

HB0144

~~{Omitted text}~~ shows text that was in HB0144 but was omitted in HB0144S02

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0144 but was inserted into HB0144S02

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1 **School Community Council Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Tracy J. Miller

Senate Sponsor: Keven J. Stratton

2 **LONG TITLE**

4 General Description:

5 This bill amends provisions related to school community councils {~~and LAND trust plans~~} .

6 Highlighted Provisions:

7 This bill:

- 8 ▶ removes provisions related to a school community {~~councils and digital citizenship~~
requirements;} council's:
- 9 • **digital citizenship requirements;**
- 10 • **parent members who are local education agency employees; and**
- 11 • **development of certain principles;**
- 10 ▶ {~~removes~~} requires a certain {~~limitations on parental involvement on~~} annual report to a school
community {~~councils~~} council;
- 11 ▶ requires documentation of certain votes; and
- 12 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

15 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

16 None

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Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53G-7-1202 , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 66

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

Section 1. Section **53G-7-1202** is amended to read:

53G-7-1202. School community councils -- Duties -- Composition -- Election procedures and selection of members.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Digital citizenship" means the norms of appropriate, responsible, and healthy behavior related to technology use, including digital literacy, ethics, etiquette, and security.

(b) "Educator" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53E-6-102.

(c)

(i) "Parent member" means a member of a school community council who is a parent of a student who:

(A) is attending the school; or

(B) will be enrolled at the school during the parent's term of office.

(ii) "Parent member" may not include an educator who is employed at the school.

(d) "Safety principles" means safety principles that, when incorporated into programs and resources, impact academic achievement by strengthening a safe and wholesome learning environment, including continual efforts for safe technology utilization and digital citizenship.

(e) "School community council" means a council established at a district school in accordance with this section.

(f) "School employee member" means a member of a school community council who is a person employed at the school by the school or school district, including the principal.

(g) "School LAND Trust Program money" means money allocated to a school ~~pursuant to~~ in accordance with Section 53F-2-404.

(2) A district school, in consultation with the district school's local school board, shall establish a school community council at the school building level for the purpose of:

(a) involving parents of students in decision making at the school level;

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- 49 (b) improving the education of students;
- 50 (c) prudently expending School LAND Trust Program money for the improvement of students' education through collaboration among parents, school employees, and the local school board; and
- 53 (d) increasing public awareness of:
- 54 (i) school trust lands and related land policies;
- 55 (ii) management of the State School Fund established in Utah Constitution Article X, Section V; and
- 57 (iii) educational excellence.
- 58 (3)
- (a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), a school community council shall:
- 59 (i) create the School [~~LAND Trust Program and~~]LAND Trust plan in accordance with Section 53G-7-1206;
- 61 (ii) advise and make recommendations to school and school district administrators and the local school board regarding:
- 63 (A) the school and its programs;
- 64 (B) school district programs;
- 65 (C) a child access routing plan in accordance with Section 53G-4-402;
- 66 (D) safe technology utilization and digital citizenship; and
- 67 (E) other issues relating to the community environment for students;
- 68 (iii) provide for education and awareness on safe technology utilization and digital citizenship that empowers:
- 70 (A) a student to make smart media and online choices; and
- 71 (B) a parent to know how to discuss safe technology use with the parent's child;
- 72 [(iv) } and
- 75 [(iv) partner with the school's principal and other administrators to ensure that adequate on and off campus Internet filtering is installed and consistently configured to prevent viewing of harmful content by students and school personnel, in accordance with local school board policy and Subsection 53G-7-216(3);]
- 77 [(v){ } {(iv)} } in accordance with state board rule regarding school community council expenditures and funding limits:]
- 79 [(A) work with students, families, and educators to develop and incorporate safety principles at the school; and]

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- 81 ~~[(B) hold at least an annual discussion with the school's principal and district administrators regarding~~
safety principles at the school and district level in order to coordinate the school community
council's effort to develop and incorporate safety principles at the school; and]
- 85 [(vi)] (v){(iv)} provide input to the school's principal on a positive behaviors plan in accordance
with Section 53G-10-407.
- 87 (b) To fulfill the school community council's duties described in Subsections (3)(a)(iii) and ~~[(iv),]~~ (3)
(a)(ii)(D):
- 92 (i) a school district and school administration shall:
- 93 (A) provide an annual report outlining the processes and steps the administration implements to provide
a safe school environment, including a responsible and safe online experience for students; and
- 96 (B) provide to the school community council in the report described in this Subsection (3)(b)(i), the data
and information necessary to engage the school community council in an annual discussion to fulfill
the school community council's duties; and
- 100 (ii) a school community council may:
- 89 ~~[(i)]~~ (A) partner with one or more non-profit organizations; or
- 90 ~~[(ii)]~~ (B) create a subcommittee.
- 91 (c) A school or school district administrator may not prohibit or discourage a school community
council from discussing issues, or offering advice or recommendations, regarding the school and its
programs, school district programs, the curriculum, or the community environment for students.
- 95 (4)
- (a) Except as provided in ~~[Subsection (4)(e)]~~ Subsection (4)(d), each school community council shall
consist of school employee members and parent members in accordance with this section.
- 98 (b) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(c)~~[-or (d)]~~:
- 99 (i) each school community council for a high school shall have six parent members and four school
employee members, including the principal; and
- 101 (ii) each school community council for a school other than a high school shall have four parent
members and two school employee members, including the principal.
- 103 (c) A school community council may determine the size of the school community council by a majority
vote of a quorum of the school community council provided that:
- 106 (i) the membership includes two or more parent members than the number of school employee
members;~~[-and]~~

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- 108 (ii) there are at least two school employee members on the school community council[-] ; and
110 (iii) the school community council documents the vote in the school community council's rules of order
and procedure.
- 112 ~~{(d)}~~
~~{(i)}~~ {The number of parent members of a school community council who are not educators
employed by the school district shall exceed the number of parent members who are educators
employed by the school district.}
- 115 ~~[(ii) If, after an election, the number of parent members who are not educators employed by the school
district does not exceed the number of parent members who are educators employed by the school
district, the parent members of the school community council shall appoint one or more parent
members to the school community council so that the number of parent members who are not
educators employed by the school district exceeds the number of parent members who are educators
employed by the school district.]~~
- 122 ~~{(e)}~~ { } ~~{(d)}~~ { } The state board may make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
Administrative Rulemaking Act, governing a school community council when, under unique
circumstances that the state board identifies, there are insufficient members to fill the positions
described in this Subsection (4).
- 126 (5)
- (a) Except as provided in Subsection (5)(f), a school employee member, other than the principal, shall
be elected by secret ballot by a majority vote of the school employees and serve a two-year term.
The principal shall serve as an ex officio member with full voting privileges.
- 130 (b)
- (i) Except as provided in Subsection (5)(f), a parent member shall be elected by secret ballot at an
election held at the school by a majority vote of those voting at the election and serve a two-year
term.
- 133 (ii)
- (A) Except as provided in Subsection (5)(b)(ii)(B), only a parent of a student attending the school may
vote in, or run as a candidate in, the election under Subsection (5)(b)(i).
- 136 (B) If an election is held in the spring, a parent of a student who will be attending the school the
following school year may vote in, and run as a candidate in, the election under Subsection (5)(b)(i).
- 139

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(iii) Any parent of a student who meets the qualifications of this section may file or declare the parent's candidacy for election to a school community council.

141 (iv)

(A) Subject to Subsections (5)(b)(iv)(B) and (5)(b)(iv)(C), a timeline for the election of parent members of a school community council shall be established by a local school board for the schools within the school district.

144 (B) An election for the parent members of a school community council shall be held near the beginning of the school year or held in the spring and completed before the last week of school.

147 (C) Each school shall establish a time period for the election of parent members of a school community council under Subsection (5)(b)(iv)(B) that is consistent for at least a four-year period.

150 (c)

(i) At least 10 days before the date that voting commences for the elections held under Subsections (5)(a) and (5)(b), the principal of the school, or the principal's designee, shall provide notice to each school employee or parent of the opportunity to vote in, and run as a candidate in, an election under this Subsection (5).

155 (ii) The notice shall include:

156 (A) the dates and times of the elections;

157 (B) a list of council positions that are up for election; and

158 (C) instructions for becoming a candidate for a community council position.

159 (iii) The principal of the school, or the principal's designee, shall oversee the elections held under Subsections (5)(a) and (5)(b).

161 (iv) Ballots cast in an election held under Subsection (5)(b) shall be deposited in a secure ballot box.

163 (d) Results of the elections held under Subsections (5)(a) and (5)(b) shall be made available to the public upon request.

165 (e)

(i) If a parent position on a school community council remains unfilled after an election is held, the other parent members of the council shall appoint a parent who meets the qualifications of this section to fill the position.

168 (ii) If a school employee position on a school community council remains unfilled after an election is held, the other school employee members of the council shall appoint a school employee to fill the position.

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- 171 (iii) A member appointed to a school community council under Subsection (5)(e)(i) or (ii) shall serve a
two-year term.
- 173 (f)
- (i) If the number of candidates who file for a parent position or school employee position on a school
community council is less than or equal to the number of open positions, an election is not required.
- 176 (ii) If an election is not held pursuant to Subsection (5)(f)(i) and a parent position remains unfilled,
the other parent members of the council shall appoint a parent who meets the qualifications of this
section to fill the position.
- 179 (iii) If an election is not held pursuant to Subsection (5)(f)(i) and a school employee position remains
unfilled, the other school employee members of the council shall appoint a school employee who
meets the qualifications of this section to fill the position.
- 183 (g) The principal shall enter the names of the council members on the School LAND Trust website on
or before October 20 of each year, pursuant to Section 53G-7-1203.
- 185 (h) Terms shall be staggered so that approximately half of the council members stand for election each
year.
- 187 (i) A school community council member may serve successive terms provided the member continues to
meet the definition of a parent member or school employee member as specified in Subsection (1).
- 190 (j) Each school community council shall elect:
- 191 (i) a chair from its parent members; and
- 192 (ii) a vice chair from either its parent members or school employee members, excluding the principal.
- 194 (6)
- (a) A school community council may create subcommittees or task forces to:
- 195 (i) advise or make recommendations to the council; or
- 196 (ii) develop all or part of a plan listed in Subsection (3).
- 197 (b) Any plan or part of a plan developed by a subcommittee or task force shall be subject to the
approval of the school community council.
- 199 (c) A school community council may appoint individuals who are not council members to serve on a
subcommittee or task force, including parents, school employees, or other community members.
- 202 (7)
- (a) A majority of the members of a school community council is a quorum for the transaction of
business.

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- 204 (b) The action of a majority of the members of a quorum is the action of the school community council.
206 (8) A local school board shall provide training for a school community council each year, including
training:
208 (a) for the chair and vice chair about their responsibilities;
209 (b) on resources available on the School LAND Trust website; and
210 (c) on this part.

223 Section 2. **Effective date.**

Effective Date.

This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.

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