

1                   **GRANTS FOR EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

2                                   2016 GENERAL SESSION

3                                   STATE OF UTAH

4                   **Chief Sponsor: Bradley G. Last**

5                                   Senate Sponsor: Ann Millner

---

---

7   **LONG TITLE**

8   **Committee Note:**

9           The Education Interim Committee recommended this bill.

10 **General Description:**

11           This bill requires the State Board of Education to establish a professional learning grant  
12 program.

13 **Highlighted Provisions:**

14           This bill:

- 15           ▶ defines terms;
- 16           ▶ requires the State Board of Education to make rules to establish a professional  
17 learning grant program;
- 18           ▶ provides requirements for the professional learning grant program; and
- 19           ▶ makes technical changes.

20 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

21           This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2017:

- 22           ▶ to State Board of Education -- Minimum School Program -- Related to Basic School  
23 Program as an ongoing appropriation:
  - 24           • from the Education Fund, \$30,000,000.

25 **Other Special Clauses:**

26           None

27 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**



28 AMENDS:

29 **53A-1-710**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 446

30 **53A-17a-162**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 12

31 ENACTS:

32 **53A-15-1701**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

33 **53A-15-1702**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

34 **53A-15-1704**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

35 RENUMBERS AND AMENDS:

36 **53A-15-1703**, (Renumbered from 53A-3-701, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015,  
37 Chapter 415)

38 REPEALS:

39 **53A-17a-124**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 346



41 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

42 Section 1. Section **53A-1-710** is amended to read:

43 **53A-1-710. Digital teaching and learning program task force -- Funding proposal**  
44 **for a program -- Master plan -- Reporting requirements.**

45 (1) As used in this section:

46 (a) "Board" means the State Board of Education.

47 (b) "Core subject areas" means the following subject areas:

48 (i) English language arts;

49 (ii) mathematics;

50 (iii) science; and

51 (iv) social studies.

52 (c) "[~~High-quality~~] Effective professional learning" means the professional learning  
53 standards described in Section [~~53A-3-701~~] 53A-15-1703.

54 (d) "LEA plan" means an LEA's plan to implement a digital teaching and learning  
55 program that meets requirements set by the board.

56 (e) "Local education agency" or "LEA" means:

57 (i) a school district;

58 (ii) a charter school; or

59 (iii) the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

60 (f) "Statewide assessment" means a test of student achievement in English language  
61 arts, mathematics, or science, including a test administered in a computer adaptive format,  
62 which is administered statewide under Part 6, Achievement Tests.

63 (g) "Utah Education and Telehealth Network" or "UETN" means the Utah Education  
64 and Telehealth Network created in Section 53B-17-105.

65 (2) (a) The board shall establish a digital teaching and learning task force to develop a  
66 funding proposal to present to the Legislature for digital teaching and learning in elementary  
67 and secondary schools.

68 (b) The digital teaching and learning task force shall include representatives of:

69 (i) the board;

70 (ii) UETN;

71 (iii) LEAs; and

72 (iv) the Governor's Education Excellence Commission.

73 (3) (a) The board, in consultation with the digital teaching and learning task force  
74 created in Subsection (2), shall create a funding proposal for a statewide digital teaching and  
75 learning program designed to:

76 (i) improve student outcomes through the use of digital teaching and learning  
77 technology; and

78 (ii) provide ~~high-quality~~ effective professional learning for educators to improve  
79 student outcomes through the use of digital teaching and learning technology.

80 (b) The board shall:

81 (i) identify outcome based metrics to measure student achievement related to a digital  
82 teaching and learning program; and

83 (ii) develop minimum benchmark standards for student achievement and school level  
84 outcomes to measure successful implementation of a digital teaching and learning program.

85 (4) As funding allows, the board shall develop a master plan for a statewide digital  
86 teaching and learning program, including the following:

87 (a) a statement of purpose that describes the objectives or goals the board will  
88 accomplish by implementing a digital teaching and learning program;

89 (b) a forecast for fundamental components needed to implement a digital teaching and

90 learning program, including a forecast for:

- 91 (i) student and teacher devices;
- 92 (ii) Wi-Fi and wireless compatible technology;
- 93 (iii) curriculum software;
- 94 (iv) assessment solutions;
- 95 (v) technical support;
- 96 (vi) change management of LEAs;
- 97 (vii) [~~high-quality~~] effective professional learning;
- 98 (viii) Internet delivery and capacity; and
- 99 (ix) security and privacy of users;

100 (c) a determination of the requirements for:

- 101 (i) statewide technology infrastructure; and
- 102 (ii) local LEA technology infrastructure;

103 (d) standards for [~~high-quality~~] effective professional learning related to implementing  
104 and maintaining a digital teaching and learning program;

105 (e) a statewide technical support plan that will guide the implementation and  
106 maintenance of a digital teaching and learning program, including standards and competency  
107 requirements for technical support personnel;

108 (f) (i) a grant program for LEAs; or

109 (ii) a distribution formula to fund LEA digital teaching and learning programs;

110 (g) in consultation with UETN, an inventory of the state public education system's  
111 current technology resources and other items and a plan to integrate those resources into a  
112 digital teaching and learning program;

113 (h) an ongoing evaluation process that is overseen by the board;

114 (i) proposed rules that incorporate the principles of the master plan into the state's  
115 public education system as a whole; and

116 (j) a plan to ensure long-term sustainability that:

117 (i) accounts for the financial impacts of a digital teaching and learning program; and

118 (ii) facilitates the redirection of LEA savings that arise from implementing a digital  
119 teaching and learning program.

120 (5) UETN shall:

121 (a) in consultation with the board, conduct an inventory of the state public education  
 122 system's current technology resources and other items as determined by UETN, including  
 123 software;

124 (b) perform an engineering study to determine the technology infrastructure needs of  
 125 the public education system to implement a digital teaching and learning program, including  
 126 the infrastructure needed for the board, UETN, and LEAs; and

127 (c) as funding allows, provide infrastructure and technology support for school districts  
 128 and charter schools.

129 (6) On or before December 1, 2015, the board and UETN shall present the funding  
 130 proposal for a statewide digital teaching and learning program described in Subsection (3) to  
 131 the Education Interim Committee and the Executive Appropriations Committee, including:

132 (a) the board's progress on the development of a master plan described in Subsection  
 133 (4); and

134 (b) the progress of UETN on the inventory and study described in Subsection (5).

135 Section 2. Section **53A-15-1701** is enacted to read:

136 **Part 17. Educator Professional Learning**

137 **53A-15-1701. Title.**

138 This part is known as "Educator Professional Learning."

139 Section 3. Section **53A-15-1702** is enacted to read:

140 **53A-15-1702. Definitions.**

141 As used in this part:

142 (1) "Board" means the State Board of Education established in Section [53A-1-101](#).

143 (2) "Local education agency" or "LEA" means:

144 (a) a school district;

145 (b) a charter school; or

146 (c) the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

147 (3) "Professional learning" means a comprehensive, sustained, and evidence-based  
 148 approach to improving teachers' and principals' effectiveness in raising student achievement.

149 Section 4. Section **53A-15-1703**, which is renumbered from Section 53A-3-701 is  
 150 renumbered and amended to read:

151 ~~**53A-3-701.**~~ **53A-15-1703. Professional learning standards.**

152           ~~[(1) As used in this section, "professional learning" means a comprehensive, sustained,~~  
153 ~~and evidence-based approach to improving teachers' and principals' effectiveness in raising~~  
154 ~~student achievement.]~~

155           ~~[(2)]~~ (1) A school district or charter school shall implement ~~[high quality]~~ effective  
156 professional learning that meets the following standards:

157           (a) professional learning occurs within learning communities committed to continuous  
158 improvement, individual and collective responsibility, and goal alignment;

159           (b) professional learning requires skillful leaders who develop capacity, advocate, and  
160 create support systems, for professional learning;

161           (c) professional learning requires prioritizing, monitoring, and coordinating resources  
162 for educator learning;

163           (d) professional learning uses a variety of sources and types of student, educator, and  
164 system data to plan, assess, and evaluate professional learning;

165           (e) professional learning integrates theories, research, and models of human learning to  
166 achieve its intended outcomes;

167           (f) professional learning applies research on change and sustains support for  
168 implementation of professional learning for long-term change;

169           (g) professional learning aligns its outcomes with:

170           (i) performance standards for teachers and school administrators as described in rules  
171 of the ~~[State Board of Education]~~ board; and

172           (ii) performance standards for students as described in the core standards for Utah  
173 public schools adopted by the ~~[State Board of Education]~~ board pursuant to Section  
174 [53A-1-402.6](#); and

175           (h) professional learning:

176           (i) incorporates the use of technology in the design, implementation, and evaluation of  
177 ~~[high quality]~~ effective professional learning practices; and

178           (ii) includes targeted professional learning on the use of technology devices to enhance  
179 the teaching and learning environment and the integration of technology in content delivery.

180           ~~[(3)]~~ (2) School districts and charter schools shall use money appropriated by the  
181 Legislature for professional learning or federal grant money awarded for professional learning  
182 to implement professional learning that meets the standards specified in Subsection ~~[(2)]~~ (1).

183           ~~[(4)]~~ (3) (a) In the fall of 2014, the ~~[State Board of Education]~~ board, through the state  
 184 superintendent of public instruction, and in collaboration with an independent consultant  
 185 acquired through a competitive bid process, shall conduct a statewide survey of school districts  
 186 and charter schools to:

187           (i) determine the current state of professional learning for educators as aligned with the  
 188 standards specified in Subsection ~~[(2)]~~ (1);

189           (ii) determine the effectiveness of current professional learning practices; and

190           (iii) identify resources to implement professional learning as described in Subsection  
 191 ~~[(2)]~~ (1).

192           (b) The ~~[State Board of Education]~~ board shall select a consultant from bidders who  
 193 have demonstrated successful experience in conducting a statewide analysis of professional  
 194 learning.

195           (c) (i) Annually in the fall, beginning in 2015 through 2020, the ~~[State Board of~~  
 196 ~~Education]~~ board, through the state superintendent of public instruction, in conjunction with  
 197 school districts and charter schools, shall gather and use data to determine the impact of  
 198 professional learning efforts and resources.

199           (ii) Data used to determine the impact of professional learning efforts and resources  
 200 under Subsection ~~[(4)]~~ (3)(c)(i) shall include:

201           (A) student achievement data;

202           (B) educator evaluation data; and

203           (C) survey data.

204           Section 5. Section **53A-15-1704** is enacted to read:

205           **53A-15-1704. Professional learning grant program.**

206           (1) In accordance with this section and Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative  
 207 Rulemaking Act, the board shall make rules to establish a qualifying professional learning  
 208 grant program.

209           (2) To request a professional learning grant, an LEA shall prepare a professional  
 210 learning plan that:

211           (a) outlines the LEA's professional learning goals and demonstrates how the LEA will  
 212 support the goals over time through:

213           (i) the use of a learning community described in Section [53A-15-1703](#); and

214 (ii) other methods;  
215 (b) describes the LEA's targeted outcomes, based on the LEA's:  
216 (i) analysis of student data; and  
217 (ii) evaluation of educator knowledge and skills;  
218 (c) integrates the professional learning standards described in Section [53A-15-1703](#);  
219 (d) includes an evaluation method to optimize effectiveness that:  
220 (i) measures student growth;  
221 (ii) requires observation of educator practice; and  
222 (iii) includes educator feedback;  
223 (e) is developed in collaboration with teachers, principals, and other educators; and  
224 (f) incorporates a strategy for compensation, where appropriate, of professional  
225 learning participants.

226 (3) An LEA shall submit a professional learning plan described in Subsection (2) to the  
227 board on or before July 1 immediately preceding the school year for which the LEA is seeking  
228 funding.

229 (4) In accordance with Subsection (5), the board shall determine:  
230 (a) procedures for approving an LEA professional learning plan;  
231 (b) qualifying criteria for an LEA to receive a grant; and  
232 (c) a distribution formula to award a grant that funds an LEA's approved professional  
233 learning plan.

234 (5) The board shall award a grant to fund an LEA learning plan if the plan meets the  
235 qualifying criteria described in Subsection (4)(b) and prioritizes the following objectives, as  
236 applicable, based on student data:

237 (a) improved mathematics instruction, particularly for grades 4 through 8;  
238 (b) reading intervention for secondary students;  
239 (c) improved data collection and analysis;  
240 (d) providing quality feedback on educator instruction;  
241 (e) multi-tiered systems of support for a student who:  
242 (i) is learning English;  
243 (ii) needs accommodations as described in an individualized education program  
244 prepared in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec.



245 1400 et seq.; or

246 (iii) requires accelerated learning strategies; and

247 (f) use of a learning community that:

248 (i) collaborates to focus on student learning;

249 (ii) identifies and prioritizes essential skills within curriculum;

250 (iii) improves formative assessment data analysis and reporting;

251 (iv) provides targeted interventions and timely extension opportunities; and

252 (v) supports school leaders to provide quality feedback on:

253 (A) classroom instruction;

254 (B) student learning; and

255 (C) learning community performance.

256 (6) On or before June 1 of the school year for which an LEA received a grant described

257 in this section, the LEA shall submit a report to the board that provides student and educator

258 data analyzed to show the effectiveness of the LEA's professional learning plan.

259 (7) On or before December 1 of each year, the board shall report to the Education

260 Interim Committee regarding:

261 (a) the results of the professional learning grant program, based on:

262 (i) student achievement data;

263 (ii) educator evaluation data; and

264 (iii) survey data; and

265 (b) statewide improvement in professional learning practices based on the professional

266 learning standards described in Section [53A-15-1703](#).

267 Section 6. Section **53A-17a-162** is amended to read:

268 **53A-17a-162. Beverley Taylor Sorenson Elementary Arts Learning Program.**

269 (1) As used in this section:

270 (a) "Endowed chair" means a person who holds an endowed position or administrator  
271 of an endowed program for the purpose of arts and integrated arts instruction at an endowed  
272 university.

273 (b) "Endowed university" means an institution of higher education in the state that:

274 (i) awards elementary education degrees in arts instruction;

275 (ii) has received a major philanthropic donation for the purpose of arts and integrated

276 arts instruction; and

277 (iii) has created an endowed position as a result of a donation described in Subsection  
278 (1)(b)(ii).

279 (c) "Integrated arts advocate" means a person who:

280 (i) advocates for arts and integrated arts instruction in the state; and

281 (ii) coordinates with an endowed chair pursuant to the agreement creating the endowed  
282 chair.

283 (d) "Local education agency" or "LEA" means:

284 (i) a school district;

285 (ii) a charter school; or

286 (iii) the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

287 (2) The Legislature finds that a strategic placement of arts in elementary education can  
288 impact the critical thinking of students in other core subject areas, including mathematics,  
289 reading, and science.

290 (3) The Beverley Taylor Sorenson Elementary Arts Learning Program is created to  
291 enhance the social, emotional, academic, and arts learning of students in kindergarten through  
292 grade six by integrating arts teaching and learning into core subject areas and providing  
293 professional development for positions that support elementary arts and integrated arts  
294 education.

295 (4) From money appropriated for the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Elementary Arts  
296 Learning Program, and subject to Subsection (5), the State Board of Education shall, after  
297 consulting with endowed chairs and the integrated arts advocate and receiving their  
298 recommendations, administer a grant program to enable LEAs to:

299 (a) hire highly qualified arts specialists, art coordinators, and other positions that  
300 support arts education and arts integration;

301 (b) provide up to \$10,000 in one-time funds for each new school arts specialist  
302 described under Subsection (4)(a) to purchase supplies and equipment; and

303 (c) engage in other activities that improve the quantity and quality of integrated arts  
304 education.

305 (5) (a) An LEA that receives a grant under Subsection (4) shall provide matching funds  
306 of no less than 20% of the grant amount, including no less than 20% of the grant amount for

307 actual salary and benefit costs per full-time equivalent position funded under Subsection (4)(a).

308 (b) An LEA may not:

309 (i) include administrative, facility, or capital costs to provide the matching funds  
310 required under Subsection (5)(a); or

311 (ii) use funds from the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Elementary Arts Learning Program to  
312 supplant funds for existing programs.

313 (6) An LEA that receives a grant under this section shall partner with an endowed chair  
314 to provide professional development in integrated elementary arts education.

315 (7) From money appropriated for the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Elementary Arts  
316 Learning Program, the State Board of Education shall administer a grant program to fund  
317 activities within arts and the integrated arts programs at an endowed university in the college  
318 where the endowed chair resides to:

319 (a) provide [~~high-quality~~] effective professional development in elementary integrated  
320 arts education in accordance with the professional learning standards in Section [~~53A-3-701~~]  
321 [53A-15-1703](#) to LEAs that receive a grant under Subsection (4);

322 (b) design and conduct research on:

323 (i) elementary integrated arts education and instruction;

324 (ii) implementation and evaluation of the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Elementary Arts  
325 Learning Program; and

326 (iii) effectiveness of the professional development under Subsection (7)(a); and

327 (c) provide the public with integrated elementary arts education resources.

328 (8) The State Board of Education shall:

329 (a) make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative  
330 Rulemaking Act, to administer the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Elementary Arts Learning  
331 Program; and

332 (b) after consultation with endowed chairs and the integrated arts advocate, submit an  
333 annual written report to the Education Interim Committee describing the program's impact on  
334 students in kindergarten through grade six.

335 Section 7. **Repealer.**

336 This bill repeals:

337 Section [53A-17a-124](#), **Quality Teaching Block Grant Program -- State**

338 **contributions.**

339 Section 8. **Appropriation.**

340 Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, for  
341 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2017, the following sums of money  
342 are appropriated from resources not otherwise appropriated, or reduced from amounts  
343 previously appropriated, out of the funds or accounts indicated. These sums of money are in  
344 addition to any amounts previously appropriated for fiscal year 2017.

345 To State Board of Education Minimum School Program -- Related to

346 Basic School Program

347 From Education Fund

\$30,000,000

348 Schedule of Programs:

349 Professional Learning Grant Program

\$30,000,000

350 The Legislature intends that the State Board of Education use the appropriation for the  
351 professional learning grant program described in Section [53A-15-1704](#).

---

---

**Legislative Review Note**  
**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**