

HB0246S01 compared with HB0246

{Omitted text} shows text that was in HB0246 but was omitted in HB0246S01

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0246 but was inserted into HB0246S01

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Statewide Online Education Program Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Joseph Elison

Senate Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore

2

3 LONG TITLE

4 General Description:

5 This bill makes changes to enhance quality, accountability, and transparency in the
6 Statewide Online Education Program.

7 Highlighted Provisions:

8 This bill:

- 9 ▶ authorizes the State Board of Education (state board) to conduct sample audits of online courses;
- 11 ▶ expands performance reporting requirements for an authorized online course provider;
- 12 ▶ requires the state board to establish a report card for an authorized online course provider;
- 13 ▶ facilitates regular communication between an authorized online course provider and a primary
LEA of enrollment;
- 15 ▶ implements a model syllabus template for online courses;
- 16 ▶ requires the state board to create a centralized registration system for parents and students; and
- 18 ▶ ~~{requires more frequent progress reporting and student support from an authorized online~~
course provider.
- 18 ▶ makes technical changes.

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19 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

20 None

21 **Other Special Clauses:**

22 This bill provides a special effective date.

24 AMENDS:

25 **53F-4-511** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 24 , as last amended by Laws of Utah
2024, Chapter 24

26 **53F-4-512** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 24 , as last amended by Laws of Utah
2024, Chapter 24

27 **53F-4-514** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 24 , as last amended by Laws of Utah
2024, Chapter 24

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

30 Section 1. Section **53F-4-511** is amended to read:

31 **53F-4-511. Report on performance of authorized online course providers.**

33 (1) The state board, in collaboration with authorized online course providers and, if applicable, the state
board's contractor, shall develop a report on the performance of authorized online course providers,
which may be used to evaluate the Statewide Online Education Program and assess the quality of an
authorized online course provider.

37 (2) A report on the performance of an authorized online course provider shall include:

38 (a) scores aggregated by test on statewide assessments administered under Title 53E, Chapter 4, Part 3,
Assessments, taken by students at the end of an online course offered through the Statewide Online
Education Program;

41 (b) the percentage of the authorized online course provider's students who complete online courses
within the applicable time period specified in Subsection 53F-4-505(4)(c);

44 (c) the percentage of the authorized online course provider's students who complete online courses after
the applicable time period specified in Subsection 53F-4-505(4)(c) and before the student graduates
from high school;[-and]

47 (d) the pupil-teacher ratio for the combined online courses of the authorized online course provider[-];

49 (e) student grade distributions for each course the authorized online course provider offers;

51 (f) student completion rates for each course the authorized online course provider offers;

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- 52 (g) results of student and parent satisfaction surveys;
- 53 (h) if applicable, a summary of the authorized online course provider's plan to improve course quality
and student outcomes; and
- 55 (i) results of any sample audits the state board has conducted related to courses the authorized online
course provider offers.
- 57 (3) The state board shall post a report on the performance of an authorized online course provider on the
Statewide Online Education Program's website described in Section 53F-4-512.
- 60 (4) The state board shall develop a standardized performance evaluation report card to assess an
authorized online course provider, which shall be published annually on the Statewide Online
Education Program's website described in Section 53F-4-512.
- 62 Section 2. Section **53F-4-512** is amended to read:
- 63 **53F-4-512. Dissemination of information on the Statewide Online Education Program.**
- 66 (1) The state board shall develop or purchase an enrollment and program administration system
accessible to authorized online course providers, [~~a website for the Statewide Online Education~~
~~Program~~] which shall include:
- 68 (a) a description of the Statewide Online Education Program, including its purposes;
- 69 (b) notwithstanding Subsection (2), information on who is eligible to enroll, and how an eligible student
may enroll, in an online course;
- 71 (c) a directory of authorized online course providers;
- 72 (d) a link to a course catalog for each authorized online course provider; [~~and~~]
- 73 (e) a report on the performance of authorized online course providers as required by Section
53F-4-511[-] ; and
- 75 (f) a centralized registration system that:
- 76 (i) allows a parent or eligible student to register for online courses; and
- 77 (ii) automatically shares registration information with the selected authorized online course provider.
- 79 (2) An authorized online course provider shall provide the following information on the authorized
online course provider's website:
- 81 (a) a description of the Statewide Online Education Program, including its purposes;
- 82 (b) information on who is eligible to enroll, and how an eligible student may enroll, in an online course;
- 84 (c) a course catalog;
- 85

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- (d) scores aggregated by test on statewide assessments administered under Title 53E, Chapter 4, Part 3, Assessments, taken by students at the end of an online course offered through the Statewide Online Education Program;
- 88 (e) the percentage of an authorized online course provider's students who complete online courses within the applicable time period specified in Subsection 53F-4-505(4)(c);
- 91 (f) the percentage of an authorized online course provider's students who complete online courses after the applicable time period specified in Subsection 53F-4-505(4)(c) and before the student graduates from high school;[~~and~~]
- 94 (g) the authorized online course provider's pupil-teacher ratio for the online courses combined[~~;~~] and
- 96 (h) additional information described in Subsection 53F-4-511(2) not described in this Subsection (2).
- 98 (3) The state board's contractor shall provide on the contractor's website information regarding enrollment and participation by a private school or home school student through the contractor.
- 101 Section 3. Section **53F-4-514** is amended to read:
- 102 **53F-4-514. State board -- Rulemaking -- Fees.**
- 103 (1) Notwithstanding Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the state board shall provide a delayed effective date that is after the school year has ended for a change to an administrative rule related to the Statewide Online Education Program if the change would require an authorized online course provider to make program changes during the school year.
- 108 (2) The state board shall make rules in accordance with this part and Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, that establish:
- 110 (a) a course credit acknowledgement form and procedures for completing and submitting to the state board or, in relation to a student who attends a private school or home school, the state board's contractor, a course credit acknowledgement;
- 113 (b) procedures for the administration of a statewide assessment to a student enrolled in an online course; and
- 115 (c) protocols for an online course provider to obtain approval to become a certified online course provider, including:
- 117 (i) the application procedure for an online course provider to obtain approval to become a certified online course provider; and
- 119 (ii) the standards that a certified online course provider and any online course the certified online course provider offers shall meet;

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- 121 (d) in accordance with Title 53E, Chapter 4, Academic Standards, Assessments, and Materials, criteria
for an authorized online course provider to submit for approval an online course that does not have
an existing state board course code;
- 124 (e) [~~no later than July 1, 2024,~~] a process within existing systems at the state board or, in relation to a
student who attends a private school or home school, the state board's contractor, to allow a certified
online course provider access to an educator's licensing, endorsement, certification, and assignment
information if the educator is teaching an online course for the certified online course provider;
- 129 (f) in consultation with the authorized online course providers, the parameters for conducting a site visit
including:
- 131 (i) a definition for the term site visit;
- 132 (ii) the minimum amount of time required for:
- 133 (A) notice to an authorized online course provider of a site visit; and
- 134 (B) an authorized online course provider to prepare for a site visit;
- 135 (iii) the documents, data, and artifacts subject to inspection during a site visit; and
- 136 (iv) a process to ensure a site visit allows for observation of instruction without interfering with the
instruction;
- 138 (g) annual mandatory training for relevant staff at a primary LEA that includes:
- 139 (i) program requirements for a primary LEA including reporting requirements and methods;
- 141 (ii) uses of resources and tools to ensure adequate monitoring of an eligible student's progress;
- 143 (iii) federal and state requirements for accommodating enrollments that involve special education;
- 145 (iv) appropriate circumstances and methodologies for reducing an eligible student's schedule; and
- 147 (v) other components the state board determines are necessary; and
- 148 (3)
- (a) When establishing the standards described in Subsection (2)(c)(ii) the state board shall:
- 150 (i) establish rules and minimum standards regarding accreditation;
- 151 (ii) require an online course to be aligned with the core standards described in Section 53E-4-202;
- 153 (iii) require proof that a national organization responsible for college athletics endorses:
- 155 (A) the certified online course provider; or
- 156 (B) the online course that a certified online course provider offers;
- 157 (iv) permit an open-entry, open-exit method of instructional delivery that allows a student the
flexibility to:

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- 159 (A) schedule in response to individual needs or requirements;
- 160 (B) demonstrate competency when the student has mastered knowledge and skills;
- 161 (C) begin or end study at any time; and
- 162 (D) progress through course material at the student's own pace; and
- 163 (v) except as provided in Subsection (5), require an individual who teaches a course for a certified
online course provider to hold a teaching license issued by the state board.
- 166 (b) When establishing the standards described in Subsection (2)(c)(ii), the state board may not:
- 168 (i) specify a minimum duration for an online course;
- 169 (ii) specify a minimum amount of time that a student must spend in an online course; or
- 171 (iii) limit the class size of an online course.
- 172 (4) No later than January 31, 2026, the state board shall create a communication dashboard for the
program and only related to eligible students enrolled in a public school that may include:
- 175 (a) a counselor contact list for an eligible student that is accessible to an authorized online course
provider; and
- 177 (b) progress monitoring fields that are accessible to the primary LEA, the eligible student's counselor,
and the eligible student's parent containing:
- 179 (i) grade progress reporting of an eligible student by an authorized online course provider;
- 181 (ii) an ability to flag a student that is at-risk of failing an online course; and
- 182 (iii) other relevant capabilities the state board determines to be necessary in consultation with LEA
users of the dashboard.
- 184 (5) If an individual possesses a provider-specific license described in Section 53E-6-201, the state board
may not prohibit the individual from teaching an online course for an authorized online course
provider while the individual is in the process of obtaining an endorsement or additional license
issued by the state board.
- 188 (6) The state board may establish a fee, in accordance with Section 63J-1-504, in an amount to pay the
costs to the state board of the application approval process and the monitoring of a certified online
course provider's compliance with the standards described in Subsection (2)(c)(ii).
- 192 (7)
- (a) Fee revenue collected in accordance with Subsection (6) shall be:
- 193 (i) deposited into the Uniform School Fund as a dedicated credit; and
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(ii) used to pay the costs to the state board of reviewing certified online course providers' applications and compliance with the standards described in Subsection (2)(c)(ii).

- 197 ~~{(8) The state board shall ensure a course that an authorized online course provider offers contains course rigor by:}~~
- 199 ~~{(a) conducting periodic sample audits of courses offered by an authorized online course provider to evaluate course rigor and quality;}~~
- 201 ~~{(b) establishing criteria for evaluating course rigor and quality to be used during a sample audit;}~~
- 203 ~~{(c) providing feedback to an authorized online course provider based on audit results; and}~~
- 205 ~~{(d) establishing consequences for an authorized online course provider whose courses consistently fail to meet rigorous standards, which may include probation or revocation of authorized online course provider approval.}~~
- 208 ~~{(9) The state board shall foster programmatic collaboration with stakeholders by:}~~
- 209 ~~{(a) facilitating regular meetings between authorized online course providers and LEA administrators to improve communication and address concerns;}~~
- 211 ~~{(b) requiring an authorized online course provider to present annually to the state board on the authorized online course provider's programs and student outcomes;}~~
- 213 ~~{(c) developing a model syllabus template that an authorized online course provider may use for online courses that includes:}~~
- 215 ~~{(i) clear learning objectives;}~~
- 216 ~~{(ii) assessment methods; and}~~
- 217 ~~{(iii) expectations for student engagement; and}~~
- 218 ~~{(d) establishing a process for an LEA to provide feedback regarding online courses and an authorized online course provider.}~~
- 220 ~~{(10) The state board shall require an authorized online course provider to:}~~
- 221 ~~{(a) provide bi-weekly progress reports for all enrolled students to the student's primary LEA of enrollment;}~~
- 223 ~~{(b) implement a tiered system of student support based on academic performance, including a schedule of synchronous progress meetings with a student and the student's parent; and}~~
- 226 ~~{(c) document all student support efforts and share this information with the eligible student's primary LEA of enrollment.}~~

197 Section 4. **Effective date.**

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This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.

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