

Ken Ivory proposes the following substitute bill:

Social Health in Public Education Curriculum

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ken Ivory

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill includes instruction in social health within the required health curriculum in the public education system.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- includes instruction in social health within the required health curriculum in the public education system; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53G-10-402, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 380

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

Section 1. Section **53G-10-402** is amended to read:

53G-10-402 . Instruction in health -- Parental consent requirements -- Conduct and speech of school employees and volunteers -- Political and religious doctrine prohibited.

(1) As used in this section:

- (a) "LEA governing board" means a local school board or charter school governing board.
- (b) "Refusal skills" means instruction:

- 30 (i) in a student's ability to clearly and expressly refuse sexual advances by a minor or
31 adult;
- 32 (ii) in a student's obligation to stop the student's sexual advances if refused by another
33 individual;
- 34 (iii) informing a student of the student's right to report and seek counseling for
35 unwanted sexual advances; and
- 36 (iv) informing a student that a student may not consent to criminally prohibited
37 activities or activities for which the student is legally prohibited from giving
38 consent, including the electronic transmission of sexually explicit images by an
39 individual, regardless of whether the image is of the individual who transmits the
40 image or of another individual.
- 41 (c) "Situational awareness" means instruction in a student's ability to:
- 42 (i) observe the student's environment, including:
- 43 (A) increasing awareness; and
- 44 (B) noticing details and changes in the environment; and
- 45 (ii) respond in unsafe situations, including how to seek help.
- 46 (d) "Social health" means an individual's ability to successfully build, maintain, and
47 improve mutually beneficial relationships with others, including family, friends,
48 peers, co-workers, online connections, the broader community, and the individual's
49 environment, while pursuing an optimal relationship with the individual's self.
- 50 [~~(d)~~] (e) "Success sequence" means a three-prong framework for youth and young adults
51 that encourages:
- 52 (i) completing at least a high school education and pursuing further educational
53 opportunities;
- 54 (ii) obtaining full-time employment; and
- 55 (iii) having children within a healthy and stable family and marriage.
- 56 (2)(a) In accordance with Section 53E-3-501, the state board shall establish health
57 curriculum requirements:
- 58 (i) for the purpose of:
- 59 (A) equipping students with practical safety skills regarding sexual abuse,
60 trafficking, and harassment;
- 61 (B) promoting respect for humankind and individual responsibility;
- 62 (C) fostering character development and decision- making through the success
63 sequence; and

- 64 (D) encouraging healthy personal and family relationships; and
 65 (ii) that include instruction in:
 66 (A) the success sequence;
 67 (B) community and personal health, including personal hygiene and the
 68 prevention of communicable disease;
 69 (C) physiology;
 70 (D) human development;
 71 (E) social health;
 72 [~~(E)~~] (F) marriage and safe dating practices;
 73 [~~(F)~~] (G) refusal skills;
 74 [~~(G)~~] (H) resilience;
 75 [~~(H)~~] (I) situational awareness;
 76 [~~(I)~~] (J) the harmful effects of pornography; and
 77 [~~(J)~~] (K) the consequences of behaviors that pose a risk to individual health or of
 78 failure under the success sequence.
- 79 (b) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
 80 state board shall make rules that:
 81 (i) ensure that instruction stresses the importance of abstinence from all sexual
 82 activity before marriage and fidelity after marriage as methods for:
 83 (A) maintaining mental, physical, and social health, including reducing stress;
 84 (B) eliminating risks associated with sexual activity, including preventing
 85 pregnancy and certain communicable diseases; and
 86 (C) achieving the success sequence;
 87 (ii) ensure that instruction stresses personal skills that encourage abstinence, the
 88 return to abstinence, and fidelity;
 89 (iii) prohibit instruction or discussion, regardless of parental consent or intent to
 90 receive the prohibited instruction, in or regarding:
 91 (A) the intricacies of sexual stimulation or erotic behavior;
 92 (B) the advocacy of premarital or extramarital sexual activity;
 93 (C) the advocacy or encouragement of the use of contraceptive methods or
 94 devices; and
 95 (D) any means or methods that facilitate or encourage the violation of any state or
 96 federal criminal law by a minor or an adult, including as a response to a
 97 spontaneous question from a student; and

- 98 (iv) subject to Subsection (2)(c), allow instruction to include information about
99 contraceptive methods or devices, not including abortion or any abortive methods,
100 that stresses effectiveness, failure rates for youth, limitations, risks, and
101 information on state law applicable to minors obtaining contraceptive methods or
102 devices.
- 103 (c)(i) As used in this Subsection (2), "contraceptive methods or devices" does not
104 include abortion or any abortive methods.
- 105 (ii) Notwithstanding the allowance for instruction about contraceptive methods or
106 devices in Subsection (2)(b):
- 107 (A) the state board may not require an LEA to teach or adopt instructional
108 materials that include information on contraceptive methods or devices; and
109 (B) the instruction may not demonstrate or otherwise depict the use of a
110 contraceptive method or device.
- 111 (d) The state board shall:
- 112 (i) recommend instructional materials for use in the curricula required under
113 Subsection (2)(a); and
- 114 (ii) in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act,
115 make rules for an LEA governing board that adopts alternative instructional
116 materials under Subsection (2)(e) to:
- 117 (A) require the LEA governing board to report on the materials the governing
118 board selects and the governing board's compliance with Subsection (2)(e); and
119 (B) provide for an appeal and review process of the LEA governing board's
120 adoption of instructional materials.
- 121 (e)(i) An LEA governing board may choose to adopt:
- 122 (A) the instructional materials recommended under Subsection (2)(d); or
123 (B) alternative instructional materials in accordance with Subsection (2)(e)(ii).
- 124 (ii) An LEA governing board that adopts instructional materials under Subsection
125 (2)(e)(i) shall:
- 126 (A) ensure that the materials comply with state law and state board rules;
127 (B) base the adoption of the materials on the recommendations of the LEA
128 governing board's Curriculum Materials Review Committee;
- 129 (C) adopt the instructional materials in an open and regular meeting of the LEA
130 governing board for which parents of students who attend the respective
131 schools receive prior notice; and

- 132 (D) give parents an opportunity to express the parents' views and opinions on the
 133 materials at the meeting described in Subsection (2)(e)(ii)(C).
- 134 (f) At the request of the state board, the Department of Health and Human Services shall
 135 provide recommendations to the state board as the state board develops the
 136 curriculum, rules, or programs described in this Subsection (2).
- 137 (3) ~~Ĥ~~→ ~~[A student shall receive]~~~~[An LEA shall ensure that a student receives:]~~
 138 ~~[(a) in kindergarten through grade 6, the age-appropriate instruction described in]~~ ←Ĥ
 139 ~~Ĥ~~→ ~~[Subsections (2)(a)(ii)(B), (2)(a)(ii)(E), (2)(a)(ii)(H), and (2)(a)(ii)(I); and]~~
 140 ~~[(b) all of]~~ ←Ĥ the instruction described in Subsection (2) on at least two occasions between
 141 the beginning of grade 7 and the end of grade 12.
- 142 (4)(a) The state board shall, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
 143 Administrative Rulemaking Act, make rules that:
- 144 (i) provide for the compliance with the parental consent requirements of Sections
 145 76-7-322; and
- 146 (ii) require advance notice to a student's parent that provides an opportunity to review
 147 the information for which parental consent is required under Sections 76-7-322
 148 and 76-7-323.
- 149 (b) The state board shall provide procedures for disciplinary action for violation of
 150 Section 76-7-322 or 76-7-323.
- 151 (5)(a) In accordance with Section 53G-10-204 and Subsection (2)(b)(iii), and because
 152 school employees and volunteers serve as examples to students, school employees or
 153 volunteers acting in an official capacity may not support or encourage criminal
 154 conduct by students, teachers, or volunteers.
- 155 (b) To ensure the effective performance of school personnel, the limitations described in
 156 Subsection (5)(a) also apply to a school employee or volunteer acting outside of the
 157 school employee's or volunteer's official capacity if:
- 158 (i) the employee or volunteer knew or should have known that the employee's or
 159 volunteer's action could result in a material and substantial interference or
 160 disruption in the normal activities of the school; and
- 161 (ii) the employee's or volunteer's action results in a material and substantial
 162 interference or disruption in the normal activities of the school.
- 163 (c) The state board or an LEA governing board may not allow training of school
 164 employees or volunteers that supports or encourages criminal conduct.
- 165 (d) The state board shall, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative

- 166 Rulemaking Act, make rules implementing this Subsection (5).
- 167 (e) Nothing in this section limits the ability or authority of the state board or an LEA
168 governing board to enact and enforce rules or take actions that are otherwise lawful
169 regarding an educator's, employee's, or volunteer's qualifications or behavior
170 evidencing unfitness for duty.
- 171 (6) Except as provided in Section 53G-10-202, an individual may not teach or provide
172 instruction on political, atheistic, sectarian, religious, or denominational doctrine in the
173 public schools.
- 174 (7)(a) An LEA governing board and an LEA governing board's employees shall
175 cooperate and share responsibility in carrying out the purposes of this chapter.
- 176 (b) An LEA governing board shall:
- 177 (i)(A) provide appropriate professional development for the LEA governing
178 board's teachers, counselors, and school administrators to enable the teachers,
179 counselors, and school administrators to understand, protect, and properly
180 instruct students in the values and character traits referred to in this section and
181 Sections 53E-9-202, 53E-9-203, 53G-10-202, 53G-10-203, 53G-10-204, and
182 53G-10-205; and
- 183 (B) distribute appropriate written materials on the values, character traits, and
184 conduct described in Subsection (7)(b)(i) to each individual receiving the
185 professional development; and
- 186 (ii) make the written materials described in Subsection (7)(b) available to education
187 support professionals, students, and students' parents.
- 188 (c) To assist an LEA governing board in providing the professional development
189 required under Subsection (7)(b), the state board shall, as appropriate, contract with a
190 qualified individual or entity possessing expertise in the areas described in
191 Subsection (7)(b) to develop and disseminate model teacher professional
192 development programs that an LEA governing board may use to train the individuals
193 described in Subsection (7)(b) to effectively teach the values and qualities of
194 character described in Subsection (7)(b).
- 195 (d) In accordance with Subsection (5)(c), professional development may not support or
196 encourage criminal conduct.
- 197 (8) An LEA governing board shall review every two years:
- 198 (a) LEA governing board policies on instruction described in this section;
- 199 (b) for a local school board, data for each county in which the school district is located,

200 or, for a charter school governing board, data for the county in which the charter
201 school is located, on the following:

202 (i) teen pregnancy;

203 (ii) child sexual abuse; and

204 (iii) sexually transmitted diseases and sexually transmitted infections; and

205 (c) the number of pornography complaints or other instances reported within the
206 jurisdiction of the LEA governing board.

207 (9) If any one or more provision, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this
208 section, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is found to be
209 unconstitutional, the balance of this section shall be given effect without the invalid
210 provision, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word.

211 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

212 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.