

## USBE 2023 General Session Requests for Statutory Changes

January 12, 2023

### **Board Previously-Approved Requests for Statutory Changes:**

- 1) From Law and Licensing Committee, repeal Section [53G-7-606](#), which requires LEAs to notify other LEAs in the state of the LEA's intent to dispose of the LEA's textbooks before disposing of the textbooks.
- 2) Refile 2022 [HB 487](#), *Education False Claims Amendments*, Amend Utah Code to enact a new chapter of code within Title 63G, Chapter 6a for false claims specific to public education.
- 3) Create a prevention plan block grant that would allow an LEA with an approved comprehensive prevention plan to receive its current prevention programs fund combined in a block grant to achieve the approved prevention plan and changing statute in order to allow LEAs to combine prevention grant funding and efforts.
- 4) **School Accountability System Redesign**- Amend sections of Code related to recommendations from the Accountability System Redesign Executive Committee, which will be presented to the Board in October 2022 as part of the report from the executive committee. See [Utah code 53E-5-2](#).
- 5) **School Community Council Exemption Request**- Amend Section [53G-7-1202](#) to explicitly codify the State Board's authority to make rules to exempt certain small and special schools (such as a school serving youth in custody) from certain requirements for a School Community Council. Currently it is difficult for certain small schools, where the school district is the main employer for the area, to recruit parents to the community council who are not also employed by the school. Districts with special schools also have difficulty due to the transient population. The USBE usually issues 15 exemptions a year to schools.
- 6) **International Baccalaureate Allocation Increase Policy Request**- Request to include the International Baccalaureate program in the allocation increase the 2022 [HB 390](#) created.

- 7) **SOEP early graduation policy request-** Amend Section [53F-4-509](#) the Statewide Online Education Program to remove language that currently requires students who desire to deepen their course loads to graduate early. The proposed change would allow a student to graduate early or remain until their designated graduation date.
- 8) **Underage Drinking and Substance Abuse Prevention Program Account Funds Policy Request-** Amend Section [53F-9-304](#) to allow USBE to distribute excess funds in the Underage Drinking and Substance Abuse Prevention Program Restricted Account (DRNK) at the end of each fiscal year, to be allocated to LEAs through the prevention block grant the following fiscal year.
- 9) **USBE Mission and Vision Alignment-** To codify USBE's mission and vision statement consistent with the April 2021 Office of the Legislative Auditor General (OLAG) performance audit's recommendations. Utah Code [53E-2-201](#) and [53E-2-301](#) & [302](#)
- 10) **Repeal of the Interventions for Reading Difficulties Grant-** The passing of 2022 SB 127 and the influx of COVID-19 relief funds has rendered the Interventions for Reading Difficulties Grant no longer necessary (Section [53F-5-203](#)).
- 11) **Amendment to Carson Smith Scholarship Private School Eligibility Requirements-** This request is to amend Utah State Code Section [53F-4-302\(1\)\(e\)\(ii\)](#) to clarify and prevent private schools from charging the recipients of the Carson Smith Scholarship more tuition than they charge for other students.
- 12) **Utah School Safety Collaborative (USSC)-** Amend Section [53G-8-802](#) to establish the Utah School Safety Collaborative (USCC).
- 13) **Special Needs Opportunity Scholarship-** Amend Utah Code Section [53E-7-405](#) to allow for the audited report due date to follow the State's fiscal year rather than the granting organization's fiscal year. And require the remittance timeline to begin after the acceptance of the audited report.
- 14) **Teacher Evaluation-** Amend code to create a more professional learning and growth focused approach to teacher evaluation in line

with the recommendations from the teacher evaluation redesign committee. (Approved August Board meeting)

- 15) **Transportation Funding** - Amend Section [53F-2-402](#) to allow the Board to set aside a percentage of transportation funding for distribution to districts that demonstrate efficiencies in how they implement their transportation programs.

**Board Approved Policy Requests related to Business Cases:**

1. **Full-Day Kindergarten-** Request to amend Utah Code Section 53F-2-302 to expand access to optional full-day kindergarten for every Utah student entering kindergarten by weighting the WPU the same as grades 1-2 and to repeal Utah Code Sections 53F-2-507 and 53G-7-203.
2. **School Safety Physical Facilities Capital Needs-**This request codifies a mandate for an assessment of Utah’s public schools’ current status of physical facilities and safety, and general capital needs, and allocates \$175,000,000 one-time money in state resources to provide \$100M for school safety physical facilities and \$75M for capital improvements.
3. **Dual Language Immersion 1-9 Program Growth-** Amend Utah Code Section 53F-2-502 to include an annual increase in appropriations for dual language immersion programs, in proportion to the percentage of increase over the previous school years participation, to the weighted pupil unit (WPU).
4. **Reduce Curricular and Co-curricular Fees-** Amend Utah Code Section 53G-7-503 to significantly reduce the amount of curricular and co-curricular fees LEAs can charge for FY 2024 and beyond contingent on the legislature appropriating funds to offset the reductions in collected fees.
5. **School Readiness Grants-**Request to return \$6 million of Ongoing CCDF Federal Funding to state dollars and Request an additional \$2 Million to account for future growth. Amend Utah Code sections 35A-15-201, 202, 301, and 302 to clarify roles and expectations.

6. **SOEP Small Schools**-Request for ongoing funding and a statutory change to amend Utah Code Section 53F-4-518 to ensure that the funding allocations will match the demand.
7. **Utah School Safety Academy**- Request for a \$3.5 million allocated to increase ongoing school safety funding and amend Utah Code Section 53G-8-802 to create the Utah School Safety Academy.
8. **Pupil Transportation** - Amend Section [53F-2-402](#) to allow the Board to set aside a percentage of transportation funding for distribution to districts that demonstrate efficiencies in how they implement their transportation programs.
9. **Increasing Post-Secondary Opportunities** - Request for \$2.5 million to set up an incentive program partnering with USHE to improve FASFA completion and other early college indicators.

**Previously Considered Legislative Proposals with No Action:**

- 1) Refile 2022 [SB 145](#), *Reading Competency Benchmark Assessment*, to amend [53E-4-307](#) to include all 6th - 8th grade students in middle and Jr. high schools to be eligible for Acadience licenses.