

**EDUCATION ETHICS TRAINING REQUIREMENT**

2015 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Joel K. Briscoe**

Senate Sponsor: Brian E. Shiozawa

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill requires ~~H→~~ ~~[a school employee]~~ certain school employees ~~←H~~ to complete education ethics training.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

▶ defines terms;

▶ requires a local education agency (LEA) ~~H→~~ ~~[or private school]~~ ~~S→~~ [and certain private schools] ~~←S~~ ~~←H~~ to require new employees

~~H→~~ ~~[and certain new volunteers]~~ ~~←H~~ to complete an approved education ethics training course within one year of the day on which the employee ~~H→~~ ~~[or volunteer]~~ ~~←H~~ begins working at the LEA;

▶ requires an LEA ~~H→~~ ~~[or private school]~~ ~~S→~~ [and certain private schools] ~~←S~~ ~~←H~~ to require

employees ~~H→~~ ~~[and certain volunteers]~~ ~~←H~~ to

complete approved education ethics training on an ongoing basis; and

▶ provides for an LEA ~~H→~~ ~~[or private school]~~ ~~S→~~ [and certain private schools] ~~←S~~ ~~←H~~ to

approve certain education ethics training courses.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**



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

Section 1. Section 53A-3-410.5 is enacted to read:

**53A-3-410.5. Education ethics training requirement.**

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Approved education ethics training" means an education ethics course that:

(i) meets the education ethics training requirements described in Subsection (5);

(ii) is approved by an LEA ~~§→ [or private school] ←§~~ in accordance with Subsection (2);

and

(iii) is offered online or in person.

(b) "Local Education Agency" or "LEA" means:

(i) a school district;

(ii) a charter school; or

(iii) the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

~~§→ [(c) "Private school" means a school that:~~

~~(i) is not part of the public education system; and~~

~~(ii) enrolls scholarship students under Chapter 1a, Part 7, Carson Smith Scholarships for Students with Special Needs Act.] ←§~~

~~§→ [(d) (c) ←§ "School employee" means ~~§→~~ [;~~

~~(i) ←§ an employee of an LEA ~~§→ [or private school] ←§ ~~§→~~ [; or~~~~

~~(ii) a volunteer for an LEA or private school who has significant unsupervised access to a student in connection with the volunteer's assignment] ←§ .~~

(2) An LEA ~~§→ [or private school] ←§ shall approve at least one education ethics training course that a school employee of the LEA ~~§→ [or private school] ←§ may take to meet the requirements~~~~

described in Subsection (3).

(3) Except as provided in Subsection (4), an LEA ~~§→ [or private school] ←§ shall require a school employee to complete:~~

(a) one hour of approved education ethics training within one year after the day on which the school employee begins employment; and

(b) two hours of approved education ethics training once every five years after the day on which the school employee begins employment.



59            (b) An LEA ~~§~~ ~~→~~ [or private school] ~~←~~ ~~§~~ may exempt a school employee who worked at  
 59a another  
 60 LEA ~~§~~ ~~→~~ [or private school] ~~←~~ ~~§~~ from the requirement described in Subsection (3)(a) if the  
 60a employee  
 61 fulfilled that requirement at the previous LEA ~~§~~ ~~→~~ [or private school] ~~←~~ ~~§~~ .

- 62            (5) An LEA may approve an education ethics training course if:  
 63            (a) the education ethics training course covers one or more of the following topics:  
 64            (i) appropriate boundaries between a school employee and a student, a parent of a  
 65 student, or a colleague;  
 66            (ii) appropriate use of social media for a school employee;  
 67            (iii) general school employee rights and responsibilities related to ethics, including  
 68 state regulations and best practices; or  
 69            (iv) the Utah Educator Standards, described in State Board of Education rule; and  
 70            (b) one of the following entities offers the education ethics training course:  
 71            (i) the State Board of Education;  
 72            (ii) a private entity with significant experience or training in ethics best practices for  
 73 school employees;  
 74            (iii) a university or college pre-service teacher training program;  
 75            (iv) an LEA; or  
 76            (v) an education employee association.

**Legislative Review Note**  
 as of 2-19-15 3:18 PM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

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