

**Reintegration for Disciplined Students**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Daniel McCay**

House Sponsor: Angela Romero

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill modifies provisions related to reintegration and enrollment of students with disciplinary issues.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ modifies grounds for denying open enrollment applications;
- ▶ modifies timelines and requirements for transferring student records;
- ▶ modifies reintegration plan requirements for students who have committed serious offenses;
- ▶ requires local education agencies to digitally maintain and transfer certain student records;
- ▶ modifies notification requirements when a minor is taken into temporary custody; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**53G-6-403**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 293

**53G-6-604**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 3

**53G-8-213**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 348

**53G-8-403**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 532

**63M-7-208**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 240

**80-6-103**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 173, 208

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

Section 1. Section **53G-6-403** is amended to read:

**53G-6-403 . Policies for acceptance and rejection of applications.**

- (1)(a) A local school board shall adopt policies governing acceptance and rejection of applications required under Section 53G-6-402.
- (b) The policies adopted under Subsection (1)(a) shall include policies and procedures to assure that decisions regarding enrollment requests are administered fairly without prejudice to any student or class of student, except as provided in Subsection (2).
- (2) Standards for accepting or rejecting an application for enrollment may include:
- (a) for an elementary school, the capacity of the grade level;
  - (b) for a secondary school, the capacity of a comprehensive program;
  - (c) maintenance of heterogeneous student populations if necessary to avoid violation of constitutional or statutory rights of students;
  - (d) not offering, or having capacity in, an elementary or secondary special education or other special program the student requires;
  - (e) maintenance of reduced class sizes:
    - (i) in a Title I school that uses federal, state, and local money to reduce class sizes for the purpose of improving student achievement; or
    - (ii) in a school that uses school trust money to reduce class size;
  - (f) willingness of prospective students to comply with district policies; and
  - (g) giving priority to intradistrict transfers over interdistrict transfers.
- (3)(a) Standards for accepting or rejecting applications for enrollment may not include:
- (i) previous academic achievement;
  - (ii) athletic or other extracurricular ability;
  - (iii) the fact that the student requires special education services for which space is available;
  - (iv) proficiency in the English language; or
  - (v) previous disciplinary proceedings, except as provided in Subsection (3)(b).
- (b) A local school board may provide for the denial of applications from students who:
- (i) have committed serious infractions of the law or school policies, including policies of the district in which enrollment is sought; [or]
  - (ii) have been guilty of chronic misbehavior which would, if it were to continue after the student was admitted:

- 62 (A) endanger persons or property;
- 63 (B) cause serious disruptions in the school; or
- 64 (C) place unreasonable burdens on school staff[-] ; or
- 65 (iii) have any school safety incidents or safe-school violations.
- 66 (c) A local school board may also provide for provisional enrollment of students with
- 67 prior behavior problems, establishing conditions under which enrollment of a
- 68 nonresident student would be permitted or continued.
- 69 (4)(a) The state board, in consultation with the Utah High School Activities Association,
- 70 shall establish policies regarding nonresident student participation in interscholastic
- 71 competition.
- 72 (b) Nonresident students shall be eligible for extracurricular activities at a public school
- 73 consistent with eligibility standards as applied to students that reside within the
- 74 school attendance area, except as provided by policies established under Subsection
- 75 (4)(a).
- 76 (5) For each school in the district, the local school board shall post on the school district's
- 77 website:
- 78 (a) the school's maximum capacity;
- 79 (b) the school's adjusted capacity;
- 80 (c) the school's projected enrollment used in the calculation of the open enrollment
- 81 threshold;
- 82 (d) actual enrollment on October 1, January 2, and April 1;
- 83 (e) the number of nonresident student enrollment requests;
- 84 (f) the number of nonresident student enrollment requests accepted; and
- 85 (g) the number of resident students transferring to another school.

86 Section 2. Section **53G-6-604** is amended to read:

87 **53G-6-604 . Requirement of school record for transfer of student -- Procedures.**

- 88 (1) Except as provided in Section 53E-3-905, a school shall request a certified copy of a
- 89 transfer student's record, directly from the transfer student's previous school[~~, within 14~~
- 90 ~~days after enrolling the transfer student~~].
- 91 (2)(a)(i) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b) and Section 53E-3-905, a school
- 92 requested to forward a certified copy of a transferring student's record to the new
- 93 school shall comply within [30] five school days of the request.
- 94 (ii) The student record shall include the student's discipline file including any
- 95 safe-school violation, reintegration, or threat assessment.

96 (b) If the record has been flagged [~~pursuant to~~] in accordance with Section 53G-6-602, a  
 97 school may not forward the record to the new school and the requested school shall  
 98 notify the division of the request.

99 (c) A school may not enroll a student unless the student record from the previous school  
 100 is received or the school administrator or designee reviews the data gateway for any  
 101 safe-school violation, reintegration, or threat assessment.

102 Section 3. Section **53G-8-213** is amended to read:

103 **53G-8-213 . Reintegration plan for student alleged to have committed violent**  
 104 **felony or weapon offense.**

105 (1) As used in this section, "multidisciplinary team" means:

106 (a) the local education agency or designee;

107 (b) the juvenile court or designee;

108 (c) the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services or designee;

109 (d) a school safety and security specialist designated under Section 53G-8-701.6 or  
 110 designee if applicable;

111 (e) school safety and security director designated under Section 53G-8-701.8 or designee  
 112 if applicable;

113 (f) a school resource officer if applicable; [~~and~~] or

114 (g) any other relevant party that should be involved in a reintegration plan.

115 (2)(a) If [~~a school district~~] an LEA receives a notification from the juvenile court or a law  
 116 enforcement agency that a student was arrested for, charged with, or adjudicated in  
 117 the juvenile court for a serious offense, the LEA and the relevant school shall develop  
 118 a reintegration plan for the student with a multidisciplinary team, the student, and the  
 119 student's parent or guardian, within [~~five~~] seven school days after the day on which  
 120 the school receives a notification while school is in session.

121 (b) If an LEA receives a notification when school is not in session from the juvenile  
 122 court or a law enforcement agency that a student was arrested for, charged with, or  
 123 adjudicated in the juvenile court for a serious offense, the school shall develop a  
 124 reintegration plan for the student with a multidisciplinary team, the student, and the  
 125 student's parent within seven days of school being back in session from summer  
 126 break.

127 (3) The relevant school described in Subsection (2) may deny admission to the student until  
 128 the school completes the reintegration plan under Subsection (2).

129 (4)(a) The reintegration plan under Subsection (2) shall [~~address~~] include:

- 130            [(a)] (i) a behavioral intervention for the student;
- 131            [(b)] (ii) a short-term mental health or counseling service for the student;
- 132            [(c)] (iii) an academic intervention for the student; ~~and~~ or
- 133            (iv) any other interventions that the multidisciplinary team, the student, and the
- 134            student's parent or guardian determine are necessary.
- 135            [(d)] (b) [if] If the serious offense was directed at a school employee or another student
- 136            within the school, notification of the reintegration plan to that school employee or
- 137            student and the student's parent.
- 138            (5) ~~[A school district]~~ An LEA may not reintegrate a student into a school where:
- 139            (a) a student or staff member has a protective order against the student being
- 140            reintegrated; or
- 141            (b) a student or staff member is the victim of ~~[a sexual crime or forcible felony~~
- 142            ~~committed by the student being reintegrated]~~ an offense listed in Section 76-3-203.5
- 143            where the student is seeking reintegration or continued enrollment.
- 144            (6) A reintegration plan under this section will remain in effect for an entire school year or
- 145            180 days from the plan's implementation, or as long as the multidisciplinary team deems
- 146            the reintegration plan necessary.
- 147            [(6)] (7)(a) Notwithstanding Subsection (2), ~~[a school district]~~ an LEA may elect to not
- 148            integrate a student into a school if the student has committed, or allegedly committed,
- 149            a forcible felony.
- 150            (b) If ~~[a school district]~~ an LEA elects to not integrate a student under Subsection [(6)(a)]
- 151            (7)(a), the school district shall provide alternative education options for the student.
- 152            [(7)] (8) A reintegration plan under this section is classified as a protected record under
- 153            Section 63G-2-305.
- 154            [(8)] (9) All other records of disclosures under this section are governed by Title 63G,
- 155            Chapter 2, Government Records Access and Management Act, and the Family
- 156            Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g.
- 157            Section 4. Section **53G-8-403** is amended to read:
- 158            **53G-8-403 . Superintendent required to notify school.**
- 159            (1) "LEA head" means the superintendent of a school district or the director of a charter
- 160            school.
- 161            (2) Within three days of receiving a notification from the juvenile court or a law
- 162            enforcement agency under Section 80-6-103, the LEA head or LEA head's designee
- 163            shall notify the principal of the school the juvenile attends or last attended.

- 164 (3) Upon receipt of the information, the principal shall:
- 165 (a) make a notation in a secure file other than the student's permanent file; and
- 166 (b) if the student is still enrolled in the school, notify staff members who, in his opinion,
- 167 should know of the adjudication.
- 168 (4) A person receiving information [~~pursuant to~~] in accordance with this part may only
- 169 disclose the information to other persons having both a right and a current need to know.
- 170 (5) Access to secure files shall be limited to persons authorized to receive information
- 171 under this part.
- 172 (6) Beginning no later than July 1, 2025, an LEA shall digitally maintain the [~~secure~~]
- 173 cumulative file described in Subsection (3) or, if available, the [~~students-~~] student's
- 174 related reintegration plan described in 53G-8-213, for one year from the day the notice is
- 175 received and ensure the secure file follows the student if the student transfers to a
- 176 different school or LEA.

177 Section 5. Section **63M-7-208** is amended to read:

178 **63M-7-208 . Juvenile justice oversight -- Delegation -- Effective dates.**

- 179 (1) The State Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice shall:
- 180 (a) support implementation and expansion of evidence-based juvenile justice programs
- 181 and practices, including assistance regarding implementation fidelity, quality
- 182 assurance, and ongoing evaluation;
- 183 (b) examine and make recommendations on the use of third-party entities or an
- 184 intermediary organization to assist with implementation and to support the
- 185 performance-based contracting system authorized in Subsection (1)(m);
- 186 (c) oversee the development of performance measures to track juvenile justice reforms,
- 187 and ensure early and ongoing stakeholder engagement in identifying the relevant
- 188 performance measures;
- 189 (d) evaluate currently collected data elements throughout the juvenile justice system and
- 190 contract reporting requirements to streamline reporting, reduce redundancies,
- 191 eliminate inefficiencies, and ensure a focus on recidivism reduction;
- 192 (e) review averted costs from reductions in out-of-home placements for juvenile justice
- 193 youth placed with the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services and the
- 194 Division of Child and Family Services, and make recommendations to prioritize the
- 195 reinvestment and realignment of resources into community-based programs for youth
- 196 living at home, including the following:
- 197 (i) statewide expansion of:

- 198 (A) juvenile receiving centers, as defined in Section 80-1-102;  
199 (B) mobile crisis outreach teams, as defined in Section 26B-5-101;  
200 (C) youth courts; and  
201 (D) victim-offender mediation;
- 202 (ii) statewide implementation of nonresidential diagnostic assessment;  
203 (iii) statewide availability of evidence-based programs and practices including  
204 cognitive behavioral and family therapy programs for minors assessed by a  
205 validated risk and needs assessment as moderate or high risk;
- 206 (iv) implementation and infrastructure to support the sustainability and fidelity of  
207 evidence-based juvenile justice programs, including resources for staffing,  
208 transportation, and flexible funds; and
- 209 (v) early intervention programs such as family strengthening programs, family  
210 wraparound services, and proven truancy interventions;
- 211 (f) assist the Administrative Office of the Courts in the development of a statewide  
212 sliding scale for the assessment of fines, fees, and restitution, based on the ability of  
213 the minor's family to pay;
- 214 (g) analyze the alignment of resources and the roles and responsibilities of agencies,  
215 such as the operation of early intervention services, receiving centers, and diversion,  
216 and make recommendations to reallocate functions as appropriate, in accordance with  
217 Section 80-5-401;
- 218 (h) comply with the data collection and reporting requirements under Section 80-6-104;
- 219 (i) develop a reasonable timeline within which all programming delivered to minors in  
220 the juvenile justice system [~~must~~] shall be evidence-based or consist of practices that  
221 are rated as effective for reducing recidivism by a standardized program evaluation  
222 tool;
- 223 (j) provide guidelines to be considered by the Administrative Office of the Courts and  
224 the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services in developing tools considered  
225 by the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Division of Juvenile Justice and  
226 Youth Services in developing or selecting tools to be used for the evaluation of  
227 juvenile justice programs;
- 228 (k) develop a timeline to support improvements to juvenile justice programs to achieve  
229 reductions in recidivism and review reports from relevant state agencies on progress  
230 toward reaching that timeline;
- 231 (l) subject to Subsection (2), assist in the development of training for juvenile justice

- 232 stakeholders, including educators, law enforcement officers, probation staff, judges,  
 233 Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services staff, Division of Child and Family  
 234 Services staff, and program providers;
- 235 (m) subject to Subsection (3), assist in the development of a performance-based  
 236 contracting system, which shall be developed by the Administrative Office of the  
 237 Courts and the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services for contracted  
 238 services in the community and contracted out-of-home placement providers;
- 239 (n) assist in the development of a validated detention risk assessment tool that is  
 240 developed or adopted and validated by the Administrative Office of the Courts and  
 241 the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services as provided in Section 80-5-203;  
 242 and
- 243 (o) annually issue and make public a report to the governor, president of the Senate,  
 244 speaker of the House of Representatives, and chief justice of the Utah Supreme Court  
 245 on the progress of the reforms and any additional areas in need of review.
- 246 (2) Training described in Subsection (1)(l) should include instruction on evidence-based  
 247 programs and principles of juvenile justice, such as risk, needs, responsivity, and  
 248 fidelity, and ~~shall~~ changes in legislation that impact the juvenile justice system and  
 249 may be supplemented by the following topics:
- 250 (a) adolescent development;
- 251 (b) identifying and using local behavioral health resources;
- 252 (c) cross-cultural awareness;
- 253 (d) graduated responses;
- 254 (e) Utah juvenile justice system data and outcomes; and
- 255 (f) gangs.
- 256 (3) The system described in Subsection (1)(m) shall provide incentives for:
- 257 (a) the use of evidence-based juvenile justice programs and practices rated as effective  
 258 by the tools selected in accordance with Subsection (1)(j);
- 259 (b) the use of three-month timelines for program completion; and
- 260 (c) evidence-based programs and practices for minors living at home in rural areas.
- 261 (4) The State Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice may delegate the duties  
 262 imposed under this section to a subcommittee or board established by the State  
 263 Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice in accordance with Subsection  
 264 63M-7-204(2).
- 265 Section 6. Section **80-6-103** is amended to read:

266 **80-6-103 . Notification to a school -- Civil and criminal liability.**

267 (1) As used in this section:

268 (a) "School" means a school in a local education agency.

269 (b) "Local education agency" means a school district, a charter school, or the Utah  
270 Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.271 (c) "School official" means the superintendent of a school district or the director of a  
272 charter school or designee in which the minor resides or attends school.

273 (d) "Serious offense" means:

274 (i) a violent felony as defined in Section 76-3-203.5;

275 (ii) an offense that is a violation of an offense under Title 76, Chapter 6, Part 4, Theft,  
276 and the property stolen is a firearm; or

277 (iii) an offense that is a violation of an offense under Title 76, Chapter 11, Weapons.

278 (e) "Transferee school official" means the superintendent of a school district or the  
279 director of a charter school or designee in which the minor resides or attends school if  
280 the minor is admitted to home detention.

281 (2) A notification under this section is provided for a minor's supervision and student safety.

282 (3)(a) If a minor is taken into temporary custody under Section 80-6-201 for a serious  
283 offense, the peace officer, or other person who has taken the minor into temporary  
284 custody, shall notify a school official within five days after the day on which the  
285 minor is ~~[taken into]~~ taken into temporary custody.

286 (b) A notification under this Subsection (3) shall only disclose:

287 (i) the name of the minor;

288 (ii) the offense for which the minor was taken into temporary custody or admitted to  
289 detention; and290 (iii) if available, the name of the victim if the victim resides in the same school  
291 district as the minor or attends the same school as the minor.292 (4) After a detention hearing for a minor who is alleged to have committed a serious  
293 offense, the juvenile court shall order a juvenile probation officer to notify a school  
294 official, or a transferee school official, and the appropriate local law enforcement agency  
295 of the juvenile court's decision, including any disposition, order, or no-contact order, and  
296 the issuance of any order for the minors release from temporary custody.297 (5) If a designated staff member of a detention facility admits a minor to home detention  
298 under Section 80-6-205 and notifies the juvenile court of that admission, the juvenile  
299 court shall order a juvenile probation officer to notify a school official, or a transferee

300 school official, and the appropriate local law enforcement agency that the minor has  
301 been admitted to home detention.

302 (6)(a) If the juvenile court adjudicates a minor for a serious offense, the juvenile court  
303 shall order a juvenile probation officer to notify a school official, or a transferee  
304 school official, of the adjudication.

305 (b) A notification under this Subsection (6) shall be given to a school official, or a  
306 transferee school official, within three days after the day on which the minor is  
307 adjudicated.

308 (c) A notification under this section shall include:

309 (i) the name of the minor;

310 (ii) the offense for which the minor was adjudicated; and

311 (iii) if available, the name of the victim if the victim:

312 (A) resides in the same school district as the minor; or

313 (B) attends the same school as the minor.

314 (7) If the juvenile court orders formal probation under Section 80-6-702, the juvenile court  
315 shall order a juvenile probation officer to notify the appropriate local law enforcement  
316 agency and the school official of the juvenile court's order for formal probation.

317 (8)(a) An employee of the local law enforcement agency, or the school the minor  
318 attends, who discloses a notification under this section is not:

319 (i) civilly liable except when the disclosure constitutes fraud or willful misconduct as  
320 provided in Section 63G-7-202; and

321 (ii) civilly or criminally liable except when the disclosure constitutes a knowing  
322 violation of Section 63G-2-801.

323 (b) An employee of a governmental agency is immune from any criminal liability for  
324 failing to provide the information required by this section, unless the employee fails  
325 to act due to malice, gross negligence, or deliberate indifference to the consequences.

326 (9)(a) A notification under this section shall be classified as a protected record under  
327 Section 63G-2-305.

328 (b) All other records of disclosures under this section are governed by Title 63G,  
329 Chapter 2, Government Records Access and Management Act, and the Family  
330 Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g.

331 **Section 7. Effective Date.**

332 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.