

**Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee: Chair Recommended Increases**

Ongoing and One-Time Request Items

2026 General Session

Total Prioritized Increase Requests: \$192,090,100

Feb. 9, 2026

Priority	Item#	Funding Item Name	Ongoing	One-Time	FY26 1x	Description
1	Bd1	Early Literacy - Paraprofessionals K-3 Grants (SB 241)	\$16,000,000			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 (Sen. Millner).
2	S2	At-Risk Students	\$25,000,000			Increase the WPU weightings for At-risk students per statute 53F-2-314.
3	R3	Charter School Base Funding Amendments SB 186	\$3,600,000	\$2,570,000		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).
4	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).
5	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).
6	H1	USDB Enrichment Program Correction		\$4,800,000		Correction of prior year expenditures between USDB Enrichment programs.
7	R2	Restore One-Time Funding Promised to LEAs to Help Mitigate Loss of School Fees			\$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.).
8	R1	Utah DOTS Education Infrastructure Partnership		\$15,000,000		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).
9	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.).
10	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).
11	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).
12	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).
13	H3	Rural School Bus Connectivity		\$338,000		HB 462: would allow installation and operation of internet connectivity systems on school buses in districts in counties in the 4th-6th classes (Rep. Auxier).
14	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).
15	R4	School District Funding Amendments SB 189		\$15,000,000		Creates a loan fund for the implementation of a High Growth District Grant Program to support districts experiencing rapid enrollment growth (Sen. Buss).

16	R20	Research, Writing and Responsible AI Solution		\$1,400,000		Continues funding for Scrible, a statewide online writing and research platform that supports instruction, promotes responsible AI use, and reduces costs through centralized purchasing (Sen. Fillmore).
17	H2	APEX (Applied Professional Education Experience)/Catalyst Center		\$35,000,000		Catalyst Centers renamed to APEX provides additional funding for grants in FY 2027.
18	S1	Open Ed Resources		\$12,000,000		SB 119: Would provide \$12 million each year for five years to develop open educational resources aligned with Utah core standards for LEAs (Sen. Fillmore).
19	Bd3	Grades 4-8: Literacy and Numeracy Interventions	\$9,600,000			Supports proven instructional strategies to advance student reading and math achievement and promote academic and lifelong success.
20	R6	School District Division Costs		\$5,279,000		Stabilize three new school districts following a division (Sen. Brammer).
21	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. Owens).
22	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).
23	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).
24	R15	Research supported social health instruction	\$1,300,000			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).
25	R36	Special Needs Educational Assemblies		\$20,000		Interactive school assemblies that promote empathy, inclusion, and disability awareness for elementary students statewide (Rep. Cutler).
26	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).
27	R9	Comprehensive School Improvement Pilot		\$3,000,000		For USBE to administer a pilot grant to a single LEA to implement a comprehensive school improvement program for chronically underperforming schools (Sen. Fillmore).
28	R8	Local Food for Schools		\$2,000,000		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).
29	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).
<b>Prioritized Ongoing &amp; One-time Totals:</b>			<b>\$ 62,596,800</b>	<b>\$ 111,724,400</b>	<b>\$ 17,768,900</b>	
<b>Priority Total Increase:</b>			<b>\$192,090,100</b>			