

Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities
SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND (USDB) COMMITTEE
FACT SHEET

DRAFT

NEED	DESCRIPTION
<p>USDB Related Services Personnel Increases</p> <p>\$661,900</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the IEP team determines that a USDB student needs related services USDB is mandated to provide those services. • In order to provide related services USDB must provide competitive wages to retain these highly professional staff. Evidence of low wages impact is seen in turnover rates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpreters 38% • Nurses 44% • Orientation and Mobility Specialists 16% • Psychologists 38% • USDB students will suffer from lack of qualified staff to support educational learning. • The request is two fold: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase wages for Interpreters, Nurses, and Audiologists. • Increase staffing levels for Interpreters (6 FTE), Nurses (1 FTE), O&M (3 FTE), and Psychologists (2 FTE).
<p>USDB Base, Step and Lane Increase</p> <p>\$728,800</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base, step and lane increases are an integral part of the teacher negotiated agreement in place at USDB. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintains compensation parity with school districts. • Recognizes longevity in the teaching profession. • Rewards continued professional development. • Teachers, staff and service providers are highly qualified with specialized training and experience in vision, hearing or deafblindness. • Funding base, step and lane increases provides USDB the means to retain and attract competent and qualified teachers. • If not funded, USDB will be unable to maintain its level of quality education as experienced and trained teachers leave USDB for other teaching positions. • Mandated by State and Federal law, USDB has the core requirement to support deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired and deafblind students ages birth through 21.

**For Further Information Please Contact
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<p>USDB Salt Lake Replacement Facility</p> <p>\$15,643,187</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CENTRAL DIVISION – USDB requests support from Legislature to build a new Salt Lake facility. <i>This building would serve USDB Central region students who are blind, visually impaired, deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind.</i> • CURRICULUM – USDB <i>supports the Utah Core Curriculum</i> in addition to <i>disability specific skills training</i>, self contained and inclusive classrooms settings, small student to teacher ratios and <i>curriculum development</i> according to the individual needs of children. • GROWTH – USDB currently serves <i>over 2000 students</i>. Approximately <i>650 of these are the in SLC area</i>. Growth is <i>projected at 4% yearly</i> due to increase in birth rate, population growth and increases in special educational enrollment in public schools. • STUDENT TRANSPORTATION ISSUES – <i>Students are bussed from 10 school districts to USDB classrooms located at 11 locations in the Salt Lake area</i>. A new facility will support the consolidation of students and staff into one centralized location. • URGENT – <i>This proposal is urgent due to the current lack of stability for USDB students from year to year as they are shifted from various locations as student populations fluctuate, space shortages at the USDB Conner St. facility, and the eminent demolition of the USDB/JMS facility in June of 2008.</i> • CONNER STREET DEFICIENCIES – Conner Street facility cannot accommodate their own needs at the present time and will be unable to house the added classrooms from the JMS facility, or additional classrooms from the Granite School District as needed. • MUCH NEEDED STAFF SPACE – USDB’s Statewide and Central Division staff are in need of necessary office and work spaces, storage, and ERC space to provide educational materials to this region. • NEW FACILITY – This new facility would consist of 61,290 square feet and provide space for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 Classrooms • 45 Office Spaces for Central and Statewide Staff • An Educational Resource Center • Storage and Warehousing • Partnership Opportunities with Granite District to Provide mainstreaming Opportunities. • A Centralized Location Within Our Concentrated Student population
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BENEFITS TO STUDENTS – Students will benefit from stability and opportunities to develop lasting relationships with peers and staff, decreased travel time, mainstreaming opportunities, and an optimal learning environment due to proper acoustics and specialized instruction.• BENEFITS TO THE STATE – Utah taxpayers will benefit from this project primarily because of the centralized location and decrease in transportation costs due to consolidated travel routes. State employees will be centrally located and able to unify services and programs resulting in increased educational opportunities for Utah students.
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