

**SCHOOL CLOSURE AMENDMENTS**

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Brady Brammer**

Senate Sponsor: Curtis S. Bramble

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill amends processes for school closures or school boundary changes.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

▸ requires a local school board, before closing a school or changing the boundaries of a school, to make a motion to notify the affected students' parents of a school closure or boundary change;

▸ allows the local school board, after a public hearing, to vote on the school closure or school boundary change;

▸ requires the local school board to complete the school closure or school boundary change process on or before a certain date;

▸ allows parents of students affected by boundary changes to request enrollment within a certain time after the boundary change takes effect; and

▸ makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:



28 **53G-4-402**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 16, 252, 343, 352, and  
29 435

30 **53G-6-402**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 44

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

33 Section 1. Section **53G-4-402** is amended to read:

34 **53G-4-402. Powers and duties generally.**

35 (1) A local school board shall:

36 (a) implement the core standards for Utah public schools using instructional materials  
37 that best correlate to the core standards for Utah public schools and graduation requirements;

38 (b) administer tests, required by the state board, which measure the progress of each  
39 student, and coordinate with the state superintendent and state board to assess results and create  
40 plans to improve the student's progress, which shall be submitted to the state board for  
41 approval;

42 (c) use progress-based assessments as part of a plan to identify schools, teachers, and  
43 students that need remediation and determine the type and amount of federal, state, and local  
44 resources to implement remediation;

45 (d) for each grading period and for each course in which a student is enrolled, issue a  
46 grade or performance report to the student:

47 (i) that reflects the student's work, including the student's progress based on mastery,  
48 for the grading period; and

49 (ii) in accordance with the local school board's adopted grading or performance  
50 standards and criteria;

51 (e) develop early warning systems for students or classes failing to make progress;

52 (f) work with the state board to establish a library of documented best practices,  
53 consistent with state and federal regulations, for use by the special districts;

54 (g) implement training programs for school administrators, including basic  
55 management training, best practices in instructional methods, budget training, staff  
56 management, managing for learning results and continuous improvement, and how to help  
57 every [child] student achieve optimal learning in basic academic subjects; and

58 (h) ensure that the local school board meets the data collection and reporting standards

59 described in Section 53E-3-501.

60 (2) Local school boards shall spend Minimum School Program funds for programs and  
61 activities for which the state board has established minimum standards or rules under Section  
62 53E-3-501.

63 (3) (a) A local school board may purchase, sell, and make improvements on school  
64 sites, buildings, and equipment, and construct, erect, and furnish school buildings.

65 (b) School sites or buildings may only be conveyed or sold on local school board  
66 resolution affirmed by at least two-thirds of the school board members.

67 (4) (a) A local school board may participate in the joint construction or operation of a  
68 school attended by students residing within the district and students residing in other districts  
69 either within or outside the state.

70 (b) Any agreement for the joint operation or construction of a school shall:

71 (i) be signed by the president of the local school board of each participating district;

72 (ii) include a mutually agreed upon pro rata cost; and

73 (iii) be filed with the state board.

74 (5) A local school board may establish, locate, and maintain elementary, secondary,  
75 and applied technology schools.

76 (6) A local school board may enter into cooperative agreements with other local school  
77 boards to provide educational services that best utilize resources for the overall operation of the  
78 school districts, including shared transportation services.

79 (7) ~~[An]~~ A local school board shall ensure that an agreement under Subsection (6)  
80 ~~[shall]:~~

81 (a) ~~[be]~~ is signed by the president of the local school board of each participating  
82 district;

83 (b) ~~[specify]~~ specifies the resource being shared;

84 (c) ~~[include]~~ includes a mutually agreed upon pro rata cost;

85 (d) ~~[include]~~ includes the duration of the agreement; and

86 (e) ~~[be]~~ is filed with the state board.

87 (8) Except as provided in Section 53E-3-905, a local school board may enroll children  
88 in school who are at least five years old before September 2 of the year in which admission is  
89 sought.

90 (9) A local school board:

91 (a) may establish and support school libraries; and

92 (b) shall provide an online platform:

93 (i) through which a parent is able to view the title, author, and a description of any  
94 material the parent's child borrows from the school library, including a history of borrowed  
95 materials, either using an existing online platform that the LEA uses or through a separate  
96 platform; and

97 (ii) (A) for a school district with 1,000 or more enrolled students, no later than August  
98 1, 2024; and

99 (B) for a school district with fewer than 1,000 enrolled students, no later than August  
100 1, 2026.

101 (10) A local school board may collect damages for the loss, injury, or destruction of  
102 school property.

103 (11) A local school board may authorize guidance and counseling services for students  
104 and the student's parents before, during, or following school enrollment.

105 (12) (a) A local school board shall administer and implement federal educational  
106 programs in accordance with Title 53E, Chapter 3, Part 8, Implementing Federal or National  
107 Education Programs.

108 (b) Federal funds are not considered funds within the school district budget under  
109 Chapter 7, Part 3, Budgets.

110 (13) (a) A local school board may organize school safety patrols and adopt policies  
111 under which the patrols promote student safety.

112 (b) A student appointed to a safety patrol shall be at least 10 years old and have written  
113 parental consent for the appointment.

114 (c) Safety patrol members may not direct vehicular traffic or be stationed in a portion  
115 of a highway intended for vehicular traffic use.

116 (d) Liability may not attach to a school district, its employees, officers, or agents, or to  
117 a safety patrol member, a parent of a safety patrol member, or an authorized volunteer assisting  
118 the program by virtue of the organization, maintenance, or operation of a school safety patrol.

119 (14) (a) A local school board may on its own behalf, or on behalf of an educational  
120 institution for which the local school board is the direct governing body, accept private grants,

121 loans, gifts, endowments, devises, or bequests that are made for educational purposes.

122 (b) The contributions made under Subsection (14)(a) are not subject to appropriation  
123 by the Legislature.

124 (15) (a) A local school board may appoint and fix the compensation of a compliance  
125 officer to issue citations for violations of Subsection 76-10-105(2)(b).

126 (b) A person may not be appointed to serve as a compliance officer without the  
127 person's consent.

128 (c) A teacher or student may not be appointed as a compliance officer.

129 (16) A local school board shall adopt bylaws and policies for the local school board's  
130 own procedures.

131 (17) (a) A local school board shall make and enforce policies necessary for the control  
132 and management of the district schools.

133 (b) Local school board policies shall be in writing, filed, and referenced for public  
134 access.

135 (18) A local school board may hold school on legal holidays other than Sundays.

136 (19) (a) A local school board shall establish for each school year a school traffic safety  
137 committee to implement this Subsection (19).

138 (b) The committee shall be composed of one representative of:

139 (i) the schools within the district;

140 (ii) the Parent Teachers' Association of the schools within the district;

141 (iii) the municipality or county;

142 (iv) state or local law enforcement; and

143 (v) state or local traffic safety engineering.

144 (c) The committee shall:

145 (i) receive suggestions from school community councils, parents, teachers, and others,  
146 and recommend school traffic safety improvements, boundary changes to enhance safety, and  
147 school traffic safety program measures;

148 (ii) review and submit annually to the Department of Transportation and affected  
149 municipalities and counties a child access routing plan for each elementary, middle, and junior  
150 high school within the district;

151 (iii) ~~consult~~ in consultation with the Utah Safety Council and the Division of Family

152 Health Services ~~[and]~~, provide training to all students in kindergarten through grade 6, within  
153 the district, on school crossing safety and use; and

154 (iv) help ensure the district's compliance with rules made by the Department of  
155 Transportation under Section [41-6a-303](#).

156 (d) The committee may establish subcommittees as needed to assist in accomplishing  
157 the committee's duties under Subsection (19)(c).

158 (20) (a) A local school board shall adopt and implement a comprehensive emergency  
159 response plan to prevent and combat violence in the local school board's public schools, on  
160 school grounds, on ~~[its]~~ school vehicles, and in connection with school-related activities or  
161 events.

162 (b) The local school board shall ensure that the plan [shall]:

163 (i) ~~[include]~~ includes prevention, intervention, and response components;

164 (ii) ~~[be]~~ is consistent with the ~~[student conduct and discipline]~~ school discipline and  
165 conduct policies required for school districts under ~~[Chapter 11, Part 2, Miscellaneous~~  
166 Requirements] Chapter 8, Part 2, School Discipline and Conduct Plans;

167 (iii) ~~[require]~~ requires professional learning for all district and school building staff on  
168 the staff's roles in the emergency response plan;

169 (iv) ~~[provide]~~ provides for coordination with local law enforcement and other public  
170 safety representatives in preventing, intervening, and responding to violence in the areas and  
171 activities referred to in Subsection (20)(a); and

172 (v) ~~[include]~~ includes procedures to notify a student who is off campus at the time of a  
173 school violence emergency because the student is:

174 (A) participating in a school-related activity; or

175 (B) excused from school for a period of time during the regular school day to  
176 participate in religious instruction at the request of the student's parent.

177 (c) The state board, through the state superintendent, shall develop comprehensive  
178 emergency response plan models that local school boards may use, where appropriate, to  
179 comply with Subsection (20)(a).

180 (d) A local school board shall, by July 1 of each year, certify to the state board that its  
181 plan has been practiced at the school level and presented to and reviewed by its teachers,  
182 administrators, students, and the student's parents and local law enforcement and public safety

183 representatives.

184 (21) (a) A local school board may adopt an emergency response plan for the treatment  
185 of sports-related injuries that occur during school sports practices and events.

186 (b) The plan may be implemented by each secondary school in the district that has a  
187 sports program for students.

188 (c) The plan may:

189 (i) include emergency personnel, emergency communication, and emergency  
190 equipment components;

191 (ii) require professional learning on the emergency response plan for school personnel  
192 who are involved in sports programs in the district's secondary schools; and

193 (iii) provide for coordination with individuals and agency representatives who:

194 (A) are not employees of the school district; and

195 (B) would be involved in providing emergency services to students injured while  
196 participating in sports events.

197 (d) The local school board, in collaboration with the schools referred to in Subsection  
198 (21)(b), may review the plan each year and make revisions when required to improve or  
199 enhance the plan.

200 (e) The state board, through the state superintendent, shall provide local school boards  
201 with an emergency plan response model that local school boards may use to comply with the  
202 requirements of this Subsection (21).

203 (22) A local school board shall do all other things necessary for the maintenance,  
204 prosperity, and success of the schools and the promotion of education.

205 (23) (a) Before closing a school or changing the boundaries of a school, a local school  
206 board shall:

207 (i) at a local school board meeting, make and vote on a motion to initiate the  
208 notification required under Subsections (23)(a)(ii) through (iv);

209 ~~(i)~~ (ii) at least 90 days before [approving] the day on which the local school board  
210 approves the school closure or at least 30 days before the day on which the local school board  
211 approves a school boundary change, provide notice that the local school board is considering  
212 the closure or boundary change to:

213 (A) parents of students enrolled in the school, using the same form of communication

214 the local school board regularly uses to communicate with parents and also by mail, using the  
215 United States Postal Service, to the parents at each known address;

216 (B) parents of students enrolled in other schools within the school district that may be  
217 affected by the closure or boundary change, using the same form of communication the local  
218 school board regularly uses to communicate with parents and also by mail, using the United  
219 States Postal Service, to the parents at each known address; and

220 (C) the governing council and the mayor of the municipality in which the school is  
221 located;

222 [(ii)] (iii) provide an opportunity for public comment on the proposed school closure  
223 [~~or school boundary change~~] during at least two public local school board meetings; [~~and~~]

224 [(iii)] (iv) provide an opportunity for public comment on the proposed school boundary  
225 change during one public local school board meeting; and

226 (v) hold a public hearing as defined in Section 10-9a-103 and provide public notice of  
227 the public hearing as described in Subsection (23)(b).

228 (b) A local school board shall:

229 (i) [~~The~~] ensure that the notice of a public hearing required under Subsection  
230 [(23)(a)(iii) shall: (i) indicate] (23)(a)(v) indicates the:

231 (A) name of the school or schools under consideration for closure or boundary change;  
232 and

233 (B) the date, time, and location of the public hearing;

234 (ii) if feasible, hold the public hearing at the location of the school that is under  
235 consideration for closure;

236 [(ii)] (iii) for at least 10 days before the day [~~of~~] on which the public hearing [~~be~~  
237 ~~published~~] occurs, publish the notice of the public hearing for the school district in which the  
238 school is located, as a class A notice under Section 63G-30-102; and

239 [(iii)] (iv) at least 30 days before the day on which the public hearing [~~described in~~  
240 ~~Subsection (23)(a)(iii), be provided as described in Subsections (23)(a)(i):~~] occurs, provide  
241 notice of the public hearing in the same manner as the notice of consideration under Subsection  
242 (23)(a)(ii).

243 (c) A motion made under Subsection (23)(a) shall name each school under  
244 consideration for closure in a separate motion.



245           (d) For a school closure, a local school board shall complete the process described in  
246 this Subsection (23) on or before December 31 of the calendar year preceding the beginning of  
247 the school year in which a school closure takes effect.

248           (e) (i) For a school boundary change, a local school board shall complete the process  
249 described in this Subsection (23) no more than 60 days after the day on which the local school  
250 board votes to approve a school closure.

251           (ii) Parents of students enrolled in a school affected by a boundary change shall have at  
252 least 30 days after the day on which the local school board votes to approve a school boundary  
253 change to request an out of area enrollment request in accordance with Chapter 6, Part 4,  
254 School District Enrollment.

255           (24) A local school board may implement a facility energy efficiency program  
256 established under Title 11, Chapter 44, Performance Efficiency Act.

257           (25) A local school board may establish or partner with a certified youth court in  
258 accordance with Section 80-6-902 or establish or partner with a comparable restorative justice  
259 program, in coordination with schools in that district. A school may refer a student to a youth  
260 court or a comparable restorative justice program in accordance with Section 53G-8-211.

261           (26) (a) As used in this Subsection (26):

262           (i) "Learning material" means any learning material or resource used to deliver or  
263 support a student's learning, including textbooks, reading materials, videos, digital materials,  
264 websites, and other online applications.

265           (ii) (A) "Instructional material" means learning material that a local school board  
266 adopts and approves for use within the LEA.

267           (B) "Instructional material" does not include learning material used in a concurrent  
268 enrollment, advanced placement, or international baccalaureate program or class or another  
269 class with required instructional material that is not subject to selection by the local school  
270 board.

271           (iii) "Supplemental material" means learning material that:

272           (A) an educator selects for classroom use; and

273           (B) a local school board has not considered and adopted, approved, or prohibited for  
274 classroom use within the LEA.

275           (b) A local school board shall:

276 (i) make instructional material that the school district uses readily accessible and  
277 available for a parent to view;

278 (ii) annually notify a parent of a student enrolled in the school district of how to access  
279 the information described in Subsection (26)(b)(i); and

280 (iii) include on the school district's website information about how to access the  
281 information described in Subsection (26)(b)(i).

282 (c) In selecting and approving instructional materials for use in the classroom, a local  
283 school board shall:

284 (i) establish an open process, involving educators and parents of students enrolled in  
285 the LEA, to review and recommend instructional materials for board approval; and

286 (ii) ensure that under the process described in Subsection (26)(c)(i), the board:

287 (A) before the meetings described in Subsection (26)(c)(ii)(B), posts the recommended  
288 learning material online to allow for public review or, for copyrighted material, makes the  
289 recommended learning material available at the LEA for public review;

290 (B) before adopting or approving the recommended instructional materials, holds at  
291 least two public meetings on the recommendation that provides an opportunity for educators  
292 whom the LEA employs and parents of students enrolled in the LEA to express views and  
293 opinions on the recommendation; and

294 (C) adopts or approves the recommended instructional materials in an open and regular  
295 board meeting.

296 (d) A local school board shall adopt a supplemental materials policy that provides  
297 flexible guidance to educators on the selection of supplemental materials or resources that an  
298 educator reviews and selects for classroom use using the educator's professional judgment,  
299 including whether any process or permission is required before classroom use of the materials  
300 or resources.

301 (e) If an LEA contracts with another party to provide online or digital materials, the  
302 LEA shall include in the contract a requirement that the provider give notice to the LEA any  
303 time that the provider makes a material change to the content of the online or digital materials,  
304 excluding regular informational updates on current events.

305 (f) Nothing in this Subsection (26) requires a local school board to review all learning  
306 materials used within the LEA.

307 Section 2. Section 53G-6-402 is amended to read:

308 **53G-6-402. Open enrollment options -- Procedures -- Processing fee -- Continuing**  
309 **enrollment.**

310 (1) Each local school board is responsible for providing educational services consistent  
311 with Utah state law and rules of the state board for each student who resides in the district and,  
312 as provided in this section through Section 53G-6-407 and to the extent reasonably feasible, for  
313 any student who resides in another district in the state and desires to attend a school in the  
314 district, giving priority to a child of a military service member, as that term is defined in  
315 53B-8-102.

316 (2) (a) A school is open for enrollment of nonresident students if the enrollment level  
317 is at or below the open enrollment threshold.

318 (b) If a school's enrollment falls below the open enrollment threshold, the local school  
319 board shall allow a nonresident student to enroll in the school.

320 (3) A local school board may allow enrollment of nonresident students in a school that  
321 is operating above the open enrollment threshold.

322 (4) (a) A local school board shall adopt policies describing procedures for nonresident  
323 students to follow in applying for entry into the district's schools.

324 (b) Those procedures shall provide, as a minimum, for:

325 (i) distribution to interested parties of information about the school or school district  
326 and how to apply for admission;

327 (ii) use of standard application forms prescribed by the state board;

328 (iii) (A) submission of applications from November 15 through the first Friday in  
329 February by those seeking admission during the early enrollment period for the following year;  
330 or

331 (B) submission of applications from August 1 through November 1 by those seeking  
332 admission during the early enrollment period for the following year in a school district  
333 described in Subsection 53G-6-401(1)(b);

334 (iv) submission of applications by those seeking admission during the late enrollment  
335 period;

336 (v) notwithstanding any other provision of this part or Part 3, School District  
337 Residency, submission of applications for at least 30 days after the day on which a school

338 boundary change takes effect for those affected by the school boundary change;

339 [~~(v)~~] (vi) written notification to the student's parent of acceptance or rejection of an  
340 application:

341 (A) within six weeks after receipt of the application by the district or by March 31,  
342 whichever is later, for applications submitted during the early enrollment period;

343 (B) within two weeks after receipt of the application by the district or by the Friday  
344 before the new school year begins, whichever is later, for applications submitted during the late  
345 enrollment period for admission in the next school year; [~~and~~]

346 (C) within two weeks after receipt of the application by the district, for applications  
347 submitted during the late enrollment period for admission in the current year; and

348 (D) within two weeks after receipt of the application by the district, for applications  
349 submitted by students affected by a school district boundary change;

350 [~~(vi)~~] (vii) written notification to the resident school for intradistrict transfers or the  
351 resident district for interdistrict transfers upon acceptance of a nonresident student for  
352 enrollment; and

353 [~~(vii)~~] (viii) written notification to the parents of each student that resides within the  
354 school district and other interested parties of the revised early enrollment period described in  
355 Subsection 53G-6-401(1)(b) if:

356 (A) the school district is doing a district wide grade reconfiguration of its elementary,  
357 middle, junior, and senior high schools; and

358 (B) the grade reconfiguration described in Subsection [~~(4)(b)(vii)(A)~~] (4)(b)(viii)(A)  
359 will be implemented in the next school year.

360 (c) (i) Notwithstanding the dates established in Subsection (4)(b) for submitting  
361 applications and notifying parents of acceptance or rejection of an application, a local school  
362 board may delay the dates if a local school board is not able to make a reasonably accurate  
363 projection of the early enrollment school capacity or late enrollment school capacity of a school  
364 due to:

365 (A) school construction or remodeling;

366 (B) drawing or revision of school boundaries; or

367 (C) other circumstances beyond the control of the local school board.

368 (ii) The delay may extend no later than four weeks beyond the date the local school

369 board is able to make a reasonably accurate projection of the early enrollment school capacity  
370 or late enrollment school capacity of a school.

371 (5) A school district may charge a one-time \$5 processing fee, to be paid at the time of  
372 application.

373 (6) An enrolled nonresident student shall be permitted to remain enrolled in a school,  
374 subject to the same rules and standards as resident students, without renewed applications in  
375 subsequent years unless one of the following occurs:

376 (a) the student graduates;

377 (b) the student is no longer a Utah resident;

378 (c) the student is suspended or expelled from school; [~~or~~]

379 (d) except for a student described in Subsection (6)(e), the district determines that  
380 enrollment within the school will exceed the school's open enrollment threshold; or

381 (e) for a child of a military service member, as that term is defined in Section  
382 [53B-8-102](#), who moves from temporary to permanent housing outside of the relevant school  
383 district boundaries following a permanent change of station:

384 (i) in kindergarten through grade 10, the student completes the current school year; or

385 (ii) in grades 11 and 12, the student graduates.

386 (7) (a) Determination of which nonresident students will be excluded from continued  
387 enrollment in a school during a subsequent year under Subsection (6)(d) is based upon time in  
388 the school, with those most recently enrolled being excluded first and the use of a lottery  
389 system when multiple nonresident students have the same number of school days in the school.

390 (b) Nonresident students who will not be permitted to continue their enrollment shall  
391 be notified no later than March 15 of the current school year.

392 (8) The parent of a student enrolled in a school that is not the student's school of  
393 residence may withdraw the student from that school for enrollment in another public school by  
394 submitting notice of intent to enroll the student in:

395 (a) the district of residence; or

396 (b) another nonresident district.

397 (9) Unless provisions have previously been made for enrollment in another school, a  
398 nonresident district releasing a student from enrollment shall immediately notify the district of  
399 residence, which shall enroll the student in the resident district and take such additional steps

400 as may be necessary to ensure compliance with laws governing school attendance.

401 (10) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (10)(c), a student who transfers between  
402 schools, whether effective on the first day of the school year or after the school year has begun,  
403 by exercising an open enrollment option under this section may not transfer to a different  
404 school during the same school year by exercising an open enrollment option under this section.

405 (b) The restriction on transfers specified in Subsection (10)(a) does not apply to a  
406 student transfer made for health or safety reasons.

407 (c) A local school board may adopt a policy allowing a student to exercise an open  
408 enrollment option more than once in a school year.

409 (11) Notwithstanding Subsections (2) and (6)(d), a student who is enrolled in a school  
410 that is not the student's school of residence, because school bus service is not provided between  
411 the student's neighborhood and school of residence for safety reasons:

412 (a) shall be allowed to continue to attend the school until the student finishes the  
413 highest grade level offered; and

414 (b) shall be allowed to attend the middle school, junior high school, or high school into  
415 which the school's students feed until the student graduates from high school.

416 (12) Notwithstanding any other provision of this part or Part 3, School District  
417 Residency, a student shall be allowed to enroll in any charter school or other public school in  
418 any district, including a district where the student does not reside, if the enrollment is  
419 necessary, as determined by the Division of Child and Family Services, to comply with the  
420 provisions of 42 U.S.C. Section 675.

421 Section 3. **Effective date.**

422 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.