

1 **School Trust Land Amendments**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Tracy J. Miller

Senate Sponsor: David P. Hinkins

3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill streamlines the School LAND Trust Program by shifting responsibilities and
6 improving transparency.

7 **Highlighted Provisions:**

8 This bill:

- 9 ▶ clarifies action plans and the implementation of action plans;
- 10 ▶ adds a requirement to train on the Open and Public Meetings Act;
- 11 ▶ expands the list of entities to receive training on the School LAND Trust Program;
- 12 ▶ refines the process for reviewing school compliance with the program;
- 13 ▶ adds new responsibilities for the state superintendent; and
- 14 ▶ makes technical changes.

15 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

16 None

17 **Other Special Clauses:**

18 This bill provides a special effective date.

19 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

20 AMENDS:

21 **53G-7-1206**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 20

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

24 Section 1. Section **53G-7-1206** is amended to read:

25 **53G-7-1206 . School LAND Trust Program.**

26 (1) As used in this section:

- 27 (a) "Charter trust land council" means a council established by a charter school
28 governing board under Section 53G-7-1205.
- 29 (b) "Council" means a school community council or a charter trust land council.
- 30 (c) "LAND trust plan" means a school's plan to use School LAND Trust Program money

- 31 to implement a component of the school's success plan.
- 32 (d) "School community council" means a council established at a district school in
33 accordance with Section 53G-7-1202.
- 34 (e) "Teacher and student success plan" or "success plan" means the same as that term is
35 defined in Section 53G-7-1301.
- 36 (2) This section creates the School LAND (Learning And Nurturing Development) Trust
37 Program under the state board to:
- 38 (a) provide financial resources to public schools to enhance or improve student academic
39 achievement and implement a component of a district school or charter school's
40 teacher and student success plan; and
- 41 (b) involve parents of a school's students in decision making regarding the expenditure
42 of School LAND Trust Program money allocated to the school.
- 43 (3) To receive an allocation under Section 53F-2-404:
- 44 (a) a district school shall have established a school community council in accordance
45 with Section 53G-7-1202;
- 46 (b) a charter school shall have established a charter trust land council in accordance with
47 Section 53G-7-1205; and
- 48 (c) the school's principal shall provide a signed, written assurance that the school is in
49 compliance with Subsection (3)(a) or (b).
- 50 (4)(a) A council shall create a program to use the school's allocation distributed under
51 Section 53F-2-404 to implement a component of the school's success plan, including:
- 52 (i) the school's identified most critical academic needs;
- 53 (ii) a recommended~~[course of]~~ action plan to meet the identified academic needs;
- 54 (iii) a specific listing of any programs, practices, materials, or equipment that the
55 school will need to implement ~~[a component of the school's success plan]~~ the
56 action plan to have a direct impact on the instruction of students and result in
57 measurable increased student performance; and
- 58 (iv) how ~~[the school intends to spend the school's allocation of funds under this~~
59 ~~section]~~ each proposed expenditure in the action plan will be used to implement a
60 component of the action plan to enhance or improve academic excellence at the
61 school.
- 62 (b)(i) A council shall create and vote to adopt a LAND trust plan in a meeting of the
63 council at which a quorum is present.
- 64 (ii) If a majority of the quorum votes to adopt a LAND trust plan, the LAND trust

65 plan is adopted.

66 (c) A council shall:

67 (i) post a LAND trust plan that is adopted in accordance with Subsection (4)(b) on
68 the School LAND Trust Program reporting website; and

69 (ii) include with the LAND trust plan a report noting the number of council members
70 who voted for or against the approval of the LAND trust plan and the number of
71 council members who were absent for the vote.

72 (d)(i) The local school board of a district school shall approve or disapprove a
73 LAND trust plan.

74 (ii) If a local school board disapproves a LAND trust plan:

75 (A) the local school board shall provide a written explanation of why the LAND
76 trust plan was disapproved and request the school community council who
77 submitted the LAND trust plan to revise the LAND trust plan; and

78 (B) the school community council shall submit a revised LAND trust plan in
79 response to a local school board's request under Subsection (4)(d)(ii)(A).

80 (iii) Once a LAND trust plan has been approved by a local school board, a school
81 community council may amend the LAND trust plan, subject to a majority vote of
82 the school community council and local school board approval.

83 (e) A charter trust land council's LAND trust plan is subject to approval by the:

84 (i) charter school governing board; and

85 (ii) budget officer whom the charter school governing board appoints.

86 (5)(a) A district school or charter school shall:

87 (i) implement the program as approved;

88 (ii) provide ongoing support for the council's [program] plan and responsibilities; and

89 (iii) meet state board reporting requirements regarding financial and performance
90 accountability of the program.

91 (b)(i) A district school or charter school shall prepare and post an annual report of
92 the program on the School LAND Trust Program reporting website before the
93 council submits a plan for the following year.

94 (ii) The report shall detail the use of program funds received by the school under this
95 section and an assessment of the results obtained from the use of the funds.

96 (iii) A summary of the report shall be provided to parents of students who attend the
97 school.

98 (6) An LEA shall record the LEA's expenditures of School LAND Trust Program funds

- 99 through a financial reporting system that the board identifies to assist schools in
 100 developing the annual report described in Subsection (5)(b).
- 101 (7) The president or chair of a local school board or charter school governing board shall
 102 ensure that the members of the local school board or charter school governing board are
 103 provided with annual training on the requirements of this section.
- 104 (8)(a) The state board shall provide annual training opportunities to the entities
 105 described in Subsection (8)(b) on:
- 106 (i) the School LAND Trust Program;~~and~~
 107 (ii)~~(A)~~ the responsibilities and formation of:
 108 (A) a school community council consistent with Section 53G-7-1202; or
 109 (B) a charter trust land council~~[-]~~ consistent with Section 53G-7-1205; and
 110 (iii) as applicable, council responsibilities as described in Section 53G-7-1203.
- 111 (b) The state board shall provide the training to:
 112 (i) a local school board or a charter school governing board;
 113 (ii) a district business administrator or a charter business official;
 114 ~~(ii)~~ (iii) a school district or a charter school; and
 115 ~~(iii)~~ (iv) a school community council.
- 116 (9) The state board shall annually review ~~each~~ a school's compliance with applicable law,
 117 including rules adopted by the state board in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
 118 Administrative Rulemaking Act, by:
 119 (a) reading each School LAND ~~trust~~ Trust Program plan submitted;~~and~~
 120 (b) reviewing proposed expenditures to be made from School LAND Trust Program
 121 money[-] ; and
 122 (c) conducting an annual compliance review of an LEA using a sample of schools.
- 123 (10) The superintendent shall calculate and initiate the annual School LAND Trust
 124 distribution to schools through the state board's finance system to each LEA as outlined
 125 in Section 53F-2-404.
- 126 (11) The superintendent shall administer the School LAND Trust website to provide
 127 transparency and accountability to school communities and the public of School LAND
 128 Trust plans, reports, and expenditures of trust distributions.
- 129 ~~(10)~~ (12) The state board shall designate a staff member who administers the School
 130 LAND Trust Program~~[-]~~
 131 ~~(a)~~ to serve as a member of the Land Trusts Protection and Advocacy Committee
 132 created under Section 53D-2-202~~[-]~~ and .

133 ~~[(b) who may coordinate with the Land Trusts Protection and Advocacy Office director,~~
134 ~~appointed under Section 53D-2-203, to attend meetings or events within the School~~
135 ~~and Institutional Trust System, as defined in Section 53D-2-102, that relate to the~~
136 ~~School LAND Trust Program.]~~

137 Section 2. **Effective date.**

138 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.