

1                   **COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION AMENDMENTS**

2                                   2013 GENERAL SESSION

3                                   STATE OF UTAH

4                                   **Chief Sponsor: Gregory H. Hughes**

5                                   Senate Sponsor: Stephen H. Urquhart

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7 **LONG TITLE**

8 **General Description:**

9                   This bill amends provisions related to competency-based education.

10 **Highlighted Provisions:**

11                   This bill:

12                   ▶ requires that, before the 2014 General Session, the State Board of Education make  
13 recommendations on a possible funding formula for competency-based courses; and

14                   ▶ allows a school district or charter school to establish competency-based curriculum  
15 standards and assessments that would result in course credit if the student  
16 demonstrates competency in the subject.

17 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

18                   None

19 **Other Special Clauses:**

20                   None

21 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

22 **AMENDS:**

23                   **53A-1-409**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2004, Chapter 19

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

26                   Section 1. Section **53A-1-409** is amended to read:

27                   **53A-1-409. Competency-based education -- Recommendations -- Coordination.**



28 (1) As used in this section:

29 (a) "Competency" means a demonstrable acquisition of a specified knowledge, skill, or  
30 ability that has been organized into a hierarchical arrangement leading to higher levels of  
31 knowledge, skill, or ability.

32 (b) "Competency-based education" means an education approach that requires  
33 ~~[students]~~ a student to acquire a competency and includes a classroom structure and operation  
34 that aid and facilitate the acquisition of specified competencies on an individual basis wherein  
35 ~~[students are]~~ a student is allowed to master and demonstrate competencies as fast as ~~[they are]~~  
36 the student is able.

37 (c) "Gain score" means the measured difference of a student's score at the beginning  
38 and end of a time period that may be aggregated at the class, grade, school, and school district  
39 levels.

40 (2) The State Board of Education shall:

41 (a) provide expertise to and consult with local school boards ~~[and]~~, school districts, and  
42 charter schools relating to competency-based education and progress-based assessments;

43 (b) before the beginning of the 2014 General Session of the Legislature, make  
44 recommendations to the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee, including the amount  
45 and allocation of public education money, based upon both new public education money and  
46 the reallocation of money required to develop and implement:

47 (i) competency-based education and progress-based assessments;

48 (ii) (A) a weighted competency unit that distributes public education money based on  
49 student achievement resulting from competency-based program objectives, strategies, and  
50 standards; and

51 (B) a course-level funding formula that distributes funds to school districts and charter  
52 schools that establish competency-based curriculum standards;

53 (iii) a plan to assist students, teachers, schools, and districts that need remediation  
54 based upon Subsections (2)(b)(i) and (ii);

55 (iv) the reallocation of teaching resources from noncore electives into grades 1-3, 7-12  
56 math, and 7-12 English; and

57 (v) a teacher development program focused on achieving progress in core academics,  
58 including instruction in explicit, systematic, and intensive phonics for teachers in grades

59 kindergarten through 3;

60 (c) assist school districts and charter schools to develop and implement:

61 (i) competency-based education and competency-based curriculum standards; and

62 (ii) the use of gain scores; and

63 (d) develop and use monetary and nonmonetary incentives, tools, and rewards to

64 encourage school districts and charter schools to accomplish the items described under

65 [~~Subsections (2)(a) through (c)~~] this section.

66 (3) A funding formula described in Subsection (2)(b)(ii)(B) shall:

67 (a) base the funding for a competency-based course on a proportionate amount of the  
68 weighted pupil unit;

69 (b) partially distribute funds based on initial enrollment;

70 (c) distribute remaining funds based on a student's successful completion of a course  
71 through demonstrated competency; and

72 (d) not be dependent on the amount of time a student is instructed in the course or the  
73 age of the student.

74 (4) (a) A local school board or a charter school governing board may establish  
75 competency-based curriculum standards that exceed the minimum standards established by the  
76 State Board of Education under Section 53A-1-402.

77 (b) In establishing the competency-based curriculum standards described in Subsection  
78 (4)(a), a local school board or a charter school governing board shall ensure that the standards:

79 (i) promote greater educational achievement for students;

80 (ii) allow a student to progress through the curriculum to graduation at the student's  
81 own pace;

82 (iii) foster student advancement based on competency and not chronological age of the  
83 student;

84 (iv) eliminate requirements for the student to be in a classroom for a certain amount of  
85 time; and

86 (v) prepare students for admission to higher education institutions in the United States  
87 without the need for remediation.

88 (5) A local school board or charter school governing board that establishes  
89 competency-based curriculum standards under Subsection (4) shall:

- 90           (a) establish assessments to accurately measure competency;
- 91           (b) provide the assessments to an enrolled student at no cost to the student;
- 92           (c) award credit to a student who demonstrates competency;
- 93           (d) submit the competency-based curriculum standards to the State Board of Education
- 94 for review; and
- 95           (e) publish the competency-based curriculum standards on its website or by other
- 96 electronic means readily accessible to the public.
- 97           (6) A local school board or charter school governing board may:
- 98           (a) on a random lottery-based basis, limit enrollment to courses that have been
- 99 designated as competency-based courses;
- 100           (b) allow for online learning options at no additional charge to an enrolled student,
- 101 accessible at any time from any location that a student, parent, or guardian may choose;
- 102           (c) waive or adapt traditional attendance requirements;
- 103           (d) adjust class sizes to maximize the value of course instructors or course mentors;
- 104           (e) enroll students from any geographic location within the state; and
- 105           (f) provide proctored online competency-based assessments.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
**as of 3-1-13 11:46 AM**

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**