

1 **SOFTWARE FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN**

2 2012 GENERAL SESSION

3 STATE OF UTAH

4 **Chief Sponsor: Wayne L. Niederhauser**

5 House Sponsor: Gregory H. Hughes

7 **LONG TITLE**

8 **General Description:**

9 This bill provides computer software programs and activity manuals to certain students
10 with autism and other special needs.

11 **Highlighted Provisions:**

12 This bill:

13 ▶ requires the State Board of Education to contract with a provider, selected through a
14 request for proposals process, to provide computer software and activity manuals to
15 improve social skills and student achievement for students with autism and other
16 special needs in pre-school through grade 2; and

17 ▶ directs the State Board of Education to distribute the computer software and activity
18 manuals to those school districts and charter schools that demonstrate a
19 commitment to implement as prescribed by the provider.

20 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

21 This bill appropriates:

22 ▶ to the State Board of Education - Utah State Office of Education - Initiative
23 Programs, as a one-time appropriation for fiscal year 2012-13:

- 24 • from the Education Fund, \$300,000.

25 **Other Special Clauses:**

26 This bill provides an effective date.

27 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

28 ENACTS:

29 **53A-1a-110**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **53A-1a-110** is enacted to read:

53A-1a-110. Computer program for students with autism and other special needs.

(1) As used in this section, "board" means the State Board of Education.

(2) To improve social skills and student achievement for students with autism and other special needs in pre-school through grade 2, the board shall contract with a provider, selected through a request for proposals process, to provide computer software programs and activity manuals.

(3) In evaluating proposals submitted under Subsection (2), the board shall:

(a) ensure that the board's evaluation criteria weighs heavily the proposer's ability and experience to provide computer software programs and activity manuals to improve social skills and student achievement for students with autism and other special needs in pre-school through grade 2;

(b) consider, in evaluating the proposer's ability and experience, any quantitative and evaluative results from field testing, state tests, and other standardized achievement tests;

(c) ensure that the board's evaluation criteria weighs heavily the proposer's ability to:

(i) collect data from each computer using the computer software, regardless of where the computer is located;

(ii) provide students access to the proposer's program from any computer with internet access;

(iii) enable reporting of student progress to administrators, teachers, parents, and other facilitators; and

(iv) record a student's progress in the computer software; and

(d) consider the extent to which the computer software program uses engaging animation to teach students.

(4) The board shall provide the computer software programs and activity manuals procured under this section to school districts and charter schools that demonstrate a

58 commitment by the school principal and staff to implement the computer software programs
59 and activity manuals as prescribed by the provider.

60 **Section 2. Appropriation.**

61 Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, the
62 following sums of money are appropriated from resources not otherwise appropriated, or
63 reduced from amounts previously appropriated, out of the funds or accounts indicated for the
64 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012, and ending June 30, 2013. These are additions to any
65 amounts previously appropriated for fiscal year 2013.

66 To State Board of Education - Utah State Office of Education - Initiative Programs

67 From Education Fund, one-time \$300,000

68 Schedule of Programs:

69 Contracts and Grants \$300,000

70 The Legislature intends that the appropriation under this section:

71 (1) be one-time;

72 (2) be used to carry out the requirements of Section 53A-1a-110; and

73 (3) not lapse at the close of fiscal year 2013.

74 **Section 3. Effective date.**

75 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), this bill takes effect on May 8, 2012.

76 (2) Uncodified Section 2, Appropriation, takes effect on July 1, 2012.