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STUDENT ASSESSMENT MODIFICATIONS	
2016 GENERAL SESSION	
STATE OF UTAH	
Chief Sponsor: Marie H. Poulson	
Senate Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore	
LONG TITLE	
General Description:	
This bill amends provisions related to student assessments.	
Highlighted Provisions:	
This bill:	
 provides that a school district or charter school may waive certain assessment 	
requirements for students in grade 11; and	
 makes technical and conforming changes. 	
Money Appropriated in this Bill:	
None	
Other Special Clauses:	
None	
Utah Code Sections Affected:	
AMENDS:	
53A-1-603, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapters 258, 415, and 444	
53A-1-611, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2013, Chapter 161	
Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:	
Section 1. Section 53A-1-603 is amended to read:	
53A-1-603. Duties of State Board of Education.	
(1) The State Board of Education shall:	
(a) require [each] a school district [and] or charter school to implement the Utah	
Performance Assessment System for Students [. hereafter referred to as U-PASS]:	

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(b) require the state superintendent of public instruction to submit and recommend criterion-referenced achievement tests or online computer adaptive tests, college readiness assessments, an online writing assessment for grades 5 and 8, and a test for students in grade 3 to measure reading grade level to the board for approval and adoption and distribution to [each] a school district [and] or charter school by the state superintendent; (c) develop an assessment method to uniformly measure statewide performance, school district performance, and school performance of students in grades 3 through 12 in mastering basic academic subjects; and (d) provide for the state to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress state-by-state comparison testing program. (2) Except as provided in Subsection [(3)] (9) and Subsection 53A-1-611[(3)](4), under U-PASS, the State Board of Education shall annually require [each] a school district [and] or charter school[, as applicable,] to administer: (a) as determined by the State Board of Education, statewide criterion-referenced tests or online computer adaptive tests in grades 3 through 12 and courses in basic academic subjects of the core standards for Utah public schools; (b) an online writing assessment to all students in grades 5 and 8; (c) college readiness assessments as detailed in Section 53A-1-611; and (d) a test to all students in grade 3 to measure reading grade level. (3) [Beginning with the 2014-15 school year, the] The State Board of Education shall annually require [each] a school district [and] or charter school[, as applicable,] to administer a computer adaptive assessment system that is: (a) adopted by the State Board of Education; and (b) aligned to the core standards for Utah public schools. (4) The board shall adopt rules for the conduct and administration of U-PASS to include the following: (a) the computation of student performance based on information that is disaggregated

with respect to race, ethnicity, gender, limited English proficiency, and those students who

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58 qualify for free or reduced price school lunch;

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(b) security features to maintain the integrity of the system, which [could] may include statewide uniform testing dates, multiple test forms, and test administration protocols;

- (c) the exemption of student test scores, by exemption category, such as limited English proficiency, mobility, and students with disabilities, with the percent or number of student test scores exempted being [publically] publicly reported at a district level;
- (d) compiling of criterion-referenced, online computer adaptive, and online writing test scores and test score averages at the classroom level to allow for:
- (i) an annual review of those scores by parents of students and professional and other appropriate staff at the classroom level at the earliest point in time;
- (ii) the assessment of year-to-year student progress in specific classes, courses, and subjects; and
- (iii) a teacher to review, prior to the beginning of a new school year, test scores from the previous school year of students who have been assigned to the teacher's class for the new school year;
- (e) allowing a school district or charter school to have its tests administered and scored electronically to accelerate the review of test scores and their usefulness to parents and educators under Subsection (4)(d), without violating the integrity of U-PASS; and
- (f) providing that scores on the tests and assessments required under Subsection (2)(a) and Subsection (3) may not be considered in determining:
 - (i) a student's academic grade for the appropriate course; or
 - (ii) whether a student may advance to the next grade level.
- (5) (a) A school district or charter school[, as applicable, is encouraged to] may administer an online writing assessment to students in grade 11.
- (b) The State Board of Education may award a grant to a school district or charter school to pay for an online writing assessment and instruction program that may be used to assess the writing of students in grade 11.
 - (6) The State Board of Education shall make rules:

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86	(a) establishing procedures for applying for and awarding money for computer adaptive
87	tests;
88	(b) specifying how money for computer adaptive tests shall be allocated among school
89	districts and charter schools that qualify to receive the money; and
90	(c) requiring reporting of the expenditure of money awarded for computer adaptive
91	testing and evidence that the money was used to implement computer adaptive testing.
92	(7) The State Board of Education shall assure that computer adaptive tests are
93	administered in compliance with the requirements of Chapter 13, Part 3, Utah Family
94	Educational Rights and Privacy Act.
95	(8) (a) The State Board of Education shall establish a committee consisting of 15
96	parents of Utah public education students to review all computer adaptive test questions.
97	(b) The committee established in Subsection (8)(a) shall include the following parent
98	members:
99	(i) five members appointed by the chair of the State Board of Education;
100	(ii) five members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives; and
101	(iii) five members appointed by the president of the Senate.
102	(c) The State Board of Education shall provide staff support to the parent committee.
103	(d) The term of office of each member appointed in Subsection (8)(b) is four years.
104	(e) The chair of the State Board of Education, the speaker of the House of
105	Representatives, and the president of the Senate shall adjust the length of terms to stagger the
106	terms of committee members so that approximately 1/2 of the committee members are
107	appointed every two years.
108	(f) No member may receive compensation or benefits for the member's service on the
109	committee.
110	(9) Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, for all students in grade 11, a school
111	district or charter school may waive the obligation to administer a test required under
112	Subsection (2)(a).
113	[(9)] <u>(10)</u> (a) School districts and charter schools shall require each licensed employee

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114 to complete two hours of professional development on youth suicide prevention within their 115 license cycle in accordance with Section 53A-6-104. 116 (b) The State Board of Education shall develop or adopt sample materials to be used by 117 a school district or charter school for professional development training on youth suicide 118 prevention. 119 (c) The training required by this Subsection $\left[\frac{(9)}{(9)}\right]$ (10) shall be incorporated into 120 professional development training required by rule in accordance with Section 53A-6-104. 121 Section 2. Section **53A-1-611** is amended to read: 53A-1-611. College readiness assessments. 122 123 (1) The Legislature recognizes the need for the State Board of Education to develop 124 and implement standards and assessment processes to ensure that student progress is measured 125 and that school boards and school personnel are accountable. 126 (2) In addition to its responsibilities under Sections 53A-1-603 through 53A-1-605, the 127 State Board of Education shall: 128 (a) adopt college readiness assessments for secondary students; and 129 (b) require a school [districts and charter schools] district or charter school to 130 administer the college readiness assessments adopted by the State Board of Education 131 [beginning with the 2013-14 school year]. (3) [The] A college readiness [assessments] assessment adopted by the State Board of 132 Education: 133 134 (a) shall include the college admissions test that includes an assessment of language 135 arts, mathematics, and science that is most commonly submitted to local universities; and 136 (b) may include: (i) the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery; and 137 (ii) a battery of assessments that are predictive of success in higher education. 138 139 (4) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(b), the State Board of Education shall 140 require a school [districts and charter schools] district or charter school to administer a test

adopted under Subsection (3)(a) to all students in grade 11.

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(b) A student with an IEP may take an appropriate college readiness assessment other
than a test adopted by the State Board of Education under Subsection (3)(a), as determined by
the student's IEP.
[(5) The requirements of this section are to be complementary to the other achievement
testing provisions of this part.]