

ONLINE EDUCATION PROGRAM REVISIONS

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: John D. Johnson

House Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill makes revisions related to online education.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ allows a certified online course provider that the State Board of Education (the state board) approves to offer courses directly through the Statewide Online Education Program;
- ▶ establishes the requirements for the state board to approve certified online course providers;
- ▶ authorizes the state board to make rules related to approving certified online course providers; and
- ▶ authorizes the state board to set fees to cover the costs of regulating certified online course providers.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:



28 **53F-4-501**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 186
 29 **53F-4-504**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 186
 30 **53F-4-514**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 408



31
 32 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

33 Section 1. Section **53F-4-501** is amended to read:

34 **53F-4-501. Definitions.**

35 As used in this part:

36 (1) (a) "Certified online course provider" means a provider that the state board
 37 approves to offer courses through the Statewide Online Education Program.

38 (b) "Certified online course provider" does not include an entity described in
 39 Subsections 53F-4-504(1)(a) through (c).

40 [~~1~~] (2) "Eligible student" means:

41 (a) a student enrolled in a district school or charter school in Utah; or

42 (b) [~~beginning on July 1, 2013;~~] a student:

43 (i) who attends a private school or home school; and

44 (ii) whose custodial parent is a resident of Utah.

45 [~~2~~] (3) "Online course" means a course of instruction offered by the Statewide Online
 46 Education Program through the use of digital technology.

47 [~~3~~] (4) "Plan for college and career readiness" means the same as that term is defined
 48 in Section **53E-2-304**.

49 [~~4~~] (5) "Primary LEA of enrollment" means the LEA in which an eligible student is
 50 enrolled for courses other than online courses offered through the Statewide Online Education
 51 Program.

52 [~~5~~] (6) "Released-time" means a period of time during the regular school day a
 53 student is excused from school at the request of the student's parent pursuant to rules of the
 54 state board.

55 Section 2. Section **53F-4-504** is amended to read:

56 **53F-4-504. Authorized online course providers -- Certified online course**
 57 **providers.**

58 (1) The following entities may offer online courses to eligible students through the

59 Statewide Online Education Program:

60 ~~[(+)]~~ (a) a charter school or district school created exclusively for the purpose of
61 serving students online;

62 ~~[(2)]~~ (b) an LEA program, approved by the LEA governing board, that is created
63 exclusively for the purpose of serving students online; ~~[and]~~

64 ~~[(3)]~~ (c) a program of an institution of higher education listed in Section [53B-2-101](#)
65 that:

66 ~~[(a)]~~ (i) offers secondary school level courses; and

67 ~~[(b)]~~ (ii) is created exclusively for the purpose of serving students online~~[-];~~ and

68 (d) beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, a certified online course provider.

69 (2) The state board shall approve an online course provider as a certified online course
70 provider if the provider:

71 (a) complies with the application procedures described in Subsection [53F-4-514](#);

72 (b) meets the standards described in Subsection [53F-4-514](#); and

73 (c) has prior experience offering online courses to secondary students.

74 (3) The state board may revoke the approval described in Subsection (2) if the state
75 board finds that a certified online course provider is not complying with the requirements
76 described in Subsection [53F-4-514](#).

77 Section 3. Section **53F-4-514** is amended to read:

78 **53F-4-514. State board -- Rulemaking -- Fees.**

79 (1) The state board shall make rules in accordance with this part and Title 63G,
80 Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, that:

81 ~~[(+)]~~ (a) establish a course credit acknowledgement form and procedures for
82 completing and submitting to the state board a course credit acknowledgement; ~~[and]~~

83 ~~[(2)]~~ (b) establish procedures for the administration of a statewide assessment to a
84 student enrolled in an online course~~[-];~~ and

85 (c) establish protocols for an online course provider to obtain approval to become a
86 certified online course provider, including:

87 (i) the application procedure for an online course provider to obtain approval to
88 become a certified online course provider; and

89 (ii) the standards that a certified online course provider must meet.

90 (2) (a) When establishing the standards described in Subsection (1)(c)(ii), the state
91 board shall:

92 (i) establish rules and minimum standards regarding:

93 (A) accreditation; and

94 (B) prerequisites for eligibility for college athletics, as determined by a national
95 organization responsible for college athletics;

96 (ii) require an online course to be aligned with the core standards described in Section
97 [53E-4-202](#);

98 (iii) permit an open-entry, open-exit method of instructional delivery that allows a
99 student the flexibility to:

100 (A) schedule in response to individual needs or requirements;

101 (B) demonstrate competency when the student has mastered knowledge and skills;

102 (C) begin or end study at any time; and

103 (D) progress through course material at the student's own pace;

104 (iv) require an individual who teaches a course for a certified online course provider to
105 hold a teaching license issued by:

106 (A) the state board; or

107 (B) another state.

108 (b) When establishing the standards described in Subsection (1)(c)(ii), the state board
109 may not:

110 (i) specify a minimum duration for an online course;

111 (ii) specify a minimum amount of time that a student must spend in an online course;

112 or

113 (iii) limit the class size of an online course.

114 (3) The state board may establish a fee, in accordance with Section [63J-1-504](#), in an
115 amount to pay the costs to the state board of the application approval process and the
116 monitoring of a certified online course provider's compliance with the standards described in
117 Subsection (1)(c)(ii).

118 (4) (a) Fee revenue collected in accordance with Subsection (3) shall be:

119 (b) deposited into the Uniform School Fund as a dedicated credit; and

120 (c) used to pay the costs to the state board of reviewing certified online course

121 providers' applications and compliance with the standards described in Subsection (1)(c)(ii).