

**Senator J. Stuart Adams** proposes the following substitute bill:

**UPSTART PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

2018 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: J. Stuart Adams**

House Sponsor: Bradley G. Last

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill amends provisions related to a contract for a home-based educational technology program.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

▶ permits the State Board of Education to issue a request for proposals and enter into a contract for a two-year pilot of a home-based educational technology program;

and

▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**53F-4-402**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 2

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



26 Section 1. Section 53F-4-402 is amended to read:

27 **53F-4-402. UPSTART program to develop school readiness skills of preschool**  
28 **children.**

29 (1) UPSTART, a project that uses a home-based educational technology program to  
30 develop school readiness skills of preschool children, is established within the public education  
31 system.

32 (2) UPSTART is created to:

33 (a) evaluate the effectiveness of giving preschool children access, at home, to  
34 interactive individualized instruction delivered by computers and the Internet to prepare them  
35 academically for success in school; and

36 (b) test the feasibility of scaling a home-based curriculum in reading, math, and science  
37 delivered by computers and the Internet to all preschool children in Utah.

38 (3) (a) The State Board of Education shall contract with an educational technology  
39 provider, selected through a request for proposals process, for the delivery of a home-based  
40 educational technology program for preschool children that meets the requirements of  
41 Subsection (4).

42 (b) (i) The State Board of Education ~~shall~~ may, on or before July 1, 2019, issue a  
43 request for proposals for two-year pilot proposals from, and enter into a contract with, one or  
44 more educational technology providers that do not have an existing contract under this part  
45 with the state for the delivery of a home-based educational technology program for preschool  
46 children that meets the requirements of Subsection (4).

47 (ii) ~~[After the two-year pilots]~~ If the State Board of Education enters into a contract for  
48 a two-year pilot as described in Subsection (3)(b)(i), the State Board of Education may enter  
49 into a contract with one or more educational technology providers that have participated in a  
50 Utah pilot.

51 (c) Every five years after July 1, 2021, the State Board of Education may issue a new  
52 request for proposals described in this section.

53 (4) A home-based educational technology program for preschool children shall meet  
54 the following standards:

55 (a) the contractor shall provide computer-assisted instruction for preschool children on  
56 a home computer connected by the Internet to a centralized file storage facility;

- 57 (b) the contractor shall:
- 58 (i) provide technical support to families for the installation and operation of the
- 59 instructional software; and
- 60 (ii) provide for the installation of computer and Internet access in homes of low income
- 61 families that cannot afford the equipment and service;
- 62 (c) the contractor shall have the capability of doing the following through the Internet:
- 63 (i) communicating with parents;
- 64 (ii) updating the instructional software;
- 65 (iii) validating user access;
- 66 (iv) collecting usage data;
- 67 (v) storing research data; and
- 68 (vi) producing reports for parents, schools, and the Legislature;
- 69 (d) the program shall include the following components:
- 70 (i) computer-assisted, individualized instruction in reading, mathematics, and science;
- 71 (ii) a multisensory reading tutoring program; and
- 72 (iii) a validated computer adaptive reading test that does not require the presence of
- 73 trained adults to administer and is an accurate indicator of reading readiness of children who
- 74 cannot read;
- 75 (e) the contractor shall have the capability to quickly and efficiently modify, improve,
- 76 and support the product;
- 77 (f) the contractor shall work in cooperation with school district personnel who will
- 78 provide administrative and technical support of the program as provided in Section [53F-4-403](#);
- 79 (g) the contractor shall solicit families to participate in the program as provided in
- 80 Section [53F-4-404](#); and
- 81 (h) in implementing the home-based educational technology program, the contractor
- 82 shall seek the advise and expertise of early childhood education professionals within the Utah
- 83 System of Higher Education on issues such as:
- 84 (i) soliciting families to participate in the program;
- 85 (ii) providing training to families; and
- 86 (iii) motivating families to regularly use the instructional software.
- 87 (5) (a) The contract shall provide funding for a home-based educational technology

88 program for preschool children, subject to the appropriation of money by the Legislature for  
89 UPSTART.

90 (b) An appropriation for a request for proposals described in Subsection (3)(b)(i) shall  
91 be separate from an appropriation described in Subsection (5)(a).

92 (6) The State Board of Education shall evaluate a proposal based on:

93 (a) whether the home-based educational technology program meets the standards  
94 specified in Subsection (4);

95 (b) the results of an independent evaluation of the home-based educational technology  
96 program;

97 (c) the experience of the home-based educational technology program provider; and

98 (d) the per pupil cost of the home-based educational technology program.