



UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

2025-26 TOTAL SERVICES PROVIDED

Districts Served	35
Charter Schools Served	59
Schools Served	535
Student/Teacher Instructional Hours	1793
Teachers In-Person	3625
Students In-Person	57441
Teachers Virtual	3001
Students Virtual	102789
USBE Number of People Served	166856

2025-2026 Annual Report

BALLET WEST EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

OUTSIDE USBE FUNDING

Students/Teachers in Private/Parochial, Home
School and Community members/Special Needs **5607**
Individuals not included in State Totals

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE SERVED 172463

BUDGET EXPENDITURE REPORT AND INCOME SOURCE REPORT

Total Allocation:	Legislative Appropriation Expenditures	Funding Leveraged from Other Sources	Total Expenditures on Approved Education Programs	Legislative Appropriation % of Total Expenditures
Salaries	557,906	898,913	1,456,819	38.3%
Employee Benefits	206,349	332,475	538,823	38.3%
Purchased Professional & Technical Services			0	
Purchased Property Services			0	
Other Purchased Services			0	
Travel	9,000	13,555	22,555	39.9%
Supplies and Equipment	2,000	20,985	22,985	8.7%
Property Including Equipment			0	
Other (Not eligible for indirect)	0	442,177	442,177	0.0%
TOTAL	775,254	1,708,104	2,483,358	31.2%

PHOTO BY ALISSA BAIRD





ARTISTS OF BALLET WEST II | PHOTO BY ALISSA BAIRD

BALLET WEST ARTS EDUCATION MISSION AND PURPOSE STATEMENT:

Ballet West inspires and empowers a broad community locally and globally through presentation, training, and education in the art form of ballet. Our mission extends beyond the stage as we entertain and inspire audiences in Utah and around the world by presenting exceptional classical ballets, historical masterpieces, and innovative contemporary works—all delivered with the highest standards of artistic and professional excellence. In addition, Ballet West is committed to nurturing the next generation of ballet artists and audiences through superior classical ballet training and impactful education and outreach programs that engage and inspire individuals of all ages and backgrounds.

Since its founding in 1963, Ballet West has remained dedicated to providing high-quality educational programs to communities across Utah. These comprehensive initiatives are designed to educate both teachers and students of all ages, introducing them to the art of ballet and dance in meaningful and accessible ways. The educational programs are essential not only to sustaining Ballet West as a cultural institution but also to preserving and enhancing the creative vitality of the community.

Our statewide programs are thoughtfully developed to be inclusive, educational, and impactful. They focus on fostering individual artistic expression and meaningful student engagement through formats that encourage direct, one-on-one interactions with artists. Each initiative is designed to make a lasting impression while supporting personal and academic growth.

The core purpose of Ballet West's education and outreach efforts is to provide enriching opportunities for all of Utah's students and educators. These programs aim to enhance the educational experience, promote personal development, and contribute to the broader enrichment of society. They also serve to preserve and celebrate Utah's diverse cultural heritage and support the ongoing evolution of dance as a vital art form. At Ballet West, we believe the future of ballet is just as important as its legacy.

Our programs align with national recognition of arts education as a catalyst for academic achievement and personal growth. We believe that high-quality dance education enlightens, challenges, and uplifts the minds, bodies, and spirits of young people. Designed to engage students at various educational stages, our programs incorporate diverse approaches while consistently aiming to reinforce core academic standards and life skills, develop career and college readiness in meaningful and enjoyable ways, while contributing to and supporting the imperatives, strategies and priorities of the Utah State Board of Education.

Recognizing the importance of this work, Ballet West employs a full-time Director of Educational Programs, a full-time Education Associate, and a Manager of Education and Outreach – Virtual and Technology Programs to ensure that our educational mission is carried out with excellence, innovation, and lasting impact.

Federal Tax ID #: 87-0264274. Ballet West is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization
This number verifies required 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Status



PHOTO BY LAUREN WATTENBURG

I CAN DO (Inspiring Children About Not Dropping Out)

Districts	Charters	Schools	Student/Teacher Instructional Hours	Teachers In-Person	Students In-Person
9	8	44	721	419	7096

I CAN DO (Inspiring Children About Not Dropping Out)

Ballet West's **I CAN DO** program, an acronym for **Inspiring Children About Not Dropping Out**, provides fifth-grade students with a dynamic, hands-on dance education experience that culminates in multiple performance opportunities. Over the course of a six-month residency, students engage in weekly dance lessons that encourage movement, exploration, creativity, and meaningful connections to academic and life skills. These classes are deeply aligned with the Utah State Board of Education core standards and are intentionally designed to support college and career readiness, while reinforcing personal development and community collaboration.

The program cultivates essential life skills alongside artistic training, helping students learn how to cooperate, persevere, and express themselves in creative and constructive ways. Through participation, students build confidence, resilience, and an understanding of the discipline and collaboration required to work toward a common goal. These outcomes are aligned with the Utah State Board of Education's Imperatives and Strategies by creating a supportive, equitable, and enriching learning environment where students are given tools to thrive and succeed. High-quality instruction is the foundation of I CAN DO, contributing meaningfully to the broader school culture and educational objectives.

Instruction is provided by a team of experienced dance educators, including former professional dancers, certified instructors, and graduates of the University of Utah's Dance Department. These faculty members lead one-hour sessions each week within participating schools. As an inclusive program, I CAN DO welcomes all fifth-grade students in the selected schools, regardless of physical or cognitive ability, ensuring every child has the opportunity to engage in the joy and rigor of dance.

Students who demonstrate a desire to further their training can continue their journey beyond the classroom through two extension programs. **The Dream Team** provides additional instruction outside of school hours for interested students, while the **Celebration Team** invites returning students from previous years to participate again as role models and performers. Each school year concludes with a public performance that highlights the hard work and dedication of all participants. This culminating event showcases not just the dance routines but the personal and academic growth students have experienced along the way. Preparatory rehearsals for this performance provide a meaningful space for students to apply core standards and life skills in a collaborative, real-world setting. In addition, a lecture-demonstration is held at each school to share the program's process with the wider school community, emphasizing the academic and developmental concepts embedded within the experience.

Throughout the six-month residency, instruction is carefully aligned with dance core standards across all four pillars: moving, investigating, creating, and connecting. The structure of the program allows for comprehensive coverage of these elements, as well as thoughtful integration of life skills that support broader educational goals. Teaching methods are active and participatory, encouraging students to engage in the choreographic process, assess their own progress, and take artistic and personal risks. The journey from learning basic concepts to performing a polished piece onstage empowers students to grow emotionally, intellectually, and artistically. They learn to express their ideas, feelings, and beliefs through movement, to think critically and creatively, and to bring closure to long-term projects with pride and intention.



Students who continue in the program into grades 6 through 9 receive continued instruction aligned with the corresponding dance core standards for their grade levels. Across all schools, Ballet West works in close collaboration with principals, faculty, and staff to ensure the program becomes an integrated and sustained part of the school's educational landscape. This long-term partnership builds institutional capacity and reinforces the lasting impact of the program on students and teachers alike.

In some schools, a condensed version of I CAN DO has been implemented, offering anywhere from two to ten classes, while a one-day workshop model has also been developed to introduce key concepts in a more compact format.

An important extension of I CAN DO is the **Adaptive Dance program**, which brings weekly dance and movement lessons to students with special needs. These 45-minute sessions are tailored to each group and emphasize physical, emotional, and social development through music and movement. The program also includes a mentorship component, in which student leaders serve as peer mentors, supporting their fellow students in a compassionate and inclusive environment. Goals for the Adaptive Dance program include enhancing coordination, social connection, and self-expression, as well as contributing to a positive climate where all students are valued and engaged.

Expanding the reach of I CAN DO even further; Ballet West also offers **Dance Advance** workshops for younger students in kindergarten through second grade. These workshops introduce early learners to the fundamentals of movement and expression, laying the foundation for a lifelong appreciation of the arts. From these workshops, promising students may be offered scholarships to Ballet West Academy, giving them access to formal ballet training and opening

the door to future opportunities in dance, possibly even a professional career.

Through all of these efforts, I CAN DO serves as a model for how the arts can inspire academic achievement, personal growth, and long-term engagement with learning. It is a program rooted in inclusion, creativity, and excellence, and it reflects Ballet West's ongoing commitment to building community through dance.





PHOTO BY ALISSA BAIRD

Ballet West For Children

Districts	Charters	Schools	Student/Teacher Instructional Hours	Teachers In-Person	Students In-Person	Teachers Virtual	Students Virtual
34	39	279	377	1988	34263	944	32484

Ballet West for Children

Ballet West for Children is a lecture demonstration program designed to introduce elementary school audiences to the art of ballet while reinforcing essential dance core curriculum and life skills concepts. This year's program featured a touring group of Ballet West II dancers and a narrator who presented ***Ballet and The Sleeping Beauty***, a 50-minute experience delivered directly within school facilities. The program combined an engaging lecture-demonstration with a condensed performance of the beloved ballet, providing students with an accessible and dynamic introduction to classical dance.

To prepare students and teachers for the performance, a digital study guide was distributed in advance. These guides included information on ballet etiquette, terminology, illustrated examples, a bibliography, and

detailed background on ***The Sleeping Beauty***. Follow-up activities and projects helped teachers connect the performance content to the Utah State Core Curriculum. After the performance, students were invited to reflect on their experiences through writing and drawing, giving them the opportunity to articulate what they had seen, learned, and felt in their own words.

To further enhance the educational impact, Ballet West offered *Getting the Pointé* workshops to both students and teachers. These sessions, held either in person or virtually via Zoom, were tailored to the needs of each participating classroom. Designed in collaboration with educators, the workshops provided tools and strategies to reinforce learning outcomes and deepen students' understanding of the art form. They also gave teachers additional support and confidence in incorporating dance education into their broader classroom curriculum.

Ballet West expands the program's reach by offering an asynchronous digital version of the presentation. Hosted on a password-protected Vimeo platform, the recorded performance enabled schools across the state, including those in rural or remote areas, to participate in the program. The response from teachers was enthusiastic, and the digital format allowed for accurate tracking of student and school engagement, demonstrating the broad appeal and accessibility of the program.

Aligned closely with the Utah State Core Standards for grades K-6, Ballet West for Children addresses key educational goals in movement, investigation, creativity, and connection. Through live narration and demonstration, students explore elements of healthy dance practices, technical training, movement quality, and potential career paths in the performing arts. This diversity of content helps students connect theory to practice as they participate in movement activities and observe professional dancers in action. The program offers a comprehensive learning experience, with Ballet West's high-caliber performance serving as a culminating expression of the concepts introduced throughout. Students' creative responses, whether written or visual, serve as further evidence of the program's resonance.



BALLET WEST II ARTISTS CARLY ALLYN & PIETER GUNNING | PHOTO BY ALISSA BAIRD

By offering layered support through study guides, interactive presentations, post-performance reflection, and targeted workshops, *Ballet West for Children* invites young learners and their educators into the world of ballet in an inclusive, informative, and artistically enriching way, reinforcing the strategies and imperatives of the USBE.

BALLET WEST II ARTISTS MELANIE MCINTIRE & ADRIAN FITE | PHOTO BY ALISSA BAIRD





PHOTO BY LAUREN WATTENBURG

Ballet West Student In-Theater Presentations

Districts	Charters	Schools	Student/Teacher Instructional Hours	Teachers In-Person	Students In-Person	Teachers Virtual	Students Virtual
35	53	495	695	1218	16082	2057	70305

Ballet West Student In-Theater Presentations

Ballet West's Student In-Theater Presentations provide an exceptional opportunity for students of all grade levels—from elementary through high school—to experience the beauty and complexity of professional ballet in a live theater setting. These fully produced presentations are curated to be both accessible and artistically enriching, offering a rare window into the world of dance that goes far beyond traditional classroom instruction.

Prior to attending, educators receive a comprehensive digital study guide that introduces students to essential ballet concepts. These guides cover a wide range of topics including ballet history, performance etiquette, terminology, illustrations, and bibliographic resources, along with detailed descriptions of the ballets being presented. To support educators further, the guides include post-performance projects and classroom activities that align directly with the Utah State Core Curriculum, imperatives and strategies, reinforcing academic goals through arts integration.

Following the presentations, students are encouraged to reflect on their experiences through a post-show questionnaire that invites both written and artistic responses. These reflections offer a valuable window into what students have absorbed—what they've seen, what they've felt, and what has sparked their imagination.

To deepen engagement, Ballet West also offers an optional workshop program titled **Getting the Pointé**. Designed for both teachers and students, these workshops can be

delivered in-person or via Zoom and are tailored to meet the specific needs of each classroom. Scheduled either before or after a performance, they aim to strengthen teacher confidence and provide practical tools for expanding on the students' ballet experience back at school.

Each Student In-Theater Presentation begins with a brief, engaging introduction that highlights key elements of the ballet, introduces aspects of stagecraft, and reveals the many careers involved in creating a professional production. These segments are often interactive, offering students an insider's look at the art form and inviting them to consider ballet not just as entertainment, but as a meaningful, living discipline. Presentations are drawn from Ballet West's current season repertoire and are condensed to approximately one hour, making them suitable for school-day outings. Attendance is coordinated with the support of participating school districts and their Local Education Agency (LEA) Coordinators.

During the 2025–2026 school year, students and teachers were invited to attend twenty-three in-theater performances. Ballets presented included Sir Frederick Ashton's *The Dream*, Willam Christensen's *The Nutcracker*, Trey McIntyre's *Peter Pan*, our Fairy Tale Theater production of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, and Jerome Robbins' *West Side Story Suite*. To further extend access—especially to schools in rural areas—Ballet West provided asynchronous digital versions of *Beauty and the Beast* and *Snow White*, available in both English and Spanish with closed captioning for the hearing impaired. These digital offerings are highly popular and were widely utilized

across the state. By hosting these presentations securely on Vimeo, Ballet West was also able to collect clear usage data, gaining valuable insight into student and teacher engagement across Utah.

The Student In-Theater Presentations program is closely tied to Ballet West's **First Look** initiative, which offers students and educators the opportunity to experience full-length preview presentations in a more intimate setting. These presentations are designed to foster a deeper understanding of the art form, inviting students to engage in pre-show discussions, observe live performances in their entirety, and participate in thoughtful intermission reflections. Students learn to recognize and embody the responsibilities of an audience, evaluate performance elements using critical thinking, and gain aesthetic awareness through direct exposure to professional-level artistry.

The 2025-2026 **First Look** season included invitations to five preview presentations, featuring works such as Michael Smuin's *Romeo and Juliet*, and our fall repertory program with Bronislava Nijinska's *Les Noces*, and Sir Frederick Ashton's *The Dream*. Other offerings included Trey McIntyre's *Peter Pan*, our Fairy Tale Theater production of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. In the spring, we also offered Jerome Robbins' *Antique Epigraphs* and his *West Side Story Suite* along with Christopher Wheeldon's *Carousel (A dance)* and a pas de deux of *After the Rain*. As with the shorter in-theater programs, these preview presentations were supported by educational packets and offered opportunities for corresponding **Getting the Pointé** workshops.

Across both programs, Ballet West aligns its presentations with the Utah State Core Curriculum. For elementary students, the programming supports movement, investigation, creation, and connection. For secondary students, it reinforces skills in dance technique, compositional methods, and the interpretation of meaning. Instructional segments are designed to foster critical thinking, helping students synthesize visual and auditory stimuli, evaluate performances, and draw personal insights from what they observe onstage. Since many ballet works are presented without narration, students are challenged to interpret storylines and themes through music and movement alone, developing both cognitive and emotional literacy.

Beyond the artistic experience, the program encourages students to explore their own potential by witnessing the dedication, discipline, and creativity required to pursue a professional career in the arts. Meeting or observing working dancers and choreographers offers a powerful example of how personal interests, abilities, and character traits, like perseverance and focus, can lead to meaningful and inspiring career paths.

Each in-theater presentation is shaped not only by the ballet being performed but also by the educational goals identified for that specific presentation. Teachers are invited to revisit the programs year after year to build familiarity and deepen their engagement, using both in-person and virtual workshops to extend learning into their classrooms. These cumulative experiences are designed to broaden artistic literacy, build confidence in arts education, and provide ongoing enrichment for students and teachers alike.

Ultimately, Ballet West's Student In-Theater Presentations and First Look programs reflect the core strategies and goals of the Utah State Board of Education. They offer inclusive, high-quality instruction that promotes academic achievement, supports student well-being, and strengthens the overall educational environment. These initiatives underscore Ballet West's commitment to delivering impactful arts education across the state, ensuring students from all backgrounds have the chance to discover and connect with the power of ballet.



PRINCIPAL ARTIST DAVID HUFFMIRE | PHOTO BY ALISSA BAIRD



PHOTO BY ALISSA BAIRD

SPECIFIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THESE PRESENTATIONS FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND COMMUNITY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

I CAN DO:

- Teach students foundational dance techniques through structured lessons.
- Promote discipline, self-confidence, and a sense of accomplishment by integrating dance with core curriculum and life skills.
- Introduce students to global cultures through exposure to diverse musical and dance traditions.
- Encourage teamwork, perseverance, and responsibility as students prepare for and perform in a culminating year-end production.

BALLET WEST FOR CHILDREN:

- Bring ballet directly into elementary schools to introduce the art form in an accessible and familiar setting.
- Nurture understanding and appreciation of ballet among young students.
- Deliver engaging presentations that inspire curiosity and provide educational momentum for classroom follow-up.
- Ensure equitable access by rotating through every elementary school on a five- to six-year cycle.

STUDENT IN-THEATER PRESENTATIONS:

- Extend the ballet exposure students receive in elementary school by immersing them in a professional theater setting.
- Deepen students' understanding of ballet through live performance and alignment with core curriculum and life skills.
- Connect students with their cultural roots and community through exposure to classical and contemporary ballet.
- Introduce students to behind-the-scenes elements such as stagecraft, lighting, costuming, and other theater professions.
- Stimulate interest and encourage continued learning by providing teachers with a powerful tool for classroom enrichment.

ALL PROGRAMS:

- Provide students with positive role models through interactions with professional dancers and teaching artists.
- Foster a broad appreciation for dance as an expressive and artistic discipline.
- Supply teachers with comprehensive pre-performance and post-performance materials to support and reinforce learning.
- Offer optional teacher workshops that strengthen educators' ability to integrate dance and related life skills into their curriculum.
- Align with and reinforce Utah State Core Standards for dance and education.
- Contribute to educational excellence for Utah students and teachers across the state by supporting and implementing the goals of the Utah State Board of Education strategies and imperatives.
- Collaborate with USBE and local school communities to design content that meets diverse learning needs.
- Partner with other POPS (Professional Outreach Programs in the Schools) dance organizations to ensure that all 41 Utah school districts are reached within a three-year cycle.

Ballet West's educational outreach programs; **I CAN DO**, **Ballet West for Children**, and **Student In-Theater Presentations**, are strategically designed to enrich the educational experience of students and teachers across Utah, reinforcing core curriculum concepts, life skill development and enhancing career and college readiness. Each program addresses specific developmental and educational needs, from building discipline and cultural awareness to fostering artistic appreciation and career exploration. These programs not only benefit students but also empower teachers through resources and workshops, and actively support statewide educational goals through collaboration with USBE and other cultural partners. Together, these initiatives make dance an inspiring, inclusive, and impactful part of the K-12 educational landscape.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Ballet West	Three Year Report of District & Charter School Served				Future Target District Visits for the next 3 Years		
District	# of schools served 2022-2023	# of schools served 2023-2024	# of schools served 2024-2025	# of schools served 2025-2026	Districts to serve 2026-2027	Districts to serve 2027-2028	Districts to serve 2028-2029
Alpine	26	31	26	48	X	X	X
Beaver	3			1		X	
Box Elder	1	6	1	9	X	X	X
Cache	4	16	16	19	X	X	X
Canyons	14	25	29	29	X	X	X
Carbon	3	2	1	2		X	
Daggett	2	1				X	
Davis	55	76	73	72	X	X	X
Duchesne	5	5	3	4		X	
Emery	2	4	1	3	X	X	
Garfield	2	4	1	3			X
Grand			1	2			X
Granite	52	54	46	53	X	X	X
Iron	2	2	2	3	X	X	
Jordan	40	40	39	45	X	X	X
Juab	3	1	1				X
Kane	2	2	3	1	X		
Logan	1	4	5	4	X	X	X
Millard	1	4	1	1			X
Morgan	2	3	2	2	X	X	
Murray	9	10	9	10	X	X	X
Nebo	6	6	10	20	X	X	X
N. Sanpete	4		3	3	X	X	
N. Summit	1	1	1	1			
Ogden	11	9	6	9	X	X	X
Park City	3	5	4	5	X	X	X
Piute				2	X		
Provo	3	5	4	7	X	X	X
Rich			2				
SLC	31	27	28	28	X	X	X
San Juan		2	6	5			
Sevier	3			1		X	
S. Sanpete		2	2	2			
S. Summit	1	2	1				
Tintic	2					X	
Tooele	7	15	9	22	X	X	X
Uintah	3	4	3	3		X	
Wasatch	2	5	4	5	X		X
Washington	11	8	5	10	X	X	X
Wayne			1		X		
Weber	33	29	39	40	X	X	X
Charter	33	47	49	59	X	X	X
USDB	6	2	3	2	X	X	X
Total of Schools Visited	389	459	440	535	Yearly Total for Target District Visits over the next years below		
Total of Districts Visited	33 Districts Plus Charter	38 Districts Plus Charter	33 Districts Plus Charter	35 Districts Plus Charter	25 Districts Plus Charter	28 Districts Plus Charter	22 Districts Plus Charter

COVERAGE AND COLLABORATION

Ballet West employs a comprehensive and strategic approach to ensure that its educational offerings are accessible to students, teachers, and school communities across every district in Utah. This statewide reach is achieved through a dynamic network of partnerships with Local Education Agency (LEA) Coordinators, school principals, classroom educators, and administrators. Program information and materials are distributed through multiple channels, including email, phone communication, in-person dialogue, and digital resources, to maximize accessibility and engagement. Detailed program documentation is provided both in downloadable PDF formats and through direct access via the Ballet West website, ensuring that stakeholders have convenient, user-friendly entry points to all educational initiatives.

As part of its commitment to broad and equitable service, Ballet West collaborates with other dance organizations to ensure coordinated coverage across the state. This collaboration is grounded in a shared commitment to delivering high-quality arts education efficiently and

equitably, with each district receiving services at least once within a three-year cycle. These efforts help eliminate redundancy, streamline scheduling, and ensure that Ballet West's impact reaches the widest possible audience.

Ballet West also maintains a visible and active role within Utah's broader arts and education landscape. The organization regularly participates in meetings with Directors of Education from fellow POPS (Professional Outreach Programs in the Schools) organizations and staff members from the Utah State Board of Education. These gatherings provide essential opportunities for alignment, planning, and peer review. In addition, Ballet West engages frequently with district supervisors, LEA Coordinators, principals, members of the Beverly Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program, and other community stakeholders. These ongoing relationships form the foundation of Ballet West's collaborative model and ensure that programming remains responsive, inclusive, and aligned with state priorities.

PHOTO BY ALISSA BAIRD



SUMMARY OF THE ORGANIZATION'S SELF-EVALUATION

Ballet West's education programs are designed to introduce students and teachers throughout Utah to the expressive, intellectual, and physical dimensions of dance. These programs serve as gateways to arts learning that connect students to movement, storytelling, culture, and creativity in ways that are developmentally appropriate and curriculum aligned. Each offering is monitored and evaluated by Ballet West's Education Department to ensure that it meets or exceeds the highest standards of educational and artistic excellence and aligns with guidelines and benchmarks established by the Utah State Board of Education.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS

Cost-Effectiveness is a foundational principle in the design and delivery of Ballet West's programs. Resources are deployed with care to ensure maximum benefit to students and educators. For example, In-Theater presentations—such as **Student In-Theater Presentations** and **First Look**—are scheduled in tandem with the company's existing production calendar, significantly reducing production costs. Off-site programs like **Ballet West for Children** and **I CAN DO** are managed with similar fiscal discipline to ensure that every dollar directly supports the learning objectives and outcomes of each initiative.

PROCEDURAL EFFICIENCY

Procedural Efficiency is achieved through rigorous recordkeeping and strategic planning. Since 1969, Ballet West has documented the delivery of its education programs statewide, with records continuously updated to reflect school participation, geographic coverage, and program distribution. This infrastructure supports compliance with POPS coverage mandates and ensures consistent access. Moreover, the organization works directly with school leaders to tailor program formats and schedules to individual school needs. All programs are supported with rich supplemental materials, including digital study guides, classroom discussion tools, and evaluation forms, that enable sustained learning before and after each performance or workshop.

COLLABORATIVE PRACTICES

Collaborative Practices lie at the heart of Ballet West's outreach model. The Education Department works proactively with LEA Coordinators to establish district rotations, and with school administrators and teachers to ensure programs are optimally scheduled and effectively delivered. Collaboration also extends to peer POPS organizations, the Utah State Board of Education, and other state arts education entities. Through participation in peer

reviews, educator professional development, and cross-organizational planning, Ballet West supports a collective effort to expand the impact of arts education across all grade levels. Collaborative efforts with other dance-focused groups further enhance the efficiency and equity of service delivery throughout the state.

EDUCATIONAL SOUNDNESS

Educational Soundness is assured through both internal monitoring and external evaluation. All programs are continuously reviewed to assess their relevance, developmental appropriateness, and educational value. Ballet West places particular emphasis on ensuring that each program provides direct interaction between students, teachers and professional artists; integrates life skills, college and career readiness, and arts core curriculum; and complements classroom instruction. Peer reviews conducted in coordination with other POPS organizations provide an additional layer of evaluation to ensure programs remain innovative, effective, and aligned with state standards.

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Professional Excellence is a hallmark of Ballet West's educational work, as it is of its artistic performances. The organization's education programs are led by highly trained professional dancers and teaching artists and are overseen by a dedicated full-time Director of Education. Through this leadership, Ballet West ensures that all educational content is not only accurate and engaging, but also reflective of the company's longstanding reputation for artistic and pedagogical distinction. Ballet West's programming has been recognized both locally and nationally for its outstanding contributions to arts education.

GOALS AND PLANS FOR CONTINUED EVALUATION AND IMPROVEMENT

Goals and Plans for Continued Evaluation and Improvement remain central to Ballet West's philosophy. The organization is deeply committed to ongoing assessment and continuous improvement. Through structured peer reviews, educator feedback, and a wide range of qualitative and quantitative tools, including rubrics, tension grids, surveys, anecdotal feedback and interviews, Ballet West evaluates the efficacy and impact of each program. Insights from these evaluations inform strategic refinements that strengthen programming year after year. This commitment to continual growth ensures that Ballet West's educational outreach remains responsive to the needs of Utah's diverse student population and aligned with evolving educational priorities.



Claire 1st Grade, Silver Mesa Elementary, Canyons District



Charlotte 4th Grade, Kays Creek Elementary, Davis District



Camron 5th Grade, Grant Elementary, Murray District



Ellie S. 2nd Grade, Welby Elementary, Jordan School District



Aurora 5th Grade, Grant Elementary, Murray District



PHOTO BY LAUREN WATTENBURG



PHOTO BY ALISSA BAIRD

EDUCATION FUNDING 2025-2026

DETAIL OF OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME SUPPORTING EDUCATION PROGRAM

(In addition to Ballet West resources and State of Utah legislative appropriation)

FOUNDATION	DONATION
Adobe	\$20,000
Beaver Creek Foundation	\$30,000
Beverly Taylor Sorenson Foundation	\$75,000
B.W. Bastian Foundation	\$25,000
Cache Valley Bank	\$25,000
Joan and Tim Fenton Family Foundation	\$2,500
Joseph & Kathleen Sorenson Legacy Foundation	\$30,000
The Kahlert Foundation	\$15,000
Larry H. and Gail Miller Family Foundation	\$20,000
Lawrence T. and Janet T. Dee Foundation	\$25,000
R. Harold Burton Foundation	\$10,000
Richard K. and Shirley S. Hemingway Foundation	\$15,000
Simmons Family Foundation	\$20,000
	\$312,500