

HB0381S01 compared with HB0381

~~{Omitted text}~~ shows text that was in HB0381 but was omitted in HB0381S01

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0381 but was inserted into HB0381S01

DISCLAIMER: This document is provided to assist you in your comparison of the two bills. Sometimes this automated comparison will NOT be completely accurate. Therefore, you need to read the actual bills. This automatically generated document could contain inaccuracies caused by: limitations of the compare program; bad input data; or other causes.

1

Civics Education Amendments
2025 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Douglas R. Welton
Senate Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore



2

3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill amends certain graduation requirements.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

- 8 ▶ adds a social studies graduation requirement;
- 9 ▶ requires certain social studies related instruction;
- 10 ▶ **extends a deadline for certain instructional materials recommendations;**
- 10 ▶ removes a testing requirement;
- 11 ▶ provides for alternatives to portions of certain graduation requirements; and
- 12 ▶ makes technical changes.

14 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

15 None

16 **Other Special Clauses:**

17 This bill provides a special effective date.

19 AMENDS:

HB0381 compared with HB0381S01

20 **53E-4-204** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 346, 527 , as last amended by Laws of
Utah 2023, Chapters 346, 527

21 **53E-4-204.1** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 20 , as last amended by Laws
of Utah 2024, Chapter 20

22 **53E-4-205** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 114 , as last amended by Laws of Utah
2021, Chapter 114

23 ENACTS:

24 **53E-4-205.2** , Utah Code Annotated 1953 , Utah Code Annotated 1953

25 REPEALS:

26 **53E-4-205.1** , as enacted by Laws of Utah 2020, Third Special Session, Chapter 10 , as enacted by
Laws of Utah 2020, Third Special Session, Chapter 10

27

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

29 Section 1. Section **53E-4-204** is amended to read:

30 **53E-4-204. Standards and graduation requirements.**

29 (1) The state board shall establish rigorous core standards for Utah public schools and graduation
requirements under Section 53E-3-501 for grades 9 through 12 that:

31 (a) are consistent with state law and federal regulations;

32 (b) use competency-based standards and assessments;

33 (c) include instruction that stresses general financial literacy from basic budgeting to financial
investments, including bankruptcy education and a general financial literacy test-out option;~~and~~

36 (d) include graduation requirements in language arts, mathematics, and science that exceed:

38 (i) 3.0 units in language arts including up to 0.5 units emphasizing verbal communication completed in
a course or a school sponsored activity;

40 (ii) 2.0 units in mathematics; and

41 (iii) and 2.0 units in science~~[-]~~ ; and

42 (e) include a graduation requirement in social studies that is equal to or exceeds 3.5 units,
including{ ~~H~~→ { } {∴}

43a {~~f~~ ←~~H~~ } at least 1.0 unit in American constitutional government and citizenship as described in
Section 53E-4-205.2;

47 (f) ensure up to 0.5 units described in Subsection (1)(e) may be earned by:

HB0381 compared with HB0381S01

48 (i) completing a course or a school sponsored activity emphasizing verbal communication provided that
51 a significant portion of the course or activity is dedicated to civic education, including:

51 (A) policy analysis;

52 (B) governmental systems; and

53 (C) civic engagement; or

54 (ii) participation in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps described in 10 U.S.C Sec. 2031.

56 (2) { ~~H~~→ {} ~~and~~}

44a {(ii) the following courses that may satisfy the graduation requirement described in this
Subsection (1)(e):}

44c {(A) at least 0.5 units in Advanced Placement U.S. Government;}

44d {(B) {at least 0.5 units in Advanced Placement Comparative Government; and}

44e {(C) {a concurrent enrollment government course.}} { ~~←H~~ }

45 {(F)} ensure up to 0.5 units described in Subsection (1)(e) may be earned by:

46 {(i)} completing a course or a school sponsored activity emphasizing verbal communication provided
that a significant portion of the course or activity is dedicated to civic education, including:

49 {(A)} policy analysis;

50 {(B)} governmental systems; and

51 {(C)} civic engagement; or

52 {(ii)} participation in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps described in 10 U.S.C Sec. 2031.

54 {(2)} The state board shall establish competency-based standards and assessments for elective courses.

56 (3) The state board shall study requiring all LEAs to issue a high school diploma to students who
receive:

58 (a) an associate's degree with at least 60 credit hours from an accredited post-secondary institution; or

60 (b) an industry certification with at least 500 hours of instruction from a business, trade association, or
other industry group in accordance with Section 53E-3-501.

64 Section 2. Section 53E-4-204.1 is amended to read:

65 **53E-4-204.1. Ethnic studies core standards and curriculum requirements.**

66 (1) As used in this section:

67 (a) "Core standards for Utah public schools" or "core standards" means the standards the state board
establishes as described in Section 53E-4-202.

69

HB0381 compared with HB0381S01

(b) "Ethnic studies" means the interdisciplinary social and historical study of how different populations have experienced and participated in building the United States of America, including the study of the culture, history, and contributions of Utahns of diverse ethnicities.

73 (c) "Ethnic Studies Commission" means the Ethnic Studies Commission created in Section 63C-28-201.

75 (d) "Utahns of diverse ethnicities" means individuals who are residents of Utah and:

76 (i) Native American;

77 (ii) Alaska Native;

78 (iii) Native Hawaiian;

79 (iv) Pacific Islander;

80 (v) Hispanic or Latino;

81 (vi) Black or African American;

82 (vii) Asian or Asian American; or

83 (viii) from diverse backgrounds and experiences.

84 (2)

(a) The state board shall incorporate ethnic studies into the core standards for Utah public schools.

86 (b) Before the state board takes formal action to incorporate ethnic studies into the core standards, the state board shall:

88 (i) consult with the Ethnic Studies Commission; and

89 (ii) submit the proposed core standards incorporating ethnic studies to the Ethnic Studies Commission for review and recommendations.

91 (3) In incorporating ethnic studies into the core standards, the state board shall consider, at a minimum:

93 (a) existing core standards that increase cultural awareness of, and focus on the character traits described in Section 53G-10-204 for, all Utah communities;

95 (b) opportunities to recognize and incorporate into the ethnic studies core standards the histories, contributions, and perspectives of Utahns of diverse ethnicities; and

97 (c) recommendations of the Ethnic Studies Commission.

98 (4) Subject to legislative appropriations, the state board shall provide funding for professional learning in ethnic studies for teachers.

100 (5)

(a) By December 31, [2025] 2027, an LEA shall select curriculum and instructional materials for teaching ethnic studies to students in kindergarten through grade 12 that:

HB0381 compared with HB0381S01

- 102 (i) align with the core standards incorporating ethnic studies described in this section; and
104 (ii) are integrated with regular school work.
- 105 (b) An LEA shall implement an ethnic studies curriculum that, at a minimum:
- 106 (i) focuses on shared identity and honoring unique cultural differences, including:
- 107 (A) that each individual student has unique characteristics;
- 108 (B) the common elements that unite Utahns; and
- 109 (C) respect for distinct socio-cultural identities; and
- 110 (ii) includes themes including cultural histories within the context of United States history and global
history.
- 112 (c) An LEA shall:
- 113 (i) modify or revise as needed the ethnic studies instructional materials and curriculum the LEA selects
as described in Subsection (5)(a), to ensure alignment with core standards incorporating ethnic
studies; and
- 116 (ii) submit a report to the state board that provides evidence that the LEA is complying with the
requirements of Subsections (5)(a) and (b).
- 118 (d) In fulfilling the requirements of this section, an LEA may offer a course on ethnic studies.
- 120 (6) The state board shall, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking
Act, make rules:
- 122 (a) to develop guidelines and methods for LEAs to more fully incorporate ethnic studies into other core
standards for Utah public schools courses; and
- 124 (b) for the report described in Subsection (5)(c).
- 125 (7) The guidelines and methods described in Subsection (6)(a) may not change:
- 126 (a) the number of instructional hours required for elementary and secondary students; or
- 127 (b) the number of instructional hours dedicated to the existing curriculum.

128 Section 3. Section **53E-4-205** is amended to read:

129 **53E-4-205. American civics education initiative for adult education.**

64 (1) As used in this section:

- 65 (a) "Adult education program" means an organized educational program below the postsecondary
level, other than a regular full-time K-12 secondary education program, provided by an LEA or
nonprofit organization that provides the opportunity for an adult to further the adult's high school
level education.

HB0381 compared with HB0381S01

- 69 (b) "Basic civics test" means a test that includes 50 of the questions on the civics test form used by the
United States Citizenship and Immigration Services:
- 71 (i) to determine that an individual applying for United States citizenship meets the basic citizenship
skills specified in 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1423; and
- 73 (ii) in accordance with 8 C.F.R. Sec. 312.2.
- 74 (2)
- [~~(a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), the~~] The state board shall require[:]
- 75 [~~(i) a public school student who graduates on or after January 1, 2016, to pass a basic civics test as a
condition for receiving a high school diploma; and]~~
- 77 [~~(ii)] a student enrolled in an adult education program to pass a basic civics test as a condition for
receiving an adult education secondary diploma{ ~~h~~ } { ~~, unless the student has completed
the American constitutional government and citizenship course described in Section
53E-4-205.2~~ } { ~~h~~ } .~~
- 79 [(b) ~~The state board may require a public school student to pass an alternate assessment instead of a
basic civics test if the student qualifies for an alternate assessment, as defined in state board rule
made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.~~]
- 83 (3) An individual who correctly answers a minimum of 35 out of the 50 questions on a basic civics test
passes the test and an individual who correctly answers fewer than 35 out of 50 questions on a basic
civics test does not pass the test.
- 86 (4) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the state board shall
make rules that:
- 88 [(a) ~~require an LEA that serves secondary students to administer a basic civics test or alternate
assessment to a public school student enrolled in the LEA;~~]
- 90 [(b)] (a) require an adult education program provider to administer a basic civics test to an individual
who intends to receive an adult education secondary diploma; and
- 92 [(e)] (b) allow an individual to take a basic civics test as many times as needed in order to pass the test[;
and] .
- 94 [(d) ~~for the alternate assessment described in Subsection (2)(b), describe:]~~
- 95 [(i) ~~the content of an alternate assessment;~~]
- 96 [(ii) ~~how a public school student qualifies for an alternate assessment; and]~~
- 97 [(iii) ~~how an LEA determines if a student passes an alternate assessment.]~~

HB0381 compared with HB0381S01

164 Section 4. Section 4 is enacted to read:

165 **53E-4-205.2. American constitutional government and citizenship course standards.**

101 (1) Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, and as part of the social studies requirement established
under Section 53E-4-204, the state board shall require instruction on American constitutional
government and citizenship.

104 (2) In accordance with Subsections (3) and (4), the state board shall create standards for the course
required under Subsection (1) that:

106 (a) examine American founding principles, including:

107 (i) classical republicanism, natural rights, and colonial religious traditions; and

108 (ii) the text and principles of the Declaration of Independence and relationship to the United States
Constitution;

110 (b) examine the text of the United States Constitution, including:

111 (i) structure, powers, and limits of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches; and

113 (ii) the principles and operation of federalism and the state constitutional tradition;

114 (c) examine the development of the United States Constitution through amendments, including:

116 (i) the creation and application of the Bill of Rights;

117 (ii) the adoption and enforcement of the Civil War and Reconstruction Amendments; and

119 (iii) the adoption and enforcement of the other voting rights amendments; and

120 (d) examine the practice of self-government at the state and local level, including:

121 (i) the Utah Constitution and local government, including counties, municipalities, and tribal
governments;

123 (ii) state and local elections, including the current candidate nomination and selection; and

125 (iii) the responsibilities of citizenship and participation in civil society.

126 (3) The course described in this part shall prioritize a close reading of the following primary source
documents:

128 (a) the Mayflower Compact;

129 (b) the Declaration of Independence;

130 (c) the Iroquois Constitution;

131 (d) the United States Constitution;

132 (e) George Washington's Farewell Address;

133 (f) selected passages from the Federalist and Antifederalist Papers;

HB0381 compared with HB0381S01

- 200 (g) the Articles of Confederation;
134 (h)(g) speeches of {~~Fredrick~~} Frederick Douglass;
135 (i)(h) the Lincoln-Douglas Debates;
136 (j)(i) speeches of Abraham Lincoln;
137 (k)(j) the Seneca Falls Declaration;
138 (l)(k) the Letter from Birmingham Jail;
139 (m)(l) the Utah Constitution; and
140 (n)(m) other essential documents from American constitutional history.
141 (4) The state board shall, in collaboration with the Civic Thought and Leadership Initiative within
the Center for Constitutional Studies at Utah Valley University, develop standards that fulfill the
requirements of this section.

211 **Section 5. Repealer.**

This Bill Repeals:

- 212 This bill repeals:
213 Section **53E-4-205.1, Waiver of basic civics test graduation requirement.**

214 Section 6. **Effective date.**

Effective Date.

This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.

3-5-25 9:44 AM