

Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee: 2026 General Session Increase Options

Ongoing and One-Time Request Items

2026 General Session

Total Increase Requests: \$477,713,900

January 6, 2026 | 8:15

Item#	Funding Item Name	Ongoing	One-Time	FY26 1x	Description	Statute Chg
State Board of Education						
Bd1	Paraprofessional K-3 Grant Program		\$20,000,000		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.	
Bd2	Beverly Taylor Sorenson	\$1,728,000			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.	
Bd3	K-8 Literacy/ Numeracy	\$9,600,000	\$34,300,000		Supports proven instructional strategies to advance student reading and math achievement and promote academic and lifelong success.	
Bd4	USB E Critical FTE Funding Requests	\$3,479,300			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.	
Bd5	Master Pilot Program		\$4,800,000		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.	

The Governor's Budget						
G1	Paraprofessional K-3 Grants		\$60,000,000		Establishes a three-year, statewide K-3 Classroom Excellence Grant Program to provide matching funds for LEAs to hire and train paraprofessionals.	
G2	School Safety Upgrades		\$50,000,000		Provides resources to help LEAs address needs identified through the School Safety Needs Assessment and comply with statutory school safety requirements.	
G3	Small School District Capital Projects Fund		\$50,000,000		Provides matching grants and low-interest loans to support school construction and major renovations in small, rural school districts.	
G4	Paraprofessionals for Elementary Reading Interventions		\$20,000,000		This funding provides paraprofessionals for reading interventions in elementary schools that have not reached the statewide proficiency goal of having 70% or more of third-grade students reading on grade level.	
G5	Reduced-Price School Lunch		\$7,550,700		Utah Code 53F-2-423 requires an LEA participating in the National School Lunch Program to provide lunch to an eligible student at no charge. This funding would reimburse LEAs for the cost to provide free lunch to eligible students for three years.	
G6	Grow Your Own Educator Pipeline		\$7,327,000		continues funding for the Grow Your Own Educator Pipeline Program to support scholarships for school staff pursuing teacher and counselor licensure.	
G7	Technology Renewal		\$6,750,000		N/A	
G8	Promise Partnership Utah		\$5,000,000		Supports Promise Partnership Utah's cross-sector efforts to advance student success through Community Schools, Promise Communities, and systems-level coordination.	
G9	Master Teacher Mentoring Pilot Program		\$4,800,000		Extends the Mentoring and Supporting Teacher Excellence and Refinement Pilot Program for two additional years to build on early positive results and further evaluate its effectiveness.	
G10	Early Mathematics Benchmark Assessment		\$3,600,000		This item provides three years of contract funding to support a required early mathematics assessment. The current contract expires in June 2026.	
G11	Pre-K Investment		\$2,000,000		This funding expands existing support to high-quality Kindergarten readiness programs.	
G12	USDB Teacher Steps and Lanes	\$1,140,800			Funds USDB teacher steps and lanes appropriations for educator salary adjustments in accordance with Utah Code 53E-8-302.	
G13	Video Conferencing Software		\$520,000		N/A	
G14	American Exchange Project		\$500,000		Supports the American Exchange Project, a domestic exchange program that fosters connection, empathy, and civic understanding among graduating high school seniors.	

Legislative Requests for Appropriations						
R1	Utah DOTS Education Infrastructure Partnership		\$30,000,000			Initiative replaces education tools with a unified, state-governed AI infrastructure that supports students, teachers, and families through insights, shared data, and coordinated student support statewide (Rep. Whyte).
R2	Restore One-Time Funding Promised to LEAs to Help Mitigate Loss of School Fees		\$17,768,900	\$17,768,900		Restores funding originally promised to LEAs under HB 415 to mitigate the loss of school fee revenue that was later redirected to the Catalyst Center program (Rep. Miller, T.)
R3	Charter School Base Funding Amendments SB 186	\$15,995,000		\$12,000		Increased charter school base funding, establishes a charter regional service area, and authorizes a study to evaluate and inform future charter funding and service delivery (Sen. Balderree).
R4	School District Funding Amendments SB 189		\$15,000,000			Implementation of a High Growth District Grant Program to support districts experiencing rapid enrollment growth (Sen. Buss).
R5	Early Interactive Software Program (EISP) Grant		\$10,600,000			Supports K-3 literacy by funding computer-based reading programs that have previously improved outcomes, especially for students with low initial reading scores (Sen. Johnson).
R6	School District Division Costs		\$10,551,900	\$10,551,900		Stabilize three new school districts following a division (Rep. Brammer).
R7	Ongoing Funding for School Lunch Program Expansion		\$7,550,000			Makes the school lunch expansion permanent by providing ongoing funding to offer no-cost reduced-price lunches for eligible K-12 students and improve program stability for schools (Rep. Clancy).
R8	Local Food for Schools		\$6,000,000			Funds a formerly federally supported program through USBE to create reliable markets for local producers while improving student access to fresh, healthy, and culturally appropriate food (Sen. Cullimore).
R9	Comprehensive School Improvement Pilot		\$5,000,000			For USBE to administer a pilot grant to a single LEA to implement a comprehensive school improvement program for chronically underperforming schools (Sen. Fillmore).
R10	Grow Your Own – Special Educators		\$5,000,000			Provides targeted grants through the Grow Your Own program to help public schools develop additional special education teachers by supporting licensure for current school staff (Rep. Hall, K.)
R11	Student Credential Account (SCA) Statewide Usage	\$3,800,000				Supports ongoing statewide access to the Student Credential Account system, which helps Utah students connect aptitudes and interests to academic pathways, credentials, and career readiness opportunities (Sen. Owens).
R12	3DE by Junior Achievement: Aligning Education and Industry to Prepare Students for a Changing Economy		\$3,717,400			Funds the launch and expansion of 3DE by Junior Achievement, a high school model that embeds real-world industry case studies into core courses to build durable skills and align education with Utah's workforce needs (Rep. Defay).
R13	Educator Salary Adjustment Eligibility SB 75 s01	\$3,236,600				Includes school nurses in the educator salary adjustment to improve compensation equity and retention (Sen. Musselman).
R14	State Employee Maternity and Leave Amendments HB 329		\$3,000,000			Expand and reimburse optional paid postpartum leave for participating local education agencies (Rep. Defay).
R15	Research supported social health instruction	\$2,600,000				Continues funding for the We Are Friends and We Are Winners social health programs to support social skill development for students in grades K-6 (Sen. Fillmore).
R16	Mentoring and Supporting Teacher Excellence and Refinement Program Amendments HB 146	\$2,400,000				Makes the program's operations ongoing by providing continued funding through (Rep. Pierucci).
R17	Educator Incentives: National Board Certified Teachers	\$1,638,000				Strengthens the National Board Certification salary supplement by increasing incentives, expanding eligibility, and supporting more educators to pursue and retain certification (Rep. Arthur).
R18	Youth Resilience Program	\$1,500,000				Funds a statewide Youth Resilience Program delivering evidence-based afterschool and summer supports for at-risk youth through Boys & Girls Clubs across Utah (Sen. Musselman).
R19	Science of Learning Family Literacy Packs		\$1,500,000			Provides intensive K-2 literacy interventions for students in federally designated CSI and TSI schools to improve early reading outcomes (Rep. Welton).

R20	Research, Writing and Responsible AI Solution		\$1,400,000		Continues funding for Scribble, a statewide online writing and research platform that supports instruction, promotes responsible AI use, and reduces costs through centralized purchasing (Sen. Fillmore).
R21	Course Choice Empowerment Enrollment Growth		\$1,200,000		One-time funding for current enrollment growth and ongoing funding for anticipated enrollment increases (Sen. Johnson).
R22	Education & Leadership Matching Grants		\$1,000,000		Supports education and school leadership programs in economically distressed communities through a fully matched, evidence-based grant focused on improving school climate and student engagement (Rep. Whyte).
R23	Arts Education Funding for Utah Schools	\$828,000	\$900,000		Funding to sustain and expand the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts program, supporting additional schools and part-time arts educators to deliver arts-integrated instruction for K–6 students (Rep. Miller, T.).
R24	Rural Utah Student Initiative	\$660,200			Continues funding for Mission.io to provide rural Utah students and teachers with statewide access to innovative, standards-based STEM and literacy learning experiences (Sen. Hinkins).
R25	Primary and Secondary Education Amendments HB 399	\$580,600	\$770,100		Funds statewide oversight, compliance enforcement, and standards alignment while requiring LEAs to replace noncompliant curriculum and adjust student support systems, with variable local impacts (Rep. Lee).
R26	AP & Other Test Prep	\$500,000			Diagnostic and learning plan test prep software for 7-12 grades, for AP courses, Pre-ACT prep for middle school, and ASVAB for military prep (Rep. Whyte).
R27	Tools for Transforming Classrooms and Behavioral Support		\$300,000		Statewide TBRI practitioner to provide free training and coaching in the Tools for Transformation curriculum to improve student behavior, staff retention, and academic outcomes (Rep. Defay).
R28	Anti-bullying Coalition—stand4kind		\$300,000		School-based training and resources focused on suicide awareness, mental health, positive behavior supports, classroom management, and anti-bullying (Sen. Fillmore).
R29	Education Reimbursement for Critically Ill Children	\$250,000			State reimbursement for educational services delivered to critically ill children during inpatient or extended medical care, addressing current cost-shifting to health providers (Rep. Pitcher).
R30	K-12 Durable Skills Education Initiative		\$200,000		Statewide K–12 character and durable skills development through educator training and student outreach using the L.E.A.D. framework (Rep. Thompson).
R31	ParentABLE Utah Statewide Expansion		\$133,600		Statewide expansion of the ParentABLE program to teach evidence-based parenting, resilience, and healthy caregiving skills to students in grades 8–12 (Rep. Pitcher).
R32	United We Pledge, Give Me Liberty Program	\$100,000			Supports the Give Me Liberty program, which enhances civics education through hands-on, standards-aligned instruction in grades 5, 8, and 12 (Sen. Johnson).
R33	Murray Partners 4 Prevention Coalition		\$95,000		Community-based, evidence-based prevention efforts to reduce youth problem behaviors and strengthen protective factors for Murray youth and families (Rep. Dominguez).
R34	Mis Raices Foundation of Allan Moreno		\$90,000		Expanded access to culturally relevant music education for underserved youth through after-school and community-based instruction (Rep. Dominguez).
R35	Suicide Prevention Grant Awards	\$75,000			Expands the USBE Suicide Prevention program by funding additional school grants to support tailored suicide prevention strategies (Rep. Eliason).
R36	Special Needs Educational Assemblies		\$20,000		Interactive school assemblies that promote empathy, inclusion, and disability awareness for elementary students statewide (Rep. Cutler).
R37	The Privilege Classroom Pilot Program	\$15,000			Pilot testing and validation of an online training model focused on privilege-based behavior approaches across grade levels (Sen. Buss).
R38	GREAT SALT LAKE S.O.S.		\$10,000		Funds a performance video of Great Salt Lake S.O.S. for use by Utah schools and homeschool groups to help students advocate for the Great Salt Lake (Rep. Dominguez).
Ongoing & One-time Totals:		\$50,126,500	\$399,254,600	\$28,332,800	
Total Increase Requests:		\$477,713,900			