$9,900.00			n/a	State Board of Education	PON
45	Intergenerational Poverty Interventions	\$600.00			53F-5-207	State Board of Education	PKS
46	Partnerships for Student Success	\$207,300.00			53F-5-401-406	State Board of Education	PKX
47	Pupil Transportation Rural School Reimbursement	\$34,100.00			53F-2-402	State Board of Education	POI
48	School Data Collection and Analysis	\$61,300.00			53E-3-511	State Board of Education	POE
49	Supplemental Educational Improvement Matching Grants	\$200.00			53F-5-210	State Board of Education	PKZ
50	ULEAD	\$30,700.00			53E-10-7	State Board of Education	POA
51	Adult Education	\$22,100.00			Title 53E, Chapter 10, Part 2, 53F-2-401, 53F-2-208	State Board of Education	PLD
52	At-Risk Students	\$41,900.00			53F-2-314 ; 53H-4-310	State Board of Education	PLB
53	Beverly Taylor Sorenson Elem. Arts Learning Program	\$0.00		Per Board Motion on 2/5/2026	53F-2-506	State Board of Education	PLF
54	CTE Comprehensive Guidance	\$15,900.00			53F-2-311	State Board of Education	PLA
55	CTE Online Assessments	\$42,600.00				State Board of Education	PLI
56	CTE Student Organizations	\$64,000.00			53E-3-507	State Board of Education	PLK
57	Digital Teaching and Learning	\$40,800.00			53F-2-510	State Board of Education	PLG
58	Dual Immersion	\$35,000.00			53F-2-502	State Board of Education	PLE
59	Early Intervention	\$15,800.00			Utah Code § 53F-2-507	State Board of Education	PLR
60	Early Learning Training and Assessment	\$74,800.00			53E-4-307.5, 53G-7-218	State Board of Education	PLP
61	Early Literacy Program	\$33,800.00			53F-2-503	State Board of Education	PLM
62	Special Education State Programs	\$21,000.00			53F-2-307	State Board of Education	PLH
63	State Safety and Support Program	\$36,500.00			53G-8-802	State Board of Education	PLN
64	Student Health and Counseling Support Program	\$24,200.00			53F-2-415	State Board of Education	PLO
65	Youth-in-Care	\$83,000.00			53E-3-503	State Board of Education	PLC
66	Adult Education	\$1,299,900.00			53F-2-401.	Minimum School Program	PQG
67	Beverly Taylor Sorenson Elem. Arts Learning Program	\$0.00		Per Board Motion on 2/5/2026	53F-2-506	Minimum School Program	PUB
68	Charter School Funding Base Program	\$535,600.00			53F-2-706	Minimum School Program	PUE
69	Charter School Local Replacement	\$17,396,400.00			53F-2-702	Minimum School Program	PQN
70	Concurrent Enrollment	\$1,589,800.00			53E-10-302	Minimum School Program	PQI
71	Digital Teaching and Learning Program	\$1,249,800.00			53F-2-510	Minimum School Program	PUO
72	Dual Immersion	\$535,200.00			53F-2-502	Minimum School Program	PQV
73	Educator Salary Adjustments	\$33,402,900.00			53F-2-405	Minimum School Program	PQR

Public Education Ongoing Reduction Items Plan 2

74	Enhancement for Accelerated Students	\$502,800.00			53F-2-408	Minimum School Program	PQH
75	Flexible Allocation	\$18,177,000.00			53F-2-205	Minimum School Program	PQY
76	Pupil Transportation To & From School	\$9,017,500.00			53F-2-402	Minimum School Program	PQB
77	Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators	\$1,773,100.00			53F-2-504	Minimum School Program	PQR
78	Student Health and Counseling Support Program	\$1,599,000.00			53F-2-415	Minimum School Program	PUV
79	Teacher and Student Success Program	\$15,564,200.00			53G-7-1304	Minimum School Program	PUU
80	Teacher Supplies and Materials	\$374,600.00			53F-2-527	Minimum School Program	PUA
81	Youth-in-Care	\$2,312,900.00			53E-3-503	Minimum School Program	PUF
82	Board Local Levy Program	\$2,414,800.00			53F-2-602	Minimum School Program	PRB
83	Voted Local Levy Program	\$8,629,500.00			53F-2-601	Minimum School Program	PRA
84	Foundation Program	\$1,880,300.00			53F-3-202	School Building Program	PSA
85	Assessment and Accountability	\$1,021,600.00			53E-5-202	State Board of Education	PTC
86	Career and Technical Education	\$176,700.00			53F-2-311	State Board of Education	PTD
87	CTE Catalyst Center	\$17,000.00			53E-3-507.1	State Board of Education	PTJ
88	CTE First Credential for All	\$54,500.00			53E-10-310	State Board of Education	PTK
89	Early Literacy Outcomes Improvement	\$656,800.00			53E-3-1002	State Board of Education	PTH
90	Special Education	\$6,900.00			53F-2-307	State Board of Education	PTF
91	Student Achievement	\$40,900.00			n/a	State Board of Education	PTA
92	Teaching and Learning	\$439,800.00			53E-3-501	State Board of Education	PTB
93	Board and Administration	\$299,400.00			53E-3-301	State Board of Education	PYG
94	Data and Statistics	\$92,400.00			53E-3-511	State Board of Education	PYD
95	Indirect Cost Pool	\$54,000.00			n/a	State Board of Education	PYC
96	Information Technology	\$383,400.00			n/a	State Board of Education	PYB
		\$124,910,300.00		\$0.00			

Presentation: USDB Weighted Average Salary Adjustment (WASA)

Subtitle: Maintaining Market Comparability for Specialized Educators

Date: February 4, 2026

Public Education Appropriations Committee
Utah State Board of Education

Slide 1: The Need for WASA

Addressing the "Specialized Staff" Crisis

- **Unique Credentials:** USDB teachers must hold dual licenses (Special Education + Deaf/Hard of Hearing or Blind/Visually Impaired endorsements).
- **Historical Turnover:** Prior to the WASA mechanism, USDB served as a "training ground" where teachers gained experience and then left for higher-paying local districts.
- **Student Consistency:** Deaf and blind students benefit heavily from long-term teacher-student relationships; turnover directly impacts educational outcomes and IEP compliance.



Slide 2: Risks of Non-Funding/Change in Methodology

Consequences of a Funding Gap

- **Immediate Recruitment Failure:** Highly specialized teachers (some recruited from out-of-state) will choose neighboring districts with higher signing salaries/bonuses.
- **State Employee Percentage increases** are typically lower than district percentage increases to teachers
- **The "Two-Year Lag":** Without the WASA adjustment, USDB salaries may quickly fall behind, as seen in the early 2000s, leading to a "catch-up" cost that is much more expensive than the annual adjustment.
- **Compromised Student Services:** Vacancies lead to larger caseloads, potentially violating federal IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) requirements.



Slide 3: Other Considerations

- WASA is not a "bonus"; it is a **market correction tool**.
- Helps Utah's most vulnerable students are taught by the most qualified experts.
- The statutory formula provides transparency and fiscal accountability to the taxpayers.
- Educator morale implications.

