

High School Credit Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jordan D. Teuscher

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill addresses the use of an instructional packet to receive credit in public high schools.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- makes a technical change;
- prohibits a Local Education Agency from awarding a high school student credit for a course completed through the packet method unless the packet has been approved by the state board; and
- requires the state board to review and approve packets.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53E-3-501, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 527

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

Section 1. Section **53E-3-501** is amended to read:

53E-3-501 . State board to establish miscellaneous minimum standards for public schools.

(1) The state board shall establish rules and minimum standards for the public schools that are consistent with this public education code, including rules and minimum standards governing the following:

- (a)(i) the qualification and certification of educators and ancillary personnel who provide direct student services;
- (ii) required school administrative and supervisory services; and

- 32 (iii) the evaluation of instructional personnel;
- 33 (b)(i) access to programs;
- 34 (ii) attendance;
- 35 (iii) competency levels;
- 36 (iv) graduation requirements; and
- 37 (v) discipline and control;
- 38 (c)(i) school accreditation;
- 39 (ii) the academic year;
- 40 (iii) alternative and pilot programs;
- 41 (iv) curriculum and instruction requirements; and
- 42 (v) school libraries;
- 43 (d) services to:
- 44 (i) persons with a disability as defined by and covered under:
- 45 (A) the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12102;
- 46 (B) the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 705(20)(A); and
- 47 (C) the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1401(3); and
- 48 (ii) other special groups;
- 49 (e)(i) state reimbursed bus routes;
- 50 (ii) bus safety and operational requirements; and
- 51 (iii) other transportation needs;
- 52 (f)(i) school productivity and cost effectiveness measures;
- 53 (ii) federal programs;
- 54 (iii) school budget formats; and
- 55 (iv) financial, statistical, and student accounting requirements; and
- 56 (g) data collection and reporting by LEAs.
- 57 (2) Except as provided in Subsection (3), the state board shall determine if:
- 58 (a) the minimum standards have been met; and
- 59 (b) required reports are properly submitted.
- 60 (3) When the state board makes a request of an LEA under Subsection (1)(f) or (g), the
- 61 state board shall include:
- 62 (a) the justification for the requested information;
- 63 (b) a statement confirming that the information is not available elsewhere;
- 64 (c) a deadline by which the LEA must provide the information in accordance with state
- 65 board rule; and

- 66 (d) penalties, including withholding of funds, for non-compliance in accordance with
67 state and federal law.
- 68 (4) The state board may apply for, receive, administer, and distribute to eligible applicants
69 funds made available through programs of the federal government.
- 70 (5)(a) A technical college listed in Section 53B-2a-105 shall provide competency-based
71 career and technical education courses that fulfill high school graduation
72 requirements, as requested and authorized by the state board.
- 73 (b) A school district may grant a high school diploma to a student participating in a
74 course described in Subsection (5)(a) that is provided by a technical college listed in
75 Section 53B-2a-105.
- 76 (6)(a) As used in this Subsection (6), "generally accepted accounting principles" means
77 a common framework of accounting rules and standards for financial reporting
78 promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.
- 79 (b) Subject to Subsections (6)(c) and (d), the state board shall ensure the rules and
80 standards described in Subsections (1)(f) and (g) allow for an LEA to make
81 adjustments to the LEA's general entry ledger, in accordance with generally accepted
82 accounting principles, to accurately reflect the LEA's use of funds for allowable costs
83 and activities:
- 84 (i) during a fiscal year; and
85 (ii) at the close of a fiscal year.
- 86 (c) If the state board determines under Subsection (2) that an LEA has not met the
87 minimum standards described in Subsection (1)(f) or (g) or has not properly
88 submitted a required report, the state board shall allow the LEA an opportunity to
89 cure the relevant defect through an adjustment described in Subsection (6)(b).
- 90 (d) An LEA may not, in an adjustment described in Subsection[-] (6)(b), reflect the use
91 of restricted federal or state funds for a cost or activity that is not an allowable cost or
92 activity for the restricted funds.
- 93 (7)(a) As used in this Subsection (7):
- 94 (i) "Packet" means a collection of instructional materials and assessments used to
95 receive credit through the packet method.
- 96 (ii) "Packet method" means an educational approach where:
- 97 (A) a high school student receives a collection of instructional materials from an
98 institution or organization that is not an LEA;
- 99 (B) the high school student works through the materials independently with

- 100 minimal or no direct instruction from a teacher; and
101 (C) assessment is primarily based on completion of assignments within the
102 instructional materials.
- 103 (b) An LEA may not award original or replacement credit to a high school student for a
104 course completed through the packet method unless the packet has been reviewed
105 and approved by the state board.
- 106 (c) An LEA that awards credit through the packet method shall award the credit on a
107 pass-fail basis that does not affect a student's grade point average.
- 108 (d) The state board shall:
- 109 (i) establish standards for the use of the packet method to award original and
110 replacement credit;
- 111 (ii) ensure that a packet aligns with state academic standards and includes adequate
112 instructional content and assessment methods;
- 113 (iii) create a process for reviewing and approving packets to be used in the packet
114 method;
- 115 (iv) maintain a comprehensive list of approved packets;
- 116 (v) report annually to the Education Interim Committee the number of students in
117 each LEA who receive academic credit through the packet method; and
- 118 (vi) establish policies and procedures to implement the prohibition described in
119 Subsection (7)(b).
- 120 (e) An LEA shall:
- 121 (i) assign a distinct course number for credit earned through the packet method to
122 easily identify the use of the packet method on a student transcript; and
- 123 (ii) submit a packet to be used in the packet method to the state board for approval
124 before using the packet to award original or replacement credit.

125 Section 2. **Effective date.**

126 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.