

EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION



THE UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Report to the Education Interim
Committee

Education Innovation Program

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**STATUTORY
REQUIREMENT**

U.C.A. Section 53E-10-703 requires the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) to review the performance of an innovation program, as defined in Section [53G-10-601](#), to determine the extent to which the learning and performance of students in an opportunity class, as defined in Section [53G-10-601](#), met the criteria established in the innovation program; and report on the director's findings

The State Board is required to report on this program to the Education Interim Committee annually on or before November 30. This year marks the second year for this report.]

Education Innovation Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Beginning in fiscal year 2023, teachers can seek approval for an innovation program and up to \$5,000 of related grant funding to implement innovative curriculum or an innovative class schedule.

As of November, 2022, one application has been approved at the LEA level and provided to the Utah State Board of Education to release funding.

Background

In March 2022, House Bill 386 established a process for LEA governing boards to receive and approve applications for innovation programs including alternative curriculum and alternative class schedules. The process requires parental consent, allows for up to \$5,000 in grant funding for related costs, and develops a need to review the performance of innovation programs.

Utah Leading through Effective, Actionable, and Dynamic (ULEAD) Education is named as a support to LEAs and program applicants to

develop metrics to determine program success. ULEAD receives program information from the governing LEA and follows up on resulting implementation efforts within 120 days of the school year in which the innovation program was conducted.

Programs

To date, one application has been approved for an innovative program featuring student wellness in a high school classroom in Nebo School District. ULEAD is developing Innovation Briefs to be published on the ULEAD website (<https://schools.utah.gov/ulead>) that offer an overview of the approved innovation. An example overview using the approved program is provided in Appendix A.

ULEAD is developing optional application templates and parental consent templates to assist educators and governing LEAs with the application and approval process. These templates will be housed on the ULEAD website.

Results

The currently approved program is still awaiting funds from USBE and has not completed implementation. Because of this, there are no results to report from the innovation program at this time.

Appendix A

Example Innovation Brief

Innovation Proposal: Student Wellness

Spanish Fork High School
Nebo School District
Contact: Adena Campbell
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Proposed Innovation

Students will participate in a peer-support group facilitated by a peer-support leader during class time for elective or social studies credit. Open-source materials including experiential-based activities and practices will be used. The curriculum and additional support will be implemented by school and district therapists and social workers.

Purpose and Potential

The goal of this alternative curriculum is to foster stress management and mental health supports. By developing healthy coping skills, engaging in healthy relationships, and using management strategies, students will gain positive coping mechanisms leading to overall student wellness and success.

Courses Include

three course sections, each a semester long, and will earn elective or Social Studies credit. Students are selected by counselors, teachers, and parents to participate.

Student Outcomes

will be measured with psychological assessments, self-reported progress, and student feedback. Two prior years of initial data is available.

Funding

Grant funding will be used for curriculum, consumable materials, classroom supplies, guest speakers and training, and online subscriptions necessary to implementation.

Under House Bill 386, Local Education Agencies can approve up to \$5,000 in grant funding for innovation programs. The innovation outlined here is one example that has been approved for implementation. Learn more at schools.utah.gov/ulead.



