

1 **FUNDING FOR NECESSARILY EXISTENT SMALL**
2 **SCHOOLS AND RURAL SCHOOLS AMENDMENTS**

3 2020 GENERAL SESSION

4 STATE OF UTAH

5 **Chief Sponsor: Derrin R. Owens**

6 Senate Sponsor: _____

8 **LONG TITLE**

9 **General Description:**

10 This bill amends provisions related to formulas for funding for necessarily existent
11 small schools and creates a process to reimburse rural schools for expenses related to
12 extracurricular activities.

13 **Highlighted Provisions:**

14 This bill:

- 15 ▶ defines terms;
- 16 ▶ amends provisions related to formulas for funding for necessarily existent small
- 17 schools;
- 18 ▶ creates a process to reimburse rural schools for expenses related to extracurricular
- 19 activities approved by the State Board of Education; and
- 20 ▶ makes technical changes.

21 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

22 None

23 **Other Special Clauses:**

24 None

25 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

26 AMENDS:

27 **53F-2-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 186



28 **53F-2-304**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 186

29 ENACTS:

30 **53F-5-214**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

31

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

33 Section 1. Section **53F-2-102** is amended to read:

34 **53F-2-102. Definitions.**

35 As used in this chapter:

36 (1) "Basic state-supported school program," "basic program," or "basic school
37 program" means public education programs for kindergarten, elementary, and secondary school
38 students that are operated and maintained for the amount derived by multiplying the number of
39 weighted pupil units for each school district or charter school by the value established each
40 year in the enacted public education budget, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

41 (2) "LEA governing board" means a local school board or charter school governing
42 board.

43 (3) "Pupil in average daily membership [~~ADM~~]" or "ADM" means a full-day
44 equivalent pupil.

45 (4) (a) "Minimum School Program" means the state-supported public school programs
46 for kindergarten, elementary, and secondary schools as described in this Subsection (4).

47 (b) The Minimum School Program established in school districts and charter schools
48 shall include the equivalent of a school term of nine months as determined by the state board.

49 (c) (i) The state board shall establish the number of days or equivalent instructional
50 hours that school is held for an academic school year.

51 (ii) Education, enhanced by utilization of technologically enriched delivery systems,
52 when approved by an LEA governing board, shall receive full support by the state board as it
53 pertains to fulfilling the attendance requirements, excluding time spent viewing commercial
54 advertising.

55 (d) (i) An LEA governing board may reallocate up to 32 instructional hours or four
56 school days established under Subsection (4)(c) for teacher preparation time or teacher
57 professional development.

58 (ii) A reallocation of instructional hours or school days under Subsection (4)(d)(i) is

59 subject to the approval of two-thirds of the members of an LEA governing board voting in a
60 regularly scheduled meeting:

61 (A) at which a quorum of the LEA governing board is present; and

62 (B) held in compliance with Title 52, Chapter 4, Open and Public Meetings Act.

63 (iii) If an LEA governing board reallocates instructional hours or school days as
64 provided by this Subsection (4)(d), the school district or charter school shall notify students'
65 parents of the school calendar at least 90 days before the beginning of the school year.

66 (iv) Instructional hours or school days reallocated for teacher preparation time or
67 teacher professional development pursuant to this Subsection (4)(d) is considered part of a
68 school term referred to in Subsection (4)(b).

69 (e) The Minimum School Program includes a program or allocation funded by a line
70 item appropriation or other appropriation designated as follows:

71 (i) Basic School Program;

72 (ii) Related to Basic Programs;

73 (iii) Voted and Board Levy Programs; or

74 (iv) Minimum School Program.

75 (5) "Weighted pupil unit or units or WPU or WPU's" means the unit of measure of
76 factors that is computed in accordance with this chapter for the purpose of determining the
77 costs of a program on a uniform basis for each school district or charter school.

78 Section 2. Section **53F-2-304** is amended to read:

79 **53F-2-304. Necessarily existent small schools -- Computing additional weighted**
80 **pupil units -- Consolidation of small schools.**

81 (1) As used in this section, "necessarily existent small schools funding balance" means
82 the difference between:

83 (a) the amount appropriated for the necessarily existent small schools program in a
84 fiscal year; and

85 (b) the amount distributed to school districts for the necessarily existent small schools
86 program in the same fiscal year.

87 (2) (a) Upon application by a local school board, the state board shall, in consultation
88 with the local school board, classify schools in the school district as necessarily existent small
89 schools, in accordance with this section and state board rules adopted under Subsection (3).

90 (b) An application must be submitted to the state board before April 2, and the state
91 board must report a decision to a local school board before June 2.

92 (3) The state board shall adopt standards and make rules to:

93 (a) govern the approval of necessarily existent small schools consistent with principles
94 of efficiency and economy that serve the purpose of eliminating schools where consolidation is
95 feasible by participation in special school units; and

96 (b) ensure that school districts are not building secondary schools in close proximity to
97 one another where economy and efficiency would be better served by one school meeting the
98 needs of secondary students in a designated geographical area.

99 [~~(4)~~] ~~A one or two-year secondary school that has received necessarily existent small~~
100 ~~school money under this section prior to July 1, 2000, may continue to receive such money in~~
101 ~~subsequent years.]~~

102 [(5)] (4) The state board shall prepare and publish objective standards and guidelines
103 for determining which small schools are necessarily existent after consultation with local
104 school boards.

105 [(6)] (5) (a) Additional weighted pupil units for schools classified as necessarily
106 existent small schools shall be computed using [~~regression~~] distribution formulas adopted by
107 the state board.

108 (b) The [~~regression~~] distribution formulas establish the following maximum sizes for
109 funding under the necessarily existent small school program:

- 110 (i) an elementary school 160
- 111 (ii) a one or two-year secondary school 300
- 112 (iii) a three-year secondary school 450
- 113 (iv) a four-year secondary school 500
- 114 (v) a six-year secondary school 600

115 (c) [~~Schools~~] An elementary school with fewer than 10 students shall receive the same
116 add-on weighted pupil units as [~~schools~~] an elementary school with 10 students.

117 (d) A secondary school with fewer than 15 students shall receive the same add-on
118 weighted pupil units as a secondary school with 15 students.

119 (e) If a necessarily existent small school generates ADM in both elementary and
120 secondary grades, the state board may divide the school's ADM between an elementary and

121 secondary distribution formula.

122 [~~(f)~~] (f) The state board shall prepare and distribute an allocation table based on the
123 [~~regression~~] distribution formula to each school district.

124 [~~(7)~~] (6) (a) To avoid penalizing a school district financially for consolidating the
125 school district's small schools, additional weighted pupil units may be allowed a school district
126 each year, not to exceed two years.

127 (b) The additional weighted pupil units may not exceed the difference between what
128 the school district receives for a consolidated school and what the school district would have
129 received for the small schools had the small schools not been consolidated.

130 [~~(8)~~] (7) Subject to legislative appropriation, the state board shall give first priority
131 from an appropriation made under this section to funding an expense approved by the state
132 board as described in Subsection 53G-6-305(3)(a).

133 [~~(9)~~] (8) (a) Subject to Subsection [~~(9)~~] (8)(b) and after a distribution made under
134 Subsection [~~(8)~~] (7), the state board may distribute a portion of necessarily existent small
135 schools funding:

136 (i) in accordance with a formula adopted by the state board that considers the tax effort
137 of a local school board[-]; or

138 (ii) to isolated small schools, as identified by the state board.

139 (b) The amount distributed in accordance with Subsection [~~(9)~~] (8)(a) may not exceed
140 the necessarily existent small schools fund in balance of the prior fiscal year.

141 [~~(10)~~] (9) A local school board may use the money allocated under this section for
142 maintenance and operation of school programs or for other school purposes as approved by the
143 state board.

144 Section 3. Section 53F-5-214 is enacted to read:

145 **53F-5-214. Rural school extracurricular activities reimbursement.**

146 (1) As used in this section:

147 (a) "Approved extracurricular activity" means an extracurricular activity as that term is
148 defined in Section 53G-7-501, that is approved by the state board in accordance with this
149 section.

150 (b) "Eligible LEA" means an LEA in a county of the fourth, fifth, or sixth class, as
151 defined in Section 17-50-501.

152 (c) "LEA governing board" means:
153 (i) the local school board of a school district that is an eligible LEA; or
154 (ii) the charter school governing board of a charter school that is an eligible LEA.
155 (2) (a) An LEA governing board may annually submit a request to the state board to
156 receive reimbursement for an expense related to an approved extracurricular activity incurred
157 by the eligible LEA, including transportation expenses.

158 (b) The state board may approve a request for reimbursement in accordance with
159 criteria established by the state board under Subsection (4).

160 (3) (a) Subject to appropriations of the Legislature for this purpose, and except as
161 provided in Subsection (3)(b), the state board shall reimburse an eligible LEA for expenses
162 related to an approved extracurricular activity in accordance with this section and rules made
163 by the state board under Subsection (4).

164 (b) If the appropriation of the Legislature for this section is insufficient to reimburse an
165 expense in a request received under Subsection (2), the state board may reduce an eligible
166 LEA's reimbursement in accordance with rules made by the state board under Subsection (4).

167 (4) The state board shall make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
168 Administrative Rulemaking Act, that establish:

169 (a) an approved extracurricular activity;

170 (b) requirements for information an LEA governing board shall submit in a request
171 described in Subsection (2);

172 (c) a deadline by which an LEA governing board shall submit a request described in
173 Subsection (2);

174 (d) criteria for approving a request for reimbursement;

175 (e) a formula for reducing an eligible LEA's reimbursement under Subsection (3); and

176 (f) a process for distributing reimbursement to an eligible LEA.

177 (5) In making the rules described in Subsection (4)(a), the state board shall prioritize
178 extracurricular activities that promote heritage, arts, and cultural education.