Teacher and Student Success Act (TSSA)

USBE Points of Contact

Name: Krista Hotelling
Title: School Improvement Specialist
Email: krista.hotelling@schools.utah.gov
Phone Number: 801-538-7932

Name: Sam Urie
Title: School Finance Director
Email: sam.urie@schools.utah.gov
Phone Number: 801-538-7545

Additional information about USBE staff can be found here: https://schools.utah.gov/orgchart

USBE Program Website and Quick Links:

Utah State Code 53F-2-416. Appropriation and distribution for the Teacher and Student Success Program
Utah State Code 53G-7-1301. Definitions
Utah State Code 53G-7-1302. Teacher and Student Success Program created
Utah State Code 53G-7-1303. State Funding distribution
Utah State Code 53G-7-1304. Program requirements-LEA governing board student success framework-LEA distribution-School allocation-Reporting
Utah State Code 53G-7-1305. Teacher and student success plans-Plan review and approval
Utah State Code 53G-7-1306. School improvement oversight-Performance standards
R277-927. Teacher and Student Success Act (TSSA) Program
Utah Compendium of Budget Information (COBI)

Overview of Program

Funding source

The Teacher and Student Success Act (TSSA) is a state-funded program to improve school performance and student academic achievement.

Description

Senate Bill 149, Teacher and Student Success Act (2019 General Session) provided the statutory framework for this program. The program provides funding to schools to improve school performance and student academic achievement.

To receive an allocation from the program, local education agency governing boards must adopt a student success framework to provide guidelines and processes for LEA schools to follow in developing a teacher and student success plan. School principals develop the plan to include school-specific goals within the framework. School principals must seek input from multiple groups outlined in statute (i.e., community council, educators, parents, students, and community stakeholders).

Availability of Funds

The program provides funding to improve school performance and student academic achievement, with approximately $228,500,000 in ongoing state funds to LEAs and schools across Utah each year. The grant period of availability is 12 months, beginning July 1 through June 30. USBE will calculate an amount to distribute to an LEA which is a product of the percentage of weighted pupil units (WPU) in the LEA compared to the total number of WPUs for all LEAs in the state and the amount of the appropriation.

TSSA allocations are based on an LEA's proportional share of Weighted Pupil Units (WPUs) allocated to all LEAs in the prior year. For example, if your LEA accounts for 10% of all WPUs allocated last year, your LEA would receive 10% of total TSSA funds appropriated. LEAs can use up to 25% of their TSSA allocation to pay for staff salaries and benefits. Rural LEAs can allocate more of their TSSA allocation to pay for staff salaries and benefits under certain circumstances. LEA's must allocate the remainder to each school within the LEA in proportion to the school's average daily membership (ADM) compared to the LEA's total ADM. If a school is performing below the statewide goal for third-grade reading, the LEA shall ensure that at least 50% of the school’s total distribution is for evidence-based strategies and practices for addressing low literacy rates that align with the science of reading and reading interventions. For additional details, see 53G-7-1304 and R277-927.

Website for Grant Application:

The PUU Teacher and Student Success Program grant application is in our Utah Grants Management system.

Supplemental Guidance

This guide is intended as a supplemental resource to answering many common questions. Information contained herein does not replace or revoke guidance received directly from USBE staff. LEAs are encouraged to seek personalized assistance from the USBE to clarify the guidance provided in this document as needed.

Purpose of Document

The Teacher and Student Success Act Program Guide is a resource designed to assist local educational agencies (LEAs) and staff in designing and implementing an effective Teacher and Student Success Program in compliance with state funding requirements.

This Program Guide is based on the interpretation of state code, as well as the rule issued by the Utah State Board of Education. It includes several samples of allowable costs that are not intended to be universally applicable. These samples are not official templates and should be adapted to meet specific LEA requirements.

If there are any doubts about the applicability of the samples, the Teacher and Student Success Program team at the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) advises each LEA to consult with our office for clarification.

Applying for Funds

The Utah State Board of Education has implemented a common Electronic Grants Management System (EGMS), known as Utah Grants. Utah Grants provides a common, centralized, end-to-end grants system. All flow-through funds are managed and tracked in Utah Grants. Utah Grants is a comprehensive solution for grant life-cycle management, including grant applications, budgeting, awards, revisions, reimbursement requests, progress reports and monitoring.

For questions on Utah Grants, please contact the Utah Grants Support Desk: (801) 538-7604 or utahgrants@schools.utah.gov.

Additional Guidance on Grant Requirements

- Necessary and Reasonable Guidance: For a particular cost to be allowed, it must be necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient performance and administration of the program/grant. A cost is reasonable if it does not exceed what an LEA would normally incur in the absence of state funds.

- Important Notes about Supplement vs. Supplant: An LEA student success framework may not support the use of program money to supplant funding for existing public education programs, for district administration costs, or capital expenditures.

- Application: A complete application in Utah Grants includes attaching the LEA approved/adopted framework and the Board meeting minutes that show that the framework was approved.

Allowable Expenditure Funding Guidance:

The following table shows funding allowances for the program/grant (5678).

- Salaries (100)
- Employee Benefits (200)
- Purchased Professional & Tech Services (300)
- Other Purchased Services (500)
- Travel (580)
- Supplies and Materials (600)
- Property Including Equipment (700)
- Other (Not eligible for Indirect Cost) (800)

Allowable Expenditures	Unallowable Expenditures
• Increases to base salary and salary drive benefits for school personnel (25% or less of the distribution; up to 40% of distribution if LEA's average teacher salary is below state average teacher salary)	• Supplanting funding for existing public education programs • District administration costs • Capital expenditures

● Evidence-based strategies for addressing low literacy rates and reading interventions if the school is performing below the statewide goal for third grade reading (at least 50% of school's total distribution) ● Implementing the school's success plan to improve school performance or student academic achievement: ○ school personnel stipends for taking on additional responsibility outside of a typical work assignment ○ professional learning ○ additional school employees, including counselors, social workers, mental health workers, tutors, media specialists, information technology specialists, or other specialists ○ technology ○ before- or after-school programs ○ summer school programs ○ community support programs or partnerships ○ early childhood education ○ class size reduction strategies ○ augmentation of existing programs ○ the pilot program described in Section 53G-7-1307; or ○ other means ● Funding school personnel retention at the principal's discretion (up to 5%), not including uniform salary increases	● A purpose that is not supported by the LEA's student success framework ● Supporting adult education ● Paying for contracted services commonly performed by the following staff: school level administration staff, building and maintenance staff, including custodial staff, transportation staff child nutrition staff, operational or facility support staff, nor district level staff