

Ariel Defay proposes the following substitute bill:

**Early Intervention for Dyslexia Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Ariel Defay**

Senate Sponsor:

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill creates the Dyslexia Screening Pilot Program.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- defines terms;
- creates the Dyslexia Screening Pilot Program to:
  - provide dyslexia related resources to district and charter schools; and
  - create a dyslexia screener at the University of Utah College of Education and the University of Utah Education Policy Center;
- creates a reporting requirement upon request of the Education Interim Committee;
- requires the state board to:
  - administer and oversee the pilot program; and
  - make certain rules related to the pilot program;
- provides a repeal date for the pilot program; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

This bill appropriates \$1,500,000 in operating and capital budgets for fiscal year 2027, all of which is from the various sources as detailed in this bill.

**Other Special Clauses:**

This bill provides a special effective date.

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**53E-1-201 (Effective 07/01/26) (Partially Repealed 07/01/27)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 9

**63I-1-253 (Effective 07/01/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special

29 Session, Chapter 9

30 ENACTS:

31 **53F-5-224 (Effective 07/01/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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33 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

34 Section 1. Section **53E-1-201** is amended to read:

35 **53E-1-201 (Effective 07/01/26) (Partially Repealed 07/01/27). Reports to and**  
36 **action required of the Education Interim Committee.**

37 (1) In accordance with applicable provisions and Section 68-3-14, the following recurring  
38 reports are due to the Education Interim Committee:

- 39 (a) the report described in Section 9-22-109 by the STEM Action Center Board,  
40 including the information described in Section 9-22-113 on the status of the computer  
41 science initiative and Section 9-22-114 on the Computing Partnerships Grants  
42 Program;
- 43 (b) the prioritized list of data research described in Section 53H-15-303 and the report  
44 on research and activities described in Section 53H-15-305 by the Utah Data  
45 Research Center;
- 46 (c) the report described in Section 53H-1-203 by the Utah Board of Higher Education on  
47 career and technical education issues and addressing workforce needs;
- 48 (d) the annual report of the Utah Board of Higher Education described in Section  
49 53H-1-203;
- 50 (e) the reports described in Section 53H-7-603 by the Utah Board of Higher Education  
51 regarding activities related to campus safety;
- 52 (f) the State Superintendent's Annual Report by the state board described in Section  
53 53E-1-203;
- 54 (g) the annual report described in Section 53E-2-202 by the state board on the strategic  
55 plan to improve student outcomes;
- 56 (h) the report described in Section 53E-3-501 by the state board on students in an LEA  
57 who receive academic credit through the packet method;
- 58 (i) the report described in Section 53E-8-204 by the state board on the Utah Schools for  
59 the Deaf and the Blind;
- 60 (j) the report described in Section 53E-10-703 by the Utah Leading through Effective,  
61 Actionable, and Dynamic Education director on research and other activities;
- 62 (k) the report described in Section 53F-2-522 regarding mental health screening

- 63 programs;
- 64 (l) the report described in Section 53F-4-203 by the state board and the independent  
65 evaluator on an evaluation of early interactive reading software;
- 66 (m) the report described in Section 53F-6-412 by the program manager of the Utah Fits  
67 All Scholarship Program;
- 68 (n) the report described in Section 63N-20-107 by the Governor's Office of Economic  
69 Opportunity on UPSTART;
- 70 (o) the report described in Section 53F-5-215 by the state board related to a grant for an  
71 elementary teacher preparation assessment;
- 72 (p) upon request, the report described in Section 53F-5-219 by the state board on the  
73 Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program;
- 74 (q) the report described in Section 53F-5-405 by the state board regarding an evaluation  
75 of a partnership that receives a grant to improve educational outcomes for students  
76 who are low-income;
- 77 (r) the report described in Section 53H-1-604 regarding the Higher Education and  
78 Corrections Council;
- 79 (s) the report described in Section 53G-7-221 by the state board regarding innovation  
80 plans; and
- 81 (t) the reports described in Section 53F-6-412 regarding the Utah Fits All Scholarship  
82 Program.
- 83 (2) In accordance with applicable provisions and Section 68-3-14, the following occasional  
84 reports are due to the Education Interim Committee:
- 85 (a) in 2027, 2030, 2033, and 2035, the reports described in Sections 53H-1-502,  
86 53H-1-503, and 53H-1-504;
- 87 (b) in 2025, the report described in Section 53H-6-203 by a degree-granting institution  
88 regarding policies on abusive coaching practices;
- 89 (c) if required, the report described in Section 53E-4-309 by the state board explaining  
90 the reasons for changing the grade level specification for the administration of  
91 specific assessments;
- 92 (d) if required, the report described in Section 53E-5-210 by the state board of an  
93 adjustment to the minimum level that demonstrates proficiency for each statewide  
94 assessment;
- 95 (e) the report described in Section 53E-10-702 by Utah Leading through Effective,  
96 Actionable, and Dynamic Education;

- 97 (f) if required, the report described in Section 53F-2-513 by the state board evaluating  
 98 the effects of salary bonuses on the recruitment and retention of effective teachers in  
 99 high-poverty schools;
- 100 (g) upon request, the report described in Section 53F-5-224 by a district or charter  
 101 school or the state board regarding the Dyslexia Screening Pilot Program;
- 102 [(g)] (h) upon request, the report described in Section 53F-10-303 by the state board  
 103 regarding the Rural School Sports Facilities Grant Program;
- 104 [(h)] (i) upon request, a report described in Section 53G-7-222 by an LEA regarding  
 105 expenditure of a percentage of state restricted funds to support an innovative  
 106 education program;
- 107 [(i)] (j) the reports described in Section 53G-11-304 by the state board regarding  
 108 proposed rules and results related to educator exit surveys; and
- 109 [(j)] (k) the report described in Section 26B-5-113 by the Office of Substance Use and  
 110 Mental Health, the state board, and the Department of Health and Human Services  
 111 regarding recommendations related to Medicaid reimbursement for school-based  
 112 health services.
- 113 (3) In accordance with applicable provisions and Section 68-3-14, every five years the  
 114 Education Interim Committee shall review the programs described in the following  
 115 sections of code:
- 116 (a) beginning July 1, 2027, [~~Title 53E, Chapter 10, Part 3~~] Chapter 10, Part 3, Concurrent  
 117 Enrollment;
- 118 (b) beginning July 1, 2027, Section 53F-2-408, Enhancement for Accelerated Students  
 119 Program;
- 120 (c) beginning July 1, 2027, Section 53F-2-409, Concurrent enrollment funding;
- 121 (d) beginning July 1, 2027, Section 53F-2-415, Student health and counseling support --  
 122 Qualifying personnel -- Distribution formula -- Rulemaking;
- 123 (e) beginning July 1, 2028, Section 53F-2-416, Appropriation and distribution for the  
 124 Teacher and Student Success Program;
- 125 (f) beginning July 1, 2028, Section 53F-2-510, Digital Teaching and Learning Grant  
 126 Program;
- 127 (g) beginning July 1, 2028, Section 53F-9-306, Teacher and Student Success Account;
- 128 (h) beginning July 1, 2028, Title 53G, Chapter 7, Part 13, Teacher and Student Success  
 129 Program; and
- 130 (i) beginning July 1, 2029, Section 53F-2-502, Dual language immersion.

131 Section 2. Section **53F-5-224** is enacted to read:

132 **53F-5-224** (Effective 07/01/26). **Dyslexia Screening Pilot Program.**

133 (1) As used in this section:

134 (a) "Dyslexia" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53E-4-307.

135 (b) "Program" means the Dyslexia Screening Pilot Program created in Subsection (2).

136 (c) "Screening" means the use of evidence-based measures to identify whether a student  
137 may:

138 (i) be at risk for characteristics of dyslexia; and

139 (ii) need additional assessment, progress monitoring, and intervention related to  
140 dyslexia.

141 (2) There is created a four-year pilot program known as the Dyslexia Screening Pilot  
142 Program to:

143 (a) provide dyslexia resources to a district and charter school; and

144 (b) create a dyslexia and reading disorder screener at the University of Utah Education  
145 Policy Center and the University of Utah College of Education.

146 (3) The state board shall:

147 (a) administer and oversee the program in coordination with the University of Utah  
148 Education Policy Center and the University of Utah College of Education;

149 (b) solicit proposals from and select district and charter schools to participate in the  
150 program;

151 (c) identify and maintain an approved list of dyslexia and reading disorder screeners,  
152 including the screener developed under Subsection (5), that, in identifying risks for  
153 dyslexia and informing instructional decision-making, demonstrate evidence of  
154 validity and reliability; and

155 (d) publish on the state board's website a webpage that:

156 (i) provides a list of dyslexia screeners the state board approves district and charter  
157 schools to use for the program;

158 (ii) provides additional dyslexia resources for parents, teachers, and students,  
159 including:

160 (A) information on early indicators and reported risk factors;

161 (B) characteristics of dyslexia and related literacy difficulties;

162 (C) information on evidence-based instruction and intervention practices;

163 (D) expectations for progress monitoring and communication; and

164 (E) guidance on a referral process for diagnosis; and

- 165           (iii) links to all other dyslexia resources the state board creates or approves.
- 166   (4)(a) To participate in the program, a district or charter school shall submit an  
167   application to the state board.
- 168   (b) To participate in the program, a district or charter school shall:
- 169       (i) allocate funds from the district or charter school's budget to:
- 170           (A) pay for the state board approved dyslexia screener the district or charter  
171           school selects; and
- 172           (B) pay other costs incurred under the program; or
- 173       (ii) use the free dyslexia screener the University of Utah Education Policy Center and  
174       University of Utah College of Education develops in accordance with Subsection  
175       (5)(a).
- 176   (5) The University of Utah Education Policy Center and the University of Utah College of  
177   Education shall:
- 178       (a) work with the state board and stakeholders to develop and maintain a dyslexia  
179       screening process a district or charter school may use in accordance with the  
180       requirements of this section;
- 181       (b) ensure that the screening process described in Subsection (5)(a):
- 182           (i) is free to use for district and charter schools participating in the program;
- 183           (ii) uses scientifically sound, evidence-based measures;
- 184           (iii) aligns with nationally recognized best practices for dyslexia screening; and
- 185           (iv) identifies indicators of risk for dyslexia for the purpose of informing:
- 186               (A) instruction;
- 187               (B) interventions;
- 188               (C) progress monitoring;
- 189               (D) reporting; and
- 190               (E) further evaluation;
- 191       (c) recommend to the state board the data elements the district and charter schools  
192       participating in the program should collect and report;
- 193       (d) evaluate the program screener's validity, reliability, and usefulness in:
- 194           (i) identifying a student at risk for dyslexia; and
- 195           (ii) informing instruction and interventions;
- 196       (e) use the reports the state board requires under Subsection (8)(b) to annually evaluate  
197       the program; and
- 198       (f) provide professional learning for educators on:

- 199           (i) recognizing early indicators and characteristics of dyslexia;  
200           (ii) using screeners and progress monitoring tools;  
201           (iii) implementing evidence-based instruction and intervention practices; and  
202           (iv) communicating with families.
- 203   (6)(a) A district or charter school shall use the state board approved list described in  
204       Subsection (3)(c) when screening a student for dyslexia.
- 205   (b) A school district or charter school may use the dyslexia screening process the  
206       University of Utah Education Policy Center and the University of Utah College of  
207       Education develops under Subsection (5)(a), at no cost, to satisfy the requirements of  
208       this section.
- 209   (7) Beginning July 1, 2027, a school district or charter school participating in the program:
- 210       (a) shall use the state board approved screener to screen a student for dyslexia who:
- 211           (i) scores below or well below average on the benchmark assessments described in  
212           Section 53E-4-307; and
- 213           (ii) is in kindergarten, first grade, or was not tested in kindergarten or first grade and  
214           is demonstrating characteristics of dyslexia in second or third grade;
- 215       (b) shall provide additional screening to a student in kindergarten or first grade when  
216       screening data, teacher observation, or parent concern, indicates characteristics of  
217       dyslexia; and
- 218       (c) may refer a student to a state board approved dyslexia screener for dyslexia screening.
- 219   (8) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the  
220       state board shall make rules to:
- 221       (a) create an application process for a district or charter school to participate in the  
222       program;
- 223       (b) create reporting requirements for a district or charter school participating in the  
224       program;
- 225       (c) in accordance with Subsection (7)(a), enforce required dyslexia screening under the  
226       program;
- 227       (d) create a process for reviewing and criteria for approving dyslexia screeners;  
228       (e) identify the intervals for administering the dyslexia screener; and  
229       (f) maintain accessibility for the screener for district and charter schools.
- 230   (9) Upon request of the Education Interim Committee, a district or charter school that  
231       participates in the pilot program or the state board shall report to the Education Interim  
232       Committee on the program's progress and outcomes.

- 233 Section 3. Section **63I-1-253** is amended to read:
- 234 **63I-1-253 (Effective 07/01/26). Repeal dates: Titles 53 through 53G.**
- 235 (1) Section 53-1-122, Road Rage Awareness and Prevention Restricted Account, is  
236 repealed July 1, 2028.
- 237 (2) Section 53-2a-105, Emergency Management Administration Council created --  
238 Function -- Composition -- Expenses, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 239 (3) Section 53-2a-1103, Search and Rescue Advisory Board -- Members -- Compensation,  
240 is repealed July 1, 2030.
- 241 (4) Section 53-2a-1104, General duties of the Search and Rescue Advisory Board, is  
242 repealed July 1, 2027.
- 243 (5) Title 53, Chapter 2a, Part 15, Grid Resilience Committee, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 244 (6) Section 53-2d-104, State Emergency Medical Services Committee -- Membership --  
245 Expenses, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 246 (7) Section 53-2d-503, Establishment of maximum rates, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 247 (8) Section 53-5a-302, Concealed Firearm Review Board -- Membership -- Compensation  
248 -- Terms -- Duties, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 249 (9) Section 53-11-104, Board, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 250 (10) Title 53, Chapter 31, Department Interaction With Local Law Enforcement, is repealed  
251 July 1, 2027.
- 252 (11) Subsection 53C-3-203(4)(b)(vii), regarding the distribution of money from the Land  
253 Exchange Distribution Account to the Geological Survey for test wells and other  
254 hydrologic studies in the West Desert, is repealed July 1, 2030.
- 255 (12) Subsection 53E-1-201(1)(q), regarding the Higher Education and Corrections Council,  
256 is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 257 (13) Subsection 53E-2-304(6), regarding foreclosing a private right of action or waiver of  
258 governmental immunity, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 259 (14) Subsection 53E-3-503(5), regarding coordinating councils for youth in care, is  
260 repealed July 1, 2027.
- 261 (15) Subsection 53E-3-503(6), regarding coordinating councils for youth in care, is  
262 repealed July 1, 2027.
- 263 (16) Subsection 53E-4-202(8)(b), regarding a standards review committee, is repealed  
264 January 1, 2028.
- 265 (17) Section 53E-4-203, Standards review committee, is repealed January 1, 2028.
- 266 (18) Title 53E, Chapter 6, Part 5, Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission, is

- 267 repealed July 1, 2033.
- 268 (19) Subsection 53E-7-207(7), regarding a private right of action or waiver of governmental  
269 immunity, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 270 (20) Section 53F-5-215, Elementary teacher preparation assessment grant, is repealed July  
271 1, 2028.
- 272 (21) Section 53F-5-219, Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program, is repealed July  
273 1, 2026.
- 274 (22) Section 53F-5-224, Dyslexia Screening Pilot Program, is repealed July 1, 2030.
- 275 [~~(22)~~] (23) Title 53F, Chapter 10, Part 2, Capital Projects Evaluation Panel, is repealed July  
276 1, 2027.
- 277 [~~(23)~~] (24) Subsection 53G-4-608(2)(b), regarding the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, is  
278 repealed January 1, 2025.
- 279 [~~(24)~~] (25) Subsection 53G-4-608(4)(b), regarding the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, is  
280 repealed January 1, 2025.
- 281 [~~(25)~~] (26) Section 53G-9-212, Drinking water quality in schools, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 282 [~~(26)~~] (27) Subsection 53G-9-703(4), regarding the parental video presentation concerning  
283 student use of technology, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 284 [~~(27)~~] (28) Subsection 53H-1-402(1)(j), regarding the Higher Education and Corrections  
285 Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 286 [~~(28)~~] (29) Section 53H-1-604, Higher Education and Corrections Council, is repealed July  
287 1, 2027.
- 288 [~~(29)~~] (30) Subsection 53H-4-210(3), regarding the creation of the SafeUT and School  
289 Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 290 [~~(30)~~] (31) Subsection 53H-4-210(4), regarding the appointment of the members of the  
291 SafeUT and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 292 [~~(31)~~] (32) Subsection 53H-4-210(5), regarding the attorney general designating the chair of  
293 the SafeUT and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 294 [~~(32)~~] (33) Subsection 53H-4-210(6), regarding the quorum requirements of the SafeUT and  
295 School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 296 [~~(33)~~] (34) Subsection 53H-4-210(7), regarding a formal action of the SafeUT and School  
297 Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 298 [~~(34)~~] (35) Subsection 53H-4-210(8), regarding compensation for members of the SafeUT  
299 and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 300 [~~(35)~~] (36) Subsection 53H-4-210(9), regarding the support staff for the SafeUT and School

301 Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.  
302 [~~36~~] (37) Section 53H-4-306.1, Definitions -- Electrification of Transportation  
303 Infrastructure Research Center, is repealed July 1, 2028.  
304 [~~37~~] (38) Section 53H-4-306.2, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research  
305 Center -- Designation -- Duties, is repealed July 1, 2028.  
306 [~~38~~] (39) Section 53H-4-306.3, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research  
307 Center -- Steering committee, is repealed July 1, 2028.  
308 [~~39~~] (40) Section 53H-4-306.4, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research  
309 Center -- Industry advisory board, is repealed July 1, 2028.  
310 [~~40~~] (41) Section 53H-4-306.5, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research  
311 Center -- Duties of the project director, is repealed July 1, 2028.  
312 [~~41~~] (42) Section 53H-4-306.6, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research  
313 Center -- Project development and strategic objectives -- Reporting requirements, is  
314 repealed July 1, 2028.  
315 [~~42~~] (43) Section 53H-4-307.1, Center for Civic Excellence, is repealed July 1, 2030.  
316 [~~43~~] (44) Section 53H-4-307.2, Center for Civic Excellence -- Duties -- Authority, is  
317 repealed July 1, 2030.  
318 [~~44~~] (45) Section 53H-4-307.3, Center for Civic Excellence -- Leadership, is repealed July  
319 1, 2030.  
320 [~~45~~] (46) Section 53H-4-307.4, Center for Civic Excellence -- Faculty, is repealed July 1,  
321 2030.  
322 [~~46~~] (47) Section 53H-4-307.5, Center for Civic Excellence -- Curriculum, is repealed July  
323 1, 2030.  
324 [~~47~~] (48) Section 53H-4-307.6, Center for Civic Excellence -- Oversight -- Reporting, is  
325 repealed July 1, 2030.  
326 [~~48~~] (49) Section 53H-4-313, Food Security Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.  
327 [~~49~~] (50) Section 53H-8-305, Five-year performance goals, is repealed July 1, 2027.  
328 [~~50~~] (51) Title 53H, Chapter 10, Part 4, Education Savings Incentive Program, is repealed  
329 July 1, 2028.

330 Section 4. **FY 2027 Appropriations.**

331 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,  
332 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for  
333 fiscal year 2027.

334 Subsection 4(a). **Operating and Capital Budgets**

335 Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, the  
336 Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts indicated for  
337 the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

338 ITEM 1 To State Board of Education - Contracted Initiatives and Grants  
339 From Public Education Economic Stabilization  
340 Restricted Account, One-time 1,500,000

341 Schedule of Programs:  
342 Dyslexia Screening Program 1,500,000

343 The Legislature intends that the state board may  
344 use up to 5% of the appropriation to cover administrative  
345 costs associated with the Dyslexia Screening Pilot  
346 Program.

347 Section 5. **Effective Date.**  
348 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.