

**EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT FOR
TESTING INITIATIVE**

2004 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: Leonard M. Blackham

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates a program to award grants to school districts and charter schools for the online delivery of summative tests required under U-PASS.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ allows the State Board of Education to award grants to school districts and charter schools to implement a system for the online delivery of summative tests required under U-PASS (Utah Performance Assessment System for Students);

- ▶ provides that an online test delivery system shall:

- be coordinated by the Utah State Office of Education;
- ensure the reliability and security of U-PASS tests; and
- be selected through collaboration between Utah State Office of Education and

school district representatives with expertise in technology, assessment, and administration;

- ▶ specifies how grant monies may be used; and

- ▶ directs the State Board of Education to make rules.

Monies Appropriated in this Bill:

This bill appropriates:

- ▶ \$5,000,000 from the Uniform School Fund for fiscal year 2004-05 only to the State Board of Education.

Other Special Clauses:

This bill takes effect on July 1, 2004.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

53A-1-708, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **53A-1-708** is enacted to read:

53A-1-708. Grants for online delivery of U-Pass tests.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "summative tests" means tests administered near the end of a course to assess overall achievement of course goals;

(b) "uniform online summative test system" means a single system for the online delivery of summative tests required under U-PASS that:

(i) is coordinated by the Utah State Office of Education;

(ii) ensures the reliability and security of U-PASS tests; and

(iii) is selected through collaboration between Utah State Office of Education and school district representatives with expertise in technology, assessment, and administration; and

(c) "U-PASS" means the Utah Performance Assessment System for Students.

(2) The State Board of Education may award grants to school districts and charter schools to implement a uniform online summative test system to enable parents of students and school staff to review U-PASS test scores by the end of the school year.

(3) (a) Grant monies may be used to pay for any of the following, provided it is directly related to implementing a uniform online summative test system:

(i) computer equipment and peripherals, including electronic data capture devices designed for electronic test administration and scoring;

(ii) software;

(iii) networking equipment;

(iv) upgrades of existing equipment or software;

(v) upgrades of existing physical plant facilities;

(vi) personnel to provide technical support or coordination and management; and

(vii) teacher professional development.

(b) Equipment purchased in compliance with Subsection (3)(a), when not in use for the online delivery of summative tests required under U-PASS may be used for other purposes.

(4) The State Board of Education may award grants only to school districts and charter schools that intend to implement a uniform online summative test system.

(5) (a) The State Board of Education shall make rules specifying:

(i) establishing procedures for applying for and awarding grants;

(ii) specifying how grant monies shall be allocated among school districts and charter schools that qualify to receive grants under Subsection (4); and

(iii) requiring reporting of grant money expenditures and evidence showing that the grant monies have been used to implement a uniform online summative test system.

(b) To ensure that small school districts and charter schools receive adequate funds to implement a uniform online summative test system, grant monies shall be allocated on a 25% base, with the remaining 75% distributed on a per pupil basis.

(6) If a school district or charter school uses grant monies for purposes other than those stated in Subsection (3), the school district or charter school is liable for reimbursing the State Board of Education in the amount of the grant monies improperly used.

Section 2. Appropriation.

(1) There is appropriated from the Uniform School Fund for fiscal year 2004-05 only \$5,000,000 to the State Board of Education to be distributed to school districts and charter schools to implement a uniform online summative test system in accordance with Section 53A-1-708.

(2) The appropriation in Subsection (1) shall be nonlapsing.

Section 3. Effective date.

This bill takes effect on July 1, 2004.