

Jordan D. Teuscher proposes the following substitute bill:

High School Credit Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jordan D. Teuscher

Senate Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore

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;
- allows a local education agency to award a high school student credit for a course completed through the packet method if the packet meets certain requirements;
- requires the Utah State Board of Education to review and approve packets; and
- creates a reporting requirement.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53E-1-201, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapters 3, 460 and 525

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-1-201** is amended to read:

53E-1-201 . Reports to and action required of the Education Interim Committee.

(1) In accordance with applicable provisions and Section 68-3-14, the following recurring reports are due to the Education Interim Committee:

(a) the report described in Section 9-22-109 by the STEM Action Center Board,

- 29 including the information described in Section 9-22-113 on the status of the computer
30 science initiative and Section 9-22-114 on the Computing Partnerships Grants
31 Program;
- 32 (b) the prioritized list of data research described in Section 53B-33-302 and the report on
33 research and activities described in Section 53B-33-304 by the Utah Data Research
34 Center;
- 35 (c) the report described in Section 53B-1-402 by the Utah Board of Higher Education on
36 career and technical education issues and addressing workforce needs;
- 37 (d) the annual report of the Utah Board of Higher Education described in Section
38 53B-1-402;
- 39 (e) the reports described in Section 53B-28-401 by the Utah Board of Higher Education
40 regarding activities related to campus safety;
- 41 (f) the State Superintendent's Annual Report by the state board described in Section
42 53E-1-203;
- 43 (g) the annual report described in Section 53E-2-202 by the state board on the strategic
44 plan to improve student outcomes;
- 45 (h) the report described in Section 53E-3-501 by the state board on students in an LEA
46 who receive academic credit through the packet method;
- 47 [~~h~~] (i) the report described in Section 53E-8-204 by the state board on the Utah Schools
48 for the Deaf and the Blind;
- 49 [~~i~~] (j) the report described in Section 53E-10-703 by the Utah Leading through
50 Effective, Actionable, and Dynamic Education director on research and other
51 activities;
- 52 [~~j~~] (k) the report described in Section 53F-2-522 regarding mental health screening
53 programs;
- 54 [~~k~~] (l) the report described in Section 53F-4-203 by the state board and the independent
55 evaluator on an evaluation of early interactive reading software;
- 56 [~~l~~] (m) the report described in Section 63N-20-107 by the Governor's Office of
57 Economic Opportunity on UPSTART;
- 58 [~~m~~] (n) the reports described in Sections 53F-5-214 and 53F-5-215 by the state board
59 related to grants for professional learning and grants for an elementary teacher
60 preparation assessment;
- 61 [~~n~~] (o) upon request, the report described in Section 53F-5-219 by the state board on
62 the Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program;

63 [(⊖)] (p) the report described in Section 53F-5-405 by the state board regarding an
 64 evaluation of a partnership that receives a grant to improve educational outcomes for
 65 students who are low income;

66 [(⊕)] (q) the report described in Section 53B-35-202 regarding the Higher Education and
 67 Corrections Council;

68 [(⊕)] (r) the report described in Section 53G-7-221 by the state board regarding
 69 innovation plans; and

70 [(⊕)] (s) the reports described in Section 53F-6-412 regarding the Utah Fits All
 71 Scholarship Program.

72 (2) In accordance with applicable provisions and Section 68-3-14, the following occasional
 73 reports are due to the Education Interim Committee:

74 (a) in 2027, 2030, 2033, and 2035, the reports described in Sections 53B-1-116,
 75 53B-1-117, and 53B-1-118;

76 (b) if required, the report described in Section 53E-4-309 by the state board explaining
 77 the reasons for changing the grade level specification for the administration of
 78 specific assessments;

79 (c) if required, the report described in Section 53E-5-210 by the state board of an
 80 adjustment to the minimum level that demonstrates proficiency for each statewide
 81 assessment;

82 (d) the report described in Section 53E-10-702 by Utah Leading through Effective,
 83 Actionable, and Dynamic Education;

84 (e) if required, the report described in Section 53F-2-513 by the state board evaluating
 85 the effects of salary bonuses on the recruitment and retention of effective teachers in
 86 high poverty schools;

87 (f) upon request, a report described in Section 53G-7-222 by an LEA regarding
 88 expenditure of a percentage of state restricted funds to support an innovative
 89 education program;

90 (g) the reports described in Section 53G-11-304 by the state board regarding proposed
 91 rules and results related to educator exit surveys; and

92 (h) the report described in Section 26B-5-113 by the Office of Substance Use and
 93 Mental Health, the state board, and the Department of Health and Human Services
 94 regarding recommendations related to Medicaid reimbursement for school-based
 95 health services.

96 Section 2. Section **53E-3-501** is amended to read:

97 **53E-3-501 . State board to establish miscellaneous minimum standards for public**
98 **schools.**

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

102 (a)(i) the qualification and certification of educators and ancillary personnel who
103 provide direct student services;

104 (ii) required school administrative and supervisory services; and

105 (iii) the evaluation of instructional personnel;

106 (b)(i) access to programs;

107 (ii) attendance;

108 (iii) competency levels;

109 (iv) graduation requirements; and

110 (v) discipline and control;

111 (c)(i) school accreditation;

112 (ii) the academic year;

113 (iii) alternative and pilot programs;

114 (iv) curriculum and instruction requirements; and

115 (v) school libraries;

116 (d) services to:

117 (i) persons with a disability as defined by and covered under:

118 (A) the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12102;

119 (B) the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 705(20)(A); and

120 (C) the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1401(3); and

121 (ii) other special groups;

122 (e)(i) state reimbursed bus routes;

123 (ii) bus safety and operational requirements; and

124 (iii) other transportation needs;

125 (f)(i) school productivity and cost effectiveness measures;

126 (ii) federal programs;

127 (iii) school budget formats; and

128 (iv) financial, statistical, and student accounting requirements; and

129 (g) data collection and reporting by LEAs.

130 (2) Except as provided in Subsection (3), the state board shall determine if:

- 131 (a) the minimum standards have been met; and
132 (b) required reports are properly submitted.
- 133 (3) When the state board makes a request of an LEA under Subsection (1)(f) or (g), the
134 state board shall include:
- 135 (a) the justification for the requested information;
136 (b) a statement confirming that the information is not available elsewhere;
137 (c) a deadline by which the LEA must provide the information in accordance with state
138 board rule; and
139 (d) penalties, including withholding of funds, for non-compliance in accordance with
140 state and federal law.
- 141 (4) The state board may apply for, receive, administer, and distribute to eligible applicants
142 funds made available through programs of the federal government.
- 143 (5)(a) A technical college listed in Section 53B-2a-105 shall provide competency-based
144 career and technical education courses that fulfill high school graduation
145 requirements, as requested and authorized by the state board.
- 146 (b) A school district may grant a high school diploma to a student participating in a
147 course described in Subsection (5)(a) that is provided by a technical college listed in
148 Section 53B-2a-105.
- 149 (6)(a) As used in this Subsection (6), "generally accepted accounting principles" means a
150 common framework of accounting rules and standards for financial reporting
151 promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.
- 152 (b) Subject to Subsections (6)(c) and (d), the state board shall ensure the rules and
153 standards described in Subsections (1)(f) and (g) allow for an LEA to make
154 adjustments to the LEA's general entry ledger, in accordance with generally accepted
155 accounting principles, to accurately reflect the LEA's use of funds for allowable costs
156 and activities:
- 157 (i) during a fiscal year; and
158 (ii) at the close of a fiscal year.
- 159 (c) If the state board determines under Subsection (2) that an LEA has not met the
160 minimum standards described in Subsection (1)(f) or (g) or has not properly
161 submitted a required report, the state board shall allow the LEA an opportunity to
162 cure the relevant defect through an adjustment described in Subsection (6)(b).
- 163 (d) An LEA may not, in an adjustment described in Subsection[-] (6)(b), reflect the use
164 of restricted federal or state funds for a cost or activity that is not an allowable cost or

- 165 activity for the restricted funds.
- 166 (7)(a) As used in this Subsection (7):
- 167 (i)(A) "Comparable course" means a course that fulfills the same graduation credit
- 168 requirements as a course for which a student seeks to improve a grade.
- 169 (B) "Comparable course" does not include a course a student completes through
- 170 the packet method.
- 171 (ii) "Original credit" means credit a student earns through the successful completion
- 172 of a course for the first time.
- 173 (iii) "Packet" means a collection of instructional materials and assessments used to
- 174 receive credit through the packet method.
- 175 (iv) "Packet method" means an educational approach where:
- 176 (A) a high school student receives a collection of instructional materials from an
- 177 institution, organization, or LEA;
- 178 (B) the high school student works through the materials independently with
- 179 minimal or no direct instruction from a teacher; and
- 180 (C) assessment is primarily based on completion of assignments within the
- 181 instructional materials.
- 182 (v) "Replacement credit" means credit a student earns through retaking a course to
- 183 improve a previous grade or to receive credit for a course the student did not pass
- 184 or complete.
- 185 (b) An LEA may award a grade for original credit or a pass-fail replacement credit
- 186 through the packet method if the packet adheres to the standards prescribed in state
- 187 board rule and:
- 188 (i) the LEA approves the packet for use as an instructional material in accordance
- 189 with:
- 190 (A) Subsection 53G-4-402(27) for a district school; or
- 191 (B) Section 53G-5-404 for a charter school; or
- 192 (ii) the state board recommends the packet after going through the state instructional
- 193 materials process described in Title 53E, Chapter 4, Part 4, State Instructional
- 194 Materials.
- 195 (c) An LEA may not use the packet method, or classify a packet as original credit, to
- 196 improve a previous course grade of a high school student as described in Subsection
- 197 (7)(d).
- 198 (d) A high school student may, to improve a grade the student received:

- 199 (i) repeat a course one or more times; or
200 (ii) enroll in and complete a comparable course.
- 201 (e) The state board shall:
- 202 (i) in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act,
203 make rules or policies that:
- 204 (A) establish standards for the use of the packet method to award original credit
205 and replacement credit;
- 206 (B) include alignment with core standards the state board establishes under
207 Sections 53E-3-501 and 53E-4-202; and
- 208 (C) maintain a comprehensive list of state board approved packets in the state
209 board's Recommended Instructional Materials System on the state board's
210 website; and
- 211 (ii) report annually to the Education Interim Committee the number of students in
212 each LEA who receive academic credit through the packet method.
- 213 (f) An LEA shall:
- 214 (i) assign a distinct course name and number for credit earned through the packet
215 method to easily identify the use of the packet method on a student transcript; and
- 216 (ii) track and record the number of packets an LEA uses to award original credit or
217 replacement credit each school year.
- 218 Section 3. **Effective Date.**
- 219 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.