

Prioritized Funding Requests

2026 Legislative Session



Programs/Request Amount	Description
1 WPU Value Increase Requested: \$100 Million	Increases the value of the WPU by 3.0% (\$100M) above the estimated 4% for the inflationary increase.
2 Paraprofessional K-3 Grant Program Requested: \$20 Million	Proposes the creation of a statewide, competitive K-3 Classroom Excellence Grant Program to provide matching funds to LEAs for hiring and training paraprofessionals serving in kindergarten through 3rd-grade classrooms.
3 Beverly Taylor Sorenson Requested: \$1,728,000	Sustains funding for 466 current BTS Arts schools and expands the program to 23 additional schools waitlisted for FY26, reaching an estimated 11,500 more K-6 students with high-quality, integrated arts education.
4 K-8 Literacy & Numeracy Requested: \$34 Million \$9.5 Million*	Aims to advance every student's reading and math skills for academic and lifelong success by supporting our educators with proven, effective strategies.
5 USBE Internal FTE Needs for Capacity and Service Requested: \$3.5 Million	Addresses critical capacity needs related to roles, responsibilities, requirements and improving service to the field in response to audit findings and program expectations.
6 Master Pilot Program Requested: \$4.8 Million*	Extends funding for two additional years and implements minor policy adjustments to continue the Mentoring and Supporting Teacher Excellence and Refinement Pilot Program, building on its promising initial impact on teacher effectiveness and retention.
7 Pupil Transportation Requested: \$32 Million	Prioritizes year-to-year funding for pupil transportation to address rising student transportation numbers and operational costs, maintaining state support levels and reducing the current 85% funding gap.

*One-time funding request

2026 Supported Legislative Funding Requests

Programs/Request Amount		Description
8	Early Mathematics Benchmark Assessment Requested: \$1.2 Million	Provides ongoing funding to meet code and rule requirements by procuring a new contract for a comparable early mathematics assessment.
9	Adobe Creative Cloud Requested: \$2.25 Million	Continues statewide access to Adobe Creative Cloud for public K–12 schools by providing \$2,250,000 in ongoing funding, as current UETN-held contracts expire and are not being renewed.

Visit [USBE’s Legislative Session](#) page for more information onon USBE’s legislative priorities, academic achievements, and upcoming 2026 legislative updates as they become available.

**One-time funding request*