

# Prioritized Funding Requests

## 2026 Legislative Session



To better support Utah students and ensure the efficient use of state and federal resources, the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) recommends the following statutory updates. These proposals aim to clarify existing code, reduce unnecessary burdens on LEAs, and improve operational effectiveness across key programs.

Priority	Funding Initiative	Summary of Request	Ongoing Funds	One-Time Funds
1	Paraprofessional K-3 Grant Program	Establishes a statewide, competitive grant program providing matching funds to LEAs to hire and train paraprofessionals to support instruction in kindergarten through third-grade classrooms.		\$20,000,000
2	Beverly Taylor Sorenson	Provides additional funding to sustain 466 current BTS Arts schools and expand the program to 23 waitlisted schools, serving an additional estimated 11,500 K-6 students with high-quality, integrated arts education.	\$1,728,000	
3	K-8 Literacy/ Numeracy	Supports proven instructional strategies to advance student reading and math achievement and promote academic and lifelong success.	\$9,600,000	\$34,300,000
4	USBE Critical FTE Funding Requests	Addresses critical capacity needs related to staffing roles, responsibilities, and compliance requirements to improve service to the field and respond to audit findings and program expectations.	\$3,479,300	
5	Master Pilot Program	Extends funding for two years and makes minor policy adjustments to continue the Mentoring and Supporting Teacher Excellence and Refinement Pilot Program based on demonstrated improvements in teacher effectiveness and retention.		\$4,800,000
<b>Total:</b>			<b>\$14,807,300</b>	<b>\$59,100,000</b>