

Tiara Auxier proposes the following substitute bill:

School Curriculum and Standards Modifications

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Tiara Auxier

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies requirements for social studies education in elementary and secondary schools.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- requires the state superintendent to identify and develop high-quality open educational resource instructional materials for social studies and civics education;
- requires open educational resources to be updated when social studies standards are revised;
- requires social studies instruction on American self-governance and comparative government systems;
- requires instruction from documents influencing America's founding and literary thought;
- requires sourcing of English language arts assessment passages from primary source documents where appropriate;
- requires instruction on the roles and responsibilities of government officials;
- allows local education agencies to determine whether applied crafts and technical arts courses meet fine arts credit requirements;
- requires American constitutional government and citizenship to be taught as two distinct semester courses;
- requires United States history to be taught as two distinct semester courses;
- prohibits students from taking the same semester course twice to meet graduation requirements;
- requires literacy coaches to support the integration of social studies content into literacy instruction;
- requires regular social studies instruction for elementary grades;

- 29 ▶ allows social studies instruction to be delivered through integrated instruction with
 30 English language arts and mathematics;
 31 ▶ requires implementation of elementary social studies requirements by July 1, 2031;
 32 ▶ repeals an adult education citizenship test;
 33 ▶ defines terms; and
 34 ▶ makes technical changes.

35 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

36 None

37 **Other Special Clauses:**

38 This bill provides a special effective date.

39 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

40 AMENDS:

41 **53E-3-505 (Effective 07/01/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 378

42 **53E-3-1002 (Effective 07/01/26)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 285

43 **53E-3-1004 (Effective 07/01/26)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 285

44 **53E-4-202 (Effective 07/01/26) (Partially Repealed 01/01/28)**, as last amended by Laws
 45 of Utah 2024, Third Special Session, Chapter 5

46 **53E-4-204 (Effective 07/01/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 142

47 **53E-4-303 (Effective 07/01/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 289

48 **53G-10-302 (Effective 07/01/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 452

49 **53G-10-307 (Effective 07/01/26)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 478

50 **63I-2-253 (Effective 07/01/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special
 51 Session, Chapter 9

52 ENACTS:

53 **53E-4-205.3 (Effective 07/01/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

54 **53E-4-208 (Effective 07/01/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

55 REPEALS:

56 **53E-4-205 (Effective 07/01/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 142

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

59 Section 1. Section **53E-3-505** is amended to read:

60 **53E-3-505 (Effective 07/01/26). Financial and economic literacy education.**

61 (1) As used in this section:

62 (a) "Financial and economic activities" include activities related to the topics listed in

- 63 Subsection (1)(b).
- 64 (b) "Financial and economic literacy concepts" include concepts related to the following
- 65 topics:
- 66 (i) basic budgeting;
- 67 (ii) saving and financial investments;
- 68 (iii) banking and financial services, including balancing a checkbook or a bank
- 69 account and online banking services;
- 70 (iv) career management, including earning an income;
- 71 (v) rights and responsibilities of renting or buying a home;
- 72 (vi) retirement planning;
- 73 (vii) loans and borrowing money, including interest, credit card debt, predatory
- 74 lending, and payday loans;
- 75 (viii) insurance;
- 76 (ix) federal, state, and local taxes;
- 77 (x) charitable giving;
- 78 (xi) identity fraud and theft;
- 79 (xii) negative financial consequences of gambling;
- 80 (xiii) bankruptcy;
- 81 (xiv) economic systems, including a description of:
- 82 (A) a command system such as socialism or communism, a market system such as
- 83 capitalism, and a mixed system; and
- 84 (B) historic and current examples of the effects of each economic system on
- 85 economic growth;
- 86 (xv) supply and demand;
- 87 (xvi) monetary and fiscal policy;
- 88 (xvii) effective business plan creation, including using economic analysis in creating
- 89 a plan;
- 90 (xviii) scarcity and choices;
- 91 (xix) opportunity cost and tradeoffs;
- 92 (xx) productivity;
- 93 (xxi) entrepreneurism; and
- 94 (xxii) economic reasoning.
- 95 (c) "General financial literacy course" means the course of instruction administered by
- 96 the state board under Subsection (3).

- 97 (2) The state board shall:
- 98 (a) more fully integrate existing and new financial and economic literacy education into
- 99 instruction in kindergarten through grade 12 by:
- 100 (i) coordinating financial and economic literacy instruction with existing instruction
- 101 in other areas of the core standards for Utah public schools, such as mathematics
- 102 and social studies;
- 103 (ii) using curriculum mapping;
- 104 (iii) creating training materials and staff development programs that:
- 105 (A) highlight areas of potential coordination between financial and economic
- 106 literacy education and other core standards for Utah public schools concepts;
- 107 and
- 108 (B) demonstrate specific examples of financial and economic literacy concepts as
- 109 a way of teaching other core standards for Utah public schools concepts; and
- 110 (iv) using appropriate financial and economic literacy assessments to improve
- 111 financial and economic literacy education and, if necessary, developing
- 112 assessments;
- 113 (b) work with interested public, private, and nonprofit entities to:
- 114 (i) identify, and make available to teachers, online resources for financial and
- 115 economic literacy education, including modules with interactive activities and
- 116 turnkey instructor resources;
- 117 (ii) coordinate school use of existing financial and economic literacy education
- 118 resources;
- 119 (iii) develop simple, clear, and consistent messaging to reinforce and link existing
- 120 financial literacy resources;
- 121 (iv) coordinate the efforts of school, work, private, nonprofit, and other financial
- 122 education providers in implementing methods of appropriately communicating to
- 123 teachers, students, and parents key financial and economic literacy messages; and
- 124 (v) encourage parents and students to establish higher education savings, including a
- 125 Utah Educational Savings Plan account;
- 126 (c) in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act,
- 127 make rules to develop guidelines and methods for school districts and charter schools
- 128 to more fully integrate financial and economic literacy education into other core
- 129 standards for Utah public schools courses; and
- 130 (d) in cooperation with school districts, charter schools, and interested private and

131 nonprofit entities, provide opportunities for professional development in financial
132 and economic literacy concepts to teachers, including:
133 (i) a statewide learning community for financial and economic literacy;
134 (ii) summer workshops; and
135 (iii) online videos of experts in the field of financial and economic literacy education.

136 (3) The state board shall:

- 137 (a) administer a general financial literacy course in the same manner that the state board
138 administers other core standards for Utah public school courses for grades 9 through
139 12;
- 140 (b) adopt standards and objectives for the general financial literacy course that address:
141 (i) financial and economic literacy concepts;
142 (ii) the costs of going to college, student loans, scholarships, and the Free Application
143 for Federal Student Aid;
144 (iii) financial benefits of pursuing concurrent enrollment as defined in Section
145 53E-10-301; and
146 (iv) technology that relates to banking, savings, and financial products; and
- 147 (c)(i) contract with a provider, through a request for proposals process, to develop an
148 online, end-of-course assessment for the general financial literacy course;
149 (ii) require a school district or charter school to administer an online, end-of-course
150 assessment to a student who takes the general financial literacy course; and
151 (iii) develop a plan, through the state superintendent, to analyze the results of an
152 online, end-of-course assessment in general financial literacy that includes:
153 (A) an analysis of assessment results by standard; and
154 (B) average scores statewide and by school district and school[-] ; and
- 155 (d) approve other courses, including courses offered through recognized national or
156 international educational organizations or examination boards, that meet the
157 standards and objectives described in Subsection (3)(b) as fulfilling the financial and
158 economic literacy education requirements of this section.

159 (4)(a) The state board shall establish a task force to study and make recommendations to
160 the state board on how to improve financial and economic literacy education in the
161 public school system.

- 162 (b) The task force membership shall include representatives of:
163 (i) the state board;
164 (ii) school districts and charter schools;

165 (iii) the Utah System of Higher Education; and
 166 (iv) private or public entities that teach financial education and share a commitment
 167 to empower individuals and families to achieve economic stability, opportunity,
 168 and upward mobility.

169 (c) The state board shall convene the task force at least once every three years to review
 170 and recommend adjustments to the standards and objectives of the general financial
 171 literacy course.

172 (5) A course approved under Subsection (3)(d):

173 (a) shall address the standards and objectives described in Subsection (3)(b);

174 (b) may include additional content beyond the minimum standards established by the
 175 state board; and

176 (c) is not required to use the end-of-course assessment described in Subsection (3)(c) if
 177 the course includes an alternative assessment that the state board determines
 178 adequately measures student achievement of the standards and objectives described
 179 in Subsection (3)(b).

180 Section 2. Section **53E-3-1002** is amended to read:

181 **53E-3-1002 (Effective 07/01/26). Literacy coaching -- Professional learning.**

182 (1) Subject to legislative appropriations, the state board shall provide, train, and assign
 183 literacy coaches to schools with low literacy achievement performance to provide early
 184 literacy coaching to teachers in kindergarten through grade 3, in accordance with this
 185 section.

186 (2) The state board shall make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
 187 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to:

188 (a) establish criteria to determine which schools qualify for early literacy coaching,
 189 prioritizing coaching among:

190 (i) schools that participate in partnerships that receive grants under Title 53F, Chapter
 191 5, Part 4, Partnerships for Student Success Grant Program; and

192 (ii) schools that fall within the bottom 25% of all schools in literacy achievement
 193 performance, as the state board further defines;

194 (b) establish minimum qualifications for early literacy coach positions to ensure
 195 adequate preparation with necessary expertise;

196 (c) define roles and responsibilities for a literacy coach, including:

197 (i) assisting educators in analyzing data to inform instructional adjustments;

198 (ii) engaging in instructional coaching cycles with educators to build capacity for

- 199 improved classroom instructional practices;
- 200 (iii) using principles of adult learning to effectively partner with educators to
- 201 integrate professional learning into classroom practice;
- 202 (iv) leveraging knowledge of the science of reading and evidence-based practices to
- 203 support educators in maximizing student learning;
- 204 (v) partnering with a school's leader to support school-wide literacy goals to provide
- 205 a team of support for educators to embed the state-wide goals into instructional
- 206 plans and practice;
- 207 (vi) delivering consistent and frequent job-embedded professional learning;
- 208 (vii) participating actively in professional learning experiences to deepen knowledge
- 209 and skills for coaching;[~~and~~]
- 210 (viii) designing and facilitating relevant and cohesive professional learning sessions
- 211 to strengthen the implementation of these evidence-based practices with
- 212 educators; and
- 213 (ix) supporting the integration of social studies content into literacy instruction to
- 214 enhance both reading comprehension and content knowledge, in alignment with
- 215 the requirements of Section 53E-4-205.3;
- 216 (d) establish parameters for the relationship between a literacy coach and school or LEA,
- 217 including ensuring that coaches do not engage in activities or duties unrelated to
- 218 literacy coaching, including:
- 219 (i) serving as an evaluator, substitute teacher, clerical aid, recess or lunch aid,
- 220 behavioral therapist, tester, guidance counselor, interventionist, program manager,
- 221 or contest leader; or
- 222 (ii) any other assignment that frequently disrupts the coach's ability to support
- 223 educators in improving instructional practice.
- 224 (3) The state board shall:
- 225 (a) ensure that one staff position supervises early literacy coaches statewide;
- 226 (b) select the pool of candidates for literacy coaching positions and coordinate with
- 227 LEAs regarding interviews, final selection, and placement; and
- 228 (c) annually review coaching placements and adjust placements as necessary, based on
- 229 the school's literacy achievement performance and the criteria established under
- 230 Subsection (2).
- 231 (4) The state board shall provide professional learning support in early literacy by:
- 232 (a) facilitating professional learning opportunities to support literacy coaches statewide

- 233 that includes knowledge and skill development in adult learning practices,
 234 job-embedded coaching, and family engagement;
- 235 (b) providing professional learning regional consultants to:
- 236 (i) support LEAs and regional education service agencies in designing, facilitating,
 237 monitoring, and adjusting professional learning in early literacy that aligns with
 238 the professional learning standards described in Section 53G-11-303; and
- 239 (ii) serve a cohort of LEAs within a geographic region of the state; and
- 240 (c) providing statewide professional learning to support the use of collective efficacy,
 241 including the implementation of professional learning communities and school
 242 leadership teams through 2027.

243 Section 3. Section **53E-3-1004** is amended to read:

244 **53E-3-1004 (Effective 07/01/26). Community engagement for early literacy.**

- 245 (1) The state board shall:
- 246 (a) partner with a private business or nonprofit organization to annually provide
 247 personal, home-use, age-appropriate printed books or digital books with
 248 accompanying electronic reading devices to students:
- 249 (i) who attend:
- 250 (A) a school that participates in partnerships that receive grants under Title 53F,
 251 Chapter 5, Part 4, Partnerships for Student Success Grant Program; or
- 252 (B) a Title I school, as that term is defined in Section 53F-2-523; and
- 253 (ii) at a minimum, in kindergarten through grade 3; and
- 254 (b) provide students a choice of language where possible.
- 255 (2) The state board shall develop and promote a website that provides resources for teachers
 256 and other educational support personnel to:
- 257 (a) support targeted activities and strategies for parents to support at-home reading[-] ;
 258 and
- 259 (b) integrate social studies content with literacy instruction, supporting both early
 260 literacy goals and social studies learning objectives described in Section 53E-4-205.3.
- 261 (3) The state board shall contract with one or more organizations that have expertise in
 262 coordinating community resources to:
- 263 (a) provide training and coaching to community, school, and parent engagement
 264 coordinators; and
- 265 (b) for a school that is not participating in a partnership that receives a grant under Title
 266 53F, Chapter 5, Part 4, Partnerships for Student Success Grant Program:

- 267 (i) assess the presence of existing community school infrastructure; and
 268 (ii) provide necessary supports for parent, community, and business engagement,
 269 including services and coordination support.

270 Section 4. Section **53E-4-202** is amended to read:

271 **53E-4-202 (Effective 07/01/26) (Partially Repealed 01/01/28). Core standards for**
 272 **Utah public schools -- Notice and hearing requirements.**

273 [(1)(a)] (1) In establishing minimum standards related to curriculum and instruction
 274 requirements under Section 53E-3-501, the state board shall, in consultation with local
 275 school boards, school superintendents, teachers, employers, and parents implement core
 276 standards for Utah public schools that will enable students to, among other objectives:

- 277 [(i)] (a) communicate effectively, both verbally and through written communication;
 278 [(ii)] (b) apply mathematics; [~~and~~]
 279 [(iii)] (c) access, analyze, and apply information[-] ; and
 280 (d) understand history and government as described in Sections 53E-4-208 and
 281 53G-10-302.

282 [(b)] (2) Except as provided in this public education code, the state board may recommend
 283 but may not require a local school board or charter school governing board to use:

- 284 [(i)] (a) a particular curriculum or instructional material; or
 285 [(ii)] (b) a model curriculum or instructional material.

286 [(2)] (3) The state board shall, in establishing the core standards for Utah public schools:

- 287 (a) identify the basic knowledge, skills, and competencies each student is expected to
 288 acquire or master as the student advances through the public education system; and
 289 (b) align with each other the core standards for Utah public schools and the assessments
 290 described in Section 53E-4-303.

291 [(3)] (4) The basic knowledge, skills, and competencies identified [~~pursuant to~~] in

292 accordance with Subsection [(2)(a)] (1)(a) shall increase in depth and complexity from
 293 year to year and focus on consistent and continual progress within and between grade
 294 levels and courses in the basic academic areas of:

- 295 (a) English, including explicit phonics, spelling, grammar, reading, writing, vocabulary,
 296 speech, and listening; [~~and~~]
 297 (b) mathematics, including basic computational skills[-] ; and
 298 (c) social studies, including history and government as described in Section 53G-10-302.

299 [(4)] (5) Before adopting core standards for Utah public schools, the state board shall:

- 300 (a) publicize draft core standards for Utah public schools for the state, as a class A

301 notice under Section 63G-30-102, for at least 90 days;

302 (b) invite public comment on the draft core standards for Utah public schools for a
303 period of not less than 90 days; and

304 (c) conduct three public hearings that are held in different regions of the state on the
305 draft core standards for Utah public schools.

306 [~~5~~] (6) LEA governing boards shall design their school programs, that are supported by
307 generally accepted scientific standards of evidence, to focus on the core standards for
308 Utah public schools with the expectation that each program will enhance or help achieve
309 mastery of the core standards for Utah public schools.

310 [~~6~~] (7) Except as provided in Sections 53G-10-103 and 53G-10-402, each school may
311 select instructional materials and methods of teaching, that are supported by generally
312 accepted scientific standards of evidence, that the school considers most appropriate to
313 meet the core standards for Utah public schools.

314 [~~7~~] (8) The state may exit any agreement, contract, memorandum of understanding, or
315 consortium that cedes control of the core standards for Utah public schools to any other
316 entity, including a federal agency or consortium, for any reason, including:

317 (a) the cost of developing or implementing the core standards for Utah public schools;

318 (b) the proposed core standards for Utah public schools are inconsistent with community
319 values; or

320 (c) the agreement, contract, memorandum of understanding, or consortium:

321 (i) was entered into in violation of Chapter 3, Part 8, Implementing Federal or
322 National Education Programs, or Title 63J, Chapter 5, Federal Funds Procedures
323 Act;

324 (ii) conflicts with Utah law;

325 (iii) requires Utah student data to be included in a national or multi-state database;

326 (iv) requires records of teacher performance to be included in a national or multi-state
327 database; or

328 (v) imposes curriculum, assessment, or data tracking requirements on home school or
329 private school students.

330 [~~8~~] (9) The state board shall:

331 (a) submit a report in accordance with Section 53E-1-203 on the development and
332 implementation of the core standards for Utah public schools, including the time line
333 established for the review of the core standards for Utah public schools; and

334 (b) ensure that the report described in Subsection [~~8~~](a) (9)(a) includes the time line

335 established for the review of the core standards for Utah public schools by a
 336 standards review committee and the recommendations of a standards review
 337 committee established under Section 53E-4-203.

338 Section 5. Section **53E-4-204** is amended to read:

339 **53E-4-204 (Effective 07/01/26). Standards and graduation requirements.**

- 340 (1) The state board shall establish rigorous core standards for Utah public schools and
 341 graduation requirements under Section 53E-3-501 for grades 9 through 12 that:
- 342 (a) are consistent with state law and federal regulations;
 - 343 (b) use competency-based standards and assessments;
 - 344 (c) include instruction that stresses general financial literacy from basic budgeting to
 345 financial investments, including bankruptcy education and a general financial literacy
 346 test-out option;
 - 347 (d) include graduation requirements in language arts, mathematics, and science that
 348 exceed:
 - 349 (i) 3.0 units in language arts including up to 0.5 units emphasizing verbal
 350 communication completed in a course or a school sponsored activity;
 - 351 (ii) 2.0 units in mathematics; and
 - 352 (iii) and 2.0 units in science; [~~and~~]
 - 353 [~~(e) include a graduation requirement in social studies that is equal to or exceeds 3.5~~
 354 ~~units, including at least 1.0 unit in American constitutional government and~~
 355 ~~citizenship as described in Section 53E-4-205.2;]~~
 - 356 (e) include a graduation requirement in social studies that is equal to or exceeds 3.5
 357 units, including:
 - 358 (i) at least 1.0 unit in American constitutional government and citizenship as
 359 described in Section 53E-4-205.2, consisting of two distinct semester courses that
 360 may not be duplicated to satisfy the requirement; and
 - 361 (ii) at least 1.0 unit in United States history, consisting of two distinct semester
 362 courses that may not be duplicated to satisfy the requirement; and
 - 363 (f) ensure up to 0.5 units of the 1.0 unit in American constitutional government and
 364 citizenship described in Subsection [(1)(e)] (1)(e)(i) may be earned by:
 - 365 (i) completing a course or a school sponsored activity emphasizing verbal
 366 communication provided that a significant portion of the course or activity is
 367 dedicated to civic education, including:
 - 368 (A) policy analysis;

- 369 (B) governmental systems; and
370 (C) civic engagement; or
371 (ii) participation in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps described in 10 U.S.C.
372 Sec. 2031.

373 (2) The state board shall establish competency-based standards and assessments for elective
374 courses.

375 (3) The state board shall study requiring all LEAs to issue a high school diploma to students
376 who receive:

377 (a) an associate's degree with at least 60 credit hours from an accredited post-secondary
378 institution; or

379 (b) an industry certification with at least 500 hours of instruction from a business, trade
380 association, or other industry group in accordance with Section 53E-3-501.

381 Section 6. Section **53E-4-205.3** is enacted to read:

382 **53E-4-205.3** (Effective 07/01/26). **Elementary social studies education.**

383 (1) As used in this section:

384 (a) "Elementary grades" or "elementary grade level" means kindergarten through grade 6.

385 (b) "Integrated instruction" means teaching that purposefully connects social studies
386 content with other subject areas.

387 (c) "Social studies" means the integrated study of history, geography, civics, and
388 economics as outlined in the state board's standards for social studies.

389 (2) The board shall make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
390 Administrative Rulemaking Act, establishing standards to ensure that LEAs provide
391 regular social studies instruction in each elementary grade level.

392 (3) The board shall:

393 (a) develop guidelines for integrating, where appropriate, social studies instruction with
394 English language arts and mathematics;

395 (b) develop and maintain a repository of social studies instructional materials and
396 resources;

397 (c) establish criteria for qualifying integrated instruction; and

398 (d) develop methods to measure student progress in social studies learning.

399 (4) An LEA shall:

400 (a) ensure that students in elementary grades receive regular social studies instruction
401 required in Subsection (2);

402 (b) in accordance with Section 53G-10-304, adopt social studies curricula that meet state

- 403 standards;
- 404 (c) ensure all elementary students have access to appropriate social studies materials;
- 405 (d) provide resources to support integrated instruction;
- 406 (e) ensure that elementary teachers receive ongoing professional development in social
- 407 studies instruction, including integrated instruction;
- 408 (f) provide time for collaborative planning to support integrated instruction;
- 409 (g) regularly assess student progress in social studies;
- 410 (h) use data to inform instruction and support; and
- 411 (i) report social studies instructional time and student outcomes to the state board as
- 412 required.

413 (5) An LEA shall implement all requirements of this section by July 1, 2031.

414 (6) Upon request, the board shall report to the Education Interim Committee on

415 implementation progress and initial outcomes.

416 Section 7. Section **53E-4-208** is enacted to read:

417 **53E-4-208 (Effective 07/01/26). High-quality open educational resource**

418 **instructional materials.**

419 (1) As used in this section:

420 (a) "Open education resource instructional material" means teaching, learning, and

421 research resources that are in the public domain or have been released under an

422 intellectual property license that allows for free use, reuse, modification, and sharing

423 with others, including full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming

424 videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support

425 access to knowledge.

426 (b) "Utah core standards" means the standards described in Section 53E-4-202.

427 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision in this part, and subject to legislative

428 appropriation, the Superintendent shall:

429 (a) identify and develop open education resource instructional material that align with

430 Utah core standards adopted by the state board, including:

431 (i) align with Utah core standards for social studies, including the requirements of

432 Section 53G-10-302;

433 (ii) meet the instructional needs of students in kindergarten through grade 12 in a

434 manner suitable for the age and developmental level of students at each grade

435 level;

436 (iii) are available in digital and, when possible, print formats;

- 437 **(b) ensure the open education resource instructional materials identified or developed**
438 **under this section include:**
- 439 **(i) comprehensive instructional materials aligned with Utah core standards;**
440 **(ii) teacher resources, including:**
- 441 **(A) scopes and sequences;**
442 **(B) topics by grade level;**
443 **(C) text selection guides;**
444 **(D) unit and lesson-level implementation guides;**
445 **(E) daily lesson plans;**
446 **(F) formative, interim, and summative assessments; and**
447 **(G) professional development materials;**
- 448 **(iii) student materials and resources, including:**
- 449 **(A) student-facing instructional materials;**
450 **(B) guided practice materials;**
451 **(C) independent practice materials;**
452 **(D) digital learning resources;**
453 **(E) project and performance tasks;**
454 **(F) other classroom supports; and**
455 **(G) implementation guides to support LEAs in the adoption and use of the**
456 **materials;**
- 457 **(c) establish quality standards and review processes for materials identified or developed**
458 **under this section;**
- 459 **(d) ensure that the open educational resource instructional materials identified or**
460 **developed under this section are openly licensed under a Creative Commons license**
461 **or equivalent license to allow an LEA to use, adapt, customize, and distribute the**
462 **materials without charge; and**
- 463 **(e) make the open educational resource instructional materials available through a**
464 **centralized digital platform accessible to all LEAs and the public.**
- 465 **(3) In identifying or developing open educational resource instructional materials under this**
466 **section, the Superintendent shall:**
- 467 **(a) consult with LEAs, teachers, curriculum specialists, and other education stakeholders;**
468 **(b) establish timelines for phased identification, development, review, and**
469 **implementation; and**
- 470 **(c) ensure open education resource instructional materials are available to all**

471 students, parents, classroom teachers, and LEAs in this state free of charge.

472 (4) The state board:

473 (a) may not require an LEA to adopt or use the open educational resource instructional
474 materials identified or developed under this section; and

475 (b) shall approve any contract entered into under this section in accordance with
476 procurement requirements.

477 (5) Upon request, the Superintendent and state board shall report to the Education Interim
478 Committee regarding:

479 (a) progress on identification and development of materials under this section, including
480 timelines and milestones;

481 (b) expenditures from appropriations under this section;

482 (c) LEA adoption and use of the open educational resource instructional materials;

483 (d) feedback from LEAs, teachers, and other stakeholders, including parents; and

484 (e) plans and progress for updates, maintenance, and expansion of the open educational
485 resource instructional materials.

486 Section 8. Section **53E-4-303** is amended to read:

487 **53E-4-303 (Effective 07/01/26). Utah standards assessments -- Administration --**
488 **Review committee.**

489 (1) As used in this section[;] :

490 (a) ["computer] "Computer adaptive assessment" means an assessment that measures the
491 range of a student's ability by adapting to the student's responses, selecting more
492 difficult or less difficult questions based on the student's responses.

493 (b) "Founding document" means a document described in Subsections 53E-4-205.2 and
494 53G-10-302(4).

495 (2) The state board shall:

496 (a) adopt a standards assessment that:

497 (i) measures a student's proficiency in:

498 (A) mathematics for students in each of grades 3 through 8 until July 1, 2026, and
499 3 through 10 after July 1, 2026;

500 (B) English language arts for students in each of grades 3 through 8 until July 1,
501 2026, and 3 through 10 after July 1, 2026;

502 (C) science for students in each of grades 4 through 8 until July 1, 2026, and 4
503 through 10 after July 1, 2026; and

504 (D) writing for students in at least grades 5 and 8; and

- 505 (ii) except for the writing measurement described in Subsection (2)(a)(i)(D), is a
 506 computer adaptive assessment; [~~and~~]
- 507 (b) ensure that an assessment described in Subsection (2)(a) is:
 508 (i) a criterion referenced assessment;
 509 (ii) administered online;
 510 (iii) aligned with the core standards for Utah public schools; and
 511 (iv) adaptable to personalized, competency-based learning, as that term is defined in
 512 Section 53F-5-501[-] ; and
- 513 (c) beginning in the 2028-2029 school year, ensure that the English language arts
 514 assessment described in Subsection (2)(a)(i)(B) includes reading passages and
 515 questions sourced from primary source documents and founding documents by:
 516 (i) sourcing some reading passages, excerpts, and questions from the founding
 517 documents described in Subsection 53E-4-205.2(3) and Section 53G-10-302(4),
 518 where appropriate for assessing English language arts skills;
 519 (ii) ensuring that the passages and questions described in Subsection (2)(c)(i) are
 520 age-appropriate and aligned with grade-level English language arts standards; and
 521 (iii) ensuring that the passages and questions described in Subsection (2)(c)(i) assess
 522 English language arts skills, including reading comprehension, critical analysis,
 523 and interpretation of complex texts.
- 524 (3) A school district or charter school shall annually administer the standards assessment
 525 adopted by the state board under Subsection (2) to all students in the subjects and grade
 526 levels described in Subsection (2).
- 527 (4)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(b), a student's score on the standards
 528 assessment adopted under Subsection (2) may not be considered in determining:
 529 (i) the student's academic grade for a course; or
 530 (ii) whether the student may advance to the next grade level.
- 531 (b) A teacher may use a student's score on the standards assessment adopted under
 532 Subsection (2) to improve the student's academic grade for or demonstrate the
 533 student's competency within a relevant course.
- 534 (5)(a) The state board shall establish a committee consisting of 15 parents of Utah public
 535 education students to review all standards assessment questions.
- 536 (b) The committee established in Subsection (5)(a) shall include the following parent
 537 members:
 538 (i) five members appointed by the chair of the state board;

- 539 (ii) five members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives or the
 540 speaker's designee; and
- 541 (iii) five members appointed by the president of the Senate or the president's designee.
- 542 (c) The state board shall provide staff support to the parent committee.
- 543 (d) The term of office of each member appointed in Subsection (5)(b) is four years.
- 544 (e) The chair of the state board, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
 545 president of the Senate shall adjust the length of terms to stagger the terms of
 546 committee members so that approximately half of the committee members are
 547 appointed every two years.
- 548 (f) No member may receive compensation or benefits for the member's service on the
 549 committee.

550 Section 9. Section **53G-10-302** is amended to read:

551 **53G-10-302 (Effective 07/01/26). Instruction in American history and**
 552 **government -- Study and posting of American heritage documents -- Comparative**
 553 **instruction on government systems.**

554 (1) As used in this section[¹] :

- 555 (a) "American experiment in self-governance and United States founding principles"
 556 means the unique characteristics and achievements of the United States, including:
 557 (i) the nation's founding principles of individual liberty, limited government, and
 558 natural rights;
 559 (ii) the enduring strength and adaptability of the United States Constitution;
 560 (iii) the protection of individual freedoms and religious liberty;
 561 (iv) supporting and preserving the family;
 562 (v) economic prosperity through free market capitalism and entrepreneurship;
 563 (vi) the promotion of human rights and representative self-government globally; and
 564 (vii) the contributions of American innovation, culture, and civil society to human
 565 progress and flourishing.
- 566 (b) "Communism" means a system of government, governance, or political theory that
 567 has historically resulted in widespread human rights abuses, economic failure, and
 568 totalitarian oppression, characterized by:
 569 (i) collective or state ownership of property and the means of production;
 570 (ii) centralized economic planning;
 571 (iii) single-party authoritarian rule;
 572 (iv) practices that are destructive to the family structure and function; or

- 573 (v) suppression of individual rights and liberties in favor of collective goals.
- 574 (c) "Ten Commandments" means the Decalogue, known as the Ten Commandments, as
575 recorded in the Hebrew Scriptures in Exodus 20:2-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21.
- 576 (2) The Legislature recognizes that a proper understanding of American history and
577 government is essential to good citizenship, and that the public schools are the primary
578 public institutions charged with responsibility for assisting children and youth in gaining
579 that understanding.
- 580 (3)(a) The state board and local school boards shall periodically review school curricula
581 and activities to ensure that effective instruction in American history and government
582 is taking place in the public schools.
- 583 (b) The boards shall solicit public input as part of the review process.
- 584 (c) The state board shall ensure instruction in American history and government for
585 students occurs as appropriate and includes a study of:
- 586 (i) forms of government, such as a republic, a pure democracy, a monarchy, and an
587 oligarchy;
- 588 (ii) political philosophies and economic systems, such as socialism, communism,
589 individualism, and free market capitalism;
- 590 (iii) the United States' form of government, a compound constitutional republic;
- 591 (iv) the roles and responsibilities of government officials, including all state and
592 locally elected officials;
- 593 (v) the voting process and election laws of this state, including the caucus and
594 convention system;
- 595 (vi) the purpose and benefits of the Electoral College system in presidential elections,
596 including:
- 597 (A) how the system protects state sovereignty;
- 598 (B) ensures broad geographic representation; and
- 599 (C) maintains the federal nature of the republic;
- 600 (vii) the eligibility requirements to run for elected office at the federal, state, and
601 local levels; and
- 602 (viii) the elected officials who represent students at each level of government.
- 603 (d) Beginning in the 2028-2029 school year, the state board shall ensure that social
604 studies core standards for students in secondary grades include comparative
605 instruction on government systems, with instruction on communism occurring at least
606 three times during secondary grades and with the state board determining the specific

- 607 grades and frequency of instruction within secondary grades, that:
- 608 (i) compare and contrast the government systems described in Subsection (3)(c) with
- 609 communism and other autocratic government systems, such as:
- 610 (A) fascist governments, including World War II-era regimes; and
- 611 (B) ancient autocracies, including absolute monarchies;
- 612 (ii) include instruction on the American experiment in self-governance and United
- 613 States founding principles, including why the Founders rejected pure democracy,
- 614 including ancient Greek examples;
- 615 (iii) include instruction on the fundamental characteristics of communism, including
- 616 state control of information and media;
- 617 (iv) include instruction on the history and tactics of communist movements in the
- 618 United States, including:
- 619 (A) the spread of communist ideology during the 20th century;
- 620 (B) efforts to infiltrate American institutions; and
- 621 (C) the response of the United States government and civil society to communist
- 622 movements;
- 623 (v) include instruction on historical crimes, human rights violations, and economic
- 624 failures caused by communist regimes, including:
- 625 (A) the Cultural Revolution in China;
- 626 (B) the Holodomor in Ukraine;
- 627 (C) the Great Terror in the Soviet Union;
- 628 (D) the Cambodian genocide under the Khmer Rouge;
- 629 (E) the human rights violations and economic failures of the Cuban communist
- 630 regime;
- 631 (F) the violence and destabilization caused by communist guerrilla movements in
- 632 Latin America; and
- 633 (G) the systematic persecution of religious groups and suppression of religious
- 634 practice under communist regimes; and
- 635 (vi) include comparative outcomes demonstrating the benefits of constitutional
- 636 republicanism through comparison with communist, pure democratic, and other
- 637 autocratic systems, including:
- 638 (A) economic prosperity and innovation;
- 639 (B) protection of human rights and individual freedoms;
- 640 (C) political stability and peaceful transfer of power;

- 641 (D) quality of life and opportunity for citizens; and
- 642 (E) contributions to global peace and prosperity.
- 643 (e) Beginning in the 2028-2029 school year, and in In accordance with
- 643a Subsection (8), the
- 644 state board shall ensure prioritize instruction in American history and
- 644a government for students
- 645 as appropriate and may includes include the
- 645a study of the historical and philosophical context in
- 646 which the founding documents were created, with the state board determining the
- 647 specific grades and frequency of instruction within grades 3 through 12, including:
- 648 (i) analysis of religious and philosophical references contained in founding
- 649 documents,including:
- 650 (A) the reference in the Declaration of Independence to "Nature's God,"
- 651 "Creator,""Supreme Judge of the world," and "divine Providence";
- 652 (B) religious and philosophical influences on concepts of natural rights and
- 653 limited government as reflected in primary source documents from the
- 654 founding era;
- 655 (C) the debates over religious liberty and the relationship between religion and
- 656 government as reflected in founding era documents, including writings on the
- 657 First Amendment; and
- 658 (D) specific passages from the text described in Subsection (4)(m) that are cited or
- 659 alluded to in founding documents;
- 660 (E) narratives and concepts from the text described in Subsection (4)(m) that
- 661 shaped colonial American political thought;
- 662 (F) the use of language and imagery from the text described in Subsection (4)(m)
- 663 in political rhetoric of the founding era and throughout American history; and
- 664 (G) influences of the text described in Subsection (4)(m) on concepts of
- 665 covenant,law, justice, and liberty in American constitutional thought;
- 666 (ii) comparative analysis of the philosophical traditions described in
- 667 Subsection53E-4-205.2(2)(a), and additional philosophical traditions, including
- 668 Enlightenment philosophy, Protestant and Catholic thought, deism, and natural
- 669 law theory; and
- 670 (iii) the development of American principles of religious liberty, including:
- 671 (A) the First Amendment's protections for religious exercise and prohibitions on

- 672 religious establishment; and
- 673 (B) state constitutional provisions on religious liberty.
- 674 [~~(e) Instruction in American history and government shall include a study of:~~]
- 675 [~~(i) forms of government, such as a republic, a pure democracy, a monarchy, and an~~
- 676 ~~oligarchy;~~]
- 677 [~~(ii) political philosophies and economic systems, such as socialism, individualism,~~
- 678 ~~and free market capitalism; and]~~
- 679 [~~(iii) the United States' form of government, a compound constitutional republic.]~~]
- 680 (4) School curricula and activities shall include a thorough study of historical documents[
- 681 ~~and principles such as]~~ described in Subsection 53E-4-205.2(3), and the following
- 682 additional historical documents and principles::
- 683 [~~(a) the Declaration of Independence;~~]
- 684 [~~(b) the United States Constitution;~~]
- 685 [~~(c)] (a) the national motto;~~
- 686 [~~(d)] (b) the pledge of allegiance;~~
- 687 [~~(e)] (c) the national anthem;~~
- 688 (d) the entirety of George Washington's Farewell Address;
- 689 [~~(f) the Mayflower Compact;~~]
- 690 [~~(g) the writings, speeches, documents, and proclamations of the Founders and the~~
- 691 ~~Presidents of the United States;~~]
- 692 [~~(h) organic documents from the pre-Colonial, Colonial, Revolutionary, Federalist, and~~
- 693 ~~post-Federalist eras;~~]
- 694 (e) Frederick Douglass's speeches, including:
- 695 (i) "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July," delivered July 5, 1852; and
- 696 (ii) "What the Black Man Wants," delivered January 26, 1865;
- 697 (f) selected passages from the Anti-Federalist Papers and the Federalist Papers,
- 698 including Federalist Papers No. 10 and No. 51;
- 699 [~~(i)] (g) United States Supreme Court decisions;~~
- 700 [~~(j)] (h) the Ten Commandments;~~
- 701 [~~(k)] (i) the Magna Carta;~~
- 702 [~~(l)] (j) Acts of the United States Congress, including the published text of the~~
- 703 ~~Congressional Record; [and]~~
- 704 [~~(m)] (k) United States treaties[-];~~
- 705 (l) excerpts from Alexis de Tocqueville's Democracy in America;

- 706 (m) the Bible, including the Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament, as literary and
 707 historical texts that have influenced American constitutional history, civic thought,
 708 and cultural development; and
- 709 (n) when teaching Utah history, an LEA may include study of religious beliefs and texts
 710 that influenced the state's early founders and the state's history.
- 711 (5) To increase student understanding of, and familiarity with, American historical
 712 documents, public schools [may] shall display historically important excerpts from, or
 713 copies of, those documents in school classrooms and common areas as appropriate.
- 714 (6) There shall be no content-based censorship of American history and heritage documents
 715 referred to in this section due to their religious or cultural nature.
- 716 (7) Public schools shall display "In God we trust," which is declared in 36 U.S.C. 302 to be
 717 the national motto of the United States, in one or more prominent places within each
 718 school building.
- 719 (8) An LEA shall ensure instruction provided under Subsections (4)(m) and (3)(e):
- 720 (a) focuses on religious texts' literary forms, historical context, and documented
 721 influence on American civic thought and the state's founding history rather than on
 722 theological or doctrinal questions;
- 723 (b) may use multiple translations of religious texts for comparative literary and historical
 724 analysis;
- 725 (c) acknowledges diverse interpretations of religious texts and their application to
 726 political thought and founding history; and
- 727 (d) for instruction under Subsection (3)(e), is integrated with the study of founding
 728 documents and principles.
- 729 (9) The state board shall ensure that each review and revision of social studies core
 730 standards includes the requirements of this section.
- 731 (10) Nothing in this section prohibits an LEA from exceeding the minimum standards
 732 established by the state board under this section.

733 Section 10. Section **53G-10-307** is amended to read:

734 **53G-10-307 (Effective 07/01/26). Art or fine arts education -- Definition -- Credit**
 735 **requirements.**

- 736 (1) As used in this section, "art" or "fine arts" means:
- 737 (a) courses, instruction, or experiences in visual arts, music, dance, or theater;
- 738 (b) courses, instruction, or experiences in applied crafts and technical arts that
 739 incorporate artistic elements, including:

- 740 (i) woodworking;
- 741 (ii) metalworking and welding;
- 742 (iii) traditional handcrafts;
- 743 (iv) architectural trades, including carpentry, plumbing, masonry, and stonework;
- 744 (v) automotive design and customization;
- 745 (vi) electrical and electrician work;
- 746 [~~(vi)~~] (vii) digital design and animation; or
- 747 [~~(vii)~~] (viii) other similar courses that combine technical skill with artistic expression;
- 748 and
- 749 (c) other forms of creative or interpretive expression as an LEA determines.
- 750 (2) For purposes of meeting art or fine arts credit requirements the state board establishes, [
751 ~~the~~] an LEA shall [~~accept for an art or fine arts credit any~~] accept a course listed in
752 Subsection (1) that meets the LEA's art or fine arts credit requirements if the course:
- 753 (a) incorporates artistic or creative elements in the curriculum;
- 754 (b) includes instruction in principles of design, form, or aesthetic expression; and
- 755 (c) provides students opportunities for creative expression and artistic application of
756 technical skills.
- 757 (3) Nothing in this section:
- 758 (a) prevents an LEA from:
- 759 (i) establishing the LEA's own additional criteria for [~~artistic and creative elements in~~
760 ~~courses accepted for fine arts credit~~] courses accepted for fine arts credit; or
- 761 (ii) offering additional courses for fine arts credit; or
- 762 (b) requires an LEA to offer all courses listed in Subsection (1).
- 763 Section 11. Section **63I-2-253** is amended to read:
- 764 **63I-2-253 (Effective 07/01/26). Repeal dates: Titles 53 through 53G.**
- 765 (1) Title 53, Chapter 2c, COVID-19 Health and Economic Response Act, is repealed July 1,
766 2026.
- 767 (2) Section 53-22-104.1, School Security Task Force -- Membership -- Duties -- Per diem --
768 Report -- Expiration, is repealed December 31, 2025.
- 769 (3) Section 53-22-104.2, The School Security Task Force -- Education Advisory Board, is
770 repealed December 31, 2025.
- 771 (4) Section 53-25-103, Airport dangerous weapon possession reporting requirements, is
772 repealed December 31, 2031.
- 773 (5) Subsection 53-25-602(4)(b), regarding the rights of a peace officer placed onto a

- 774 prosecution agency's Brady identification system before May 7, 2025, is repealed
775 December 1, 2025.
- 776 (6) Subsection 53-29-302(2)(b)(ii), regarding the requirement for the Department of
777 Corrections to submit the results of risk assessments for sex offenders to the State
778 Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 779 (7) Section 53E-4-204.1, regarding ethnic studies core standards and curriculum
780 requirements, is repealed July 1, 2026.
- 781 [(7)] (8) Subsection 53E-3-501(7)(e)(ii), regarding a report on the packet method, is
782 repealed July 1, 2028.
- 783 [(8)] (9) Subsection 53F-2-504(6), regarding a report on the Salary Supplement for Highly
784 Needed Educators, is repealed July 1, 2026.
- 785 [(9)] (10) Section 53F-5-221, Management of energy and water use pilot program, is
786 repealed July 1, 2028.
- 787 [(10)] (11) Section 53F-5-222, Mentoring and Supporting Teacher Excellence and
788 Refinement Pilot Program, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 789 [(11)] (12) Section 53F-5-223, Stipends for Future Educators Grant Program, is repealed
790 July 1, 2028.
- 791 [(12)] (13) Subsection 53G-11-502(1), regarding implementation of the educator evaluation
792 process, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 793 [(13)] (14) Section 53G-11-506, Establishment of educator evaluation program -- Joint
794 committee, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 795 [(14)] (15) Section 53G-11-507, Components of educator evaluation program, is repealed
796 July 1, 2029.
- 797 [(15)] (16) Section 53G-11-508, Summative evaluation timelines -- Review of summative
798 evaluations, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 799 [(16)] (17) Section 53G-11-509, Mentor for provisional educator, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 800 [(17)] (18) Section 53G-11-510, State board to describe a framework for the evaluation of
801 educators, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 802 [(18)] (19) Section 53G-11-511, Rulemaking for privacy protection, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 803 [(19)] (20) Subsection 53G-11-520(1), regarding optional alternative educator evaluation
804 processes, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 805 [(20)] (21) Subsection 53G-11-520(2), regarding an exception from educator evaluation
806 process requirements, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 807 Section 12. **Repealer.**

808 This bill repeals:
809 Section **53E-4-205, American civics education initiative for adult education.**
810 Section 13. **Effective Date.**
811 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.