

School LAND Trust Program - Appropriate Expenditures

Updated September 2021

The requirements of the School LAND Trust Program have changed over time as distributions have increased and emerging student needs are identified. We have provided the current Utah State Code and State Board Rule defining appropriate expenditures with funds from the School LAND Trust program. All expenditure discussions should begin by defining a school's most critical academic need by reviewing school-wide assessment data. The council then makes a goal for measurable student improvement and makes plans to expend funds on allowable research-based programs and interventions to meet the goal.

Utah Code 53G-7-1206 School LAND Trust Program

4(a) A council shall create a program to use its allocation...to implement a component of the school's (Teacher and Student) success plan, including:

- (i) The school's identified most critical academic needs;
- (ii) A recommended course of action to meet the identified academic needs;
- (iii) A specific listing of any programs, practices, materials, or equipment which the school will need to implement a component of its school improvement plan to have a direct impact on the instruction of students and result in measurable increased student performance; and
- (iv) How the school intends to spend its allocation of funds under this section to enhance or improve academic excellence at the school.

State Board Rule R277-477-4 Appropriate Use of School LAND Trust Program Funds

(1) Parents, teachers, and the principal, in collaboration with an approving entity, shall review school-wide assessment data annually and use School LAND Trust Program funds in data-driven and evidence-based ways to improve educational outcomes, consistent with the academic goals of the school's teacher and student success plan (success plan) framework under Subsection 53G-7-1304(1)(a) and the priorities of the LEA governing board, including:

- (a) strategies that are measurable and show academic outcomes with multi-tiered systems of support; and
- (b) counselors and educators working with students and families on academic and behavioral issues when a direct impact on academic achievement can be measured.

(2) A school's School LAND Trust Program expenditures shall have a direct impact on the instruction of students in the particular school's areas of most critical academic need and consistent with the academic priorities of the LEA's governing board:

- (a) to increase achievement in:
 - (i) English;
 - (ii) language arts;
 - (iii) mathematics; and

- (iv) science; and
- (b) for high schools to:
 - (i) increase graduation rates; and
 - (ii) promote college and career readiness.

(3) A school may not use School LAND Trust Program funds for the following:

- (a) costs related to district or school administration, including accreditation;
- (b) expenses for:
 - (i) construction;
 - (ii) maintenance;
 - (iii) facilities;
 - (iv) overhead;
 - (v) furniture;
 - (vi) security; or
 - (vii) athletics; or
- (c) expenses for non-academic in-school, co-curricular, or extracurricular activities.

(4) A school that demonstrates appropriate progress and achievement consistent with the academic priorities of the LEA governing board outlined in Subsection (2) may request local board approval of a plan to address other academic goals if the plan includes:

- (a) how the goal is in accordance with the core standards established in Rule R277-700
- (b) how the action plan for the goal is:
 - (i) data driven;
 - (ii) evidence based; and
 - (iii) has a direct impact on the instruction of students consistent with Subsections (1) and (2);
- (c) the data driving the decision to spend School LAND Trust funds for academic needs outlined in this Subsection (4); and
- (d) the anticipated data source the school will use to measure progress.

(5) A council may budget and spend no more than \$7,000 for an academic goal or component of an academic goal than incorporates any combination of the following:

- (a) digital citizenship training under Subsection 53G-7-1202(3)(a)(iii); or
- (b) safety principles consistent with Subsection 53G-7-1202(1)(d)

(6) A school district or local school board may not require a council or school to spend the school's School LAND Trust Program funds on a specific use or set of uses.

(7) Student incentives implemented as part of an academic goal in the School LAND Trust Program may not exceed \$2 per student in an academic school year.

NOTES

- Positive behavioral interventions are no longer limited to \$7,000 and must be directly tied to academic goals.
- Incentives are no longer limited to \$2 per incentivized student. Incentives should be nominal and total incentives may not exceed \$2 multiplied by the number of students enrolled.
- Mini-grants must be approved by the local board. In cases where councils award funds for projects/activities that support a goal to be spent later, the councils must amend the plan to outline specific mini-grant expenditures and how they support the goal. Local boards must approve the amendment containing mini-grant expenditures for approval before the school may spend funds on the proposed expenditures.