

**Gold Medal Schools Pilot Program**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Katy Hall**

Senate Sponsor:

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**LONG TITLE****Committee Note:**

The Health and Human Services Interim Committee recommended this bill.

Legislative Vote: 16 voting for 0 voting against 3 absent

**General Description:**

This bill creates the Gold Medal Schools Pilot Program.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- defines terms;
- creates a three-year pilot program;
- requires the State Board of Education to administer the program;
- creates a reporting requirement;
- creates a sunset for the program; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

This bill provides a special effective date.

**Utah Code Sections Affected:****AMENDS:**

**53E-1-201 (Effective 07/01/26) (Partially Repealed 07/01/27)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 9

**63I-1-253 (Effective 07/01/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 9

**ENACTS:**

**53F-5-224 (Effective 07/01/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **53E-1-201** is amended to read:

**53E-1-201 (Effective 07/01/26) (Partially Repealed 07/01/27). 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, including the information described in Section 9-22-113 on the status of the computer science initiative and Section 9-22-114 on the Computing Partnerships Grants Program;
  - (b) the prioritized list of data research described in Section 53H-15-303 and the report on research and activities described in Section 53H-15-305 by the Utah Data Research Center;
  - (c) the report described in Section 53H-1-203 by the Utah Board of Higher Education on career and technical education issues and addressing workforce needs;
  - (d) the annual report of the Utah Board of Higher Education described in Section 53H-1-203;
  - (e) the reports described in Section 53H-7-603 by the Utah Board of Higher Education regarding activities related to campus safety;
  - (f) the State Superintendent's Annual Report by the state board described in Section 53E-1-203;
  - (g) the annual report described in Section 53E-2-202 by the state board on the strategic plan to improve student outcomes;
  - (h) the report described in Section 53E-3-501 by the state board on students in an LEA who receive academic credit through the packet method;
  - (i) the report described in Section 53E-8-204 by the state board on the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind;
  - (j) the report described in Section 53E-10-703 by the Utah Leading through Effective, Actionable, and Dynamic Education director on research and other activities;
  - (k) the report described in Section 53F-2-522 regarding mental health screening programs;
  - (l) the report described in Section 53F-4-203 by the state board and the independent evaluator on an evaluation of early interactive reading software;
  - (m) the report described in Section 53F-6-412 by the program manager of the Utah Fits All Scholarship Program;

- (n) the report described in Section 63N-20-107 by the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity on UPSTART;
- (o) the report described in Section 53F-5-215 by the state board related to a grant for an elementary teacher preparation assessment;
- (p) upon request, the report described in Section 53F-5-219 by the state board on the Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program;
- (q) the report described in Section 53F-5-405 by the state board regarding an evaluation of a partnership that receives a grant to improve educational outcomes for students who are low-income;
- (r) the report described in Section 53H-1-604 regarding the Higher Education and Corrections Council;
- (s) the report described in Section 53G-7-221 by the state board regarding innovation plans; and
- (t) the reports described in Section 53F-6-412 regarding the Utah Fits All Scholarship Program.

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

- (a) in 2027, 2030, 2033, and 2035, the reports described in Sections 53H-1-502, 53H-1-503, and 53H-1-504;
- (b) in 2025, the report described in Section 53H-6-203 by a degree-granting institution regarding policies on abusive coaching practices;
- (c) if required, the report described in Section 53E-4-309 by the state board explaining the reasons for changing the grade level specification for the administration of specific assessments;
- (d) if required, the report described in Section 53E-5-210 by the state board of an adjustment to the minimum level that demonstrates proficiency for each statewide assessment;
- (e) the report described in Section 53E-10-702 by Utah Leading through Effective, Actionable, and Dynamic Education;
- (f) if required, the report described in Section 53F-2-513 by the state board evaluating the effects of salary bonuses on the recruitment and retention of effective teachers in high-poverty schools;
- (g) upon request, the report described in Section 53F-5-224 by the state board regarding implementation, progress, and health outcomes of the Gold Medal Schools Pilot

Program;

~~[(g)]~~ (h) upon request, the report described in Section 53F-10-303 by the state board regarding the Rural School Sports Facilities Grant Program;

~~[(h)]~~ (i) upon request, a report described in Section 53G-7-222 by an LEA regarding expenditure of a percentage of state restricted funds to support an innovative education program;

~~[(i)]~~ (j) the reports described in Section 53G-11-304 by the state board regarding proposed rules and results related to educator exit surveys; and

~~[(j)]~~ (k) the report described in Section 26B-5-113 by the Office of Substance Use and Mental Health, the state board, and the Department of Health and Human Services regarding recommendations related to Medicaid reimbursement for school-based health services.

(3) In accordance with applicable provisions and Section 68-3-14, every five years the Education Interim Committee shall review the programs described in the following sections of code:

(a) beginning July 1, 2027, Title 53E, Chapter 10, Part 3, Concurrent Enrollment;

(b) beginning July 1, 2027, Section 53F-2-408, Enhancement for Accelerated Students Program;

(c) beginning July 1, 2027, Section 53F-2-409, Concurrent enrollment funding;

(d) beginning July 1, 2027, Section 53F-2-415, Student health and counseling support -- Qualifying personnel -- Distribution formula -- Rulemaking;

(e) beginning July 1, 2028, Section 53F-2-416, Appropriation and distribution for the Teacher and Student Success Program;

(f) beginning July 1, 2028, Section 53F-2-510, Digital Teaching and Learning Grant Program;

(g) beginning July 1, 2028, Section 53F-9-306, Teacher and Student Success Account;

(h) beginning July 1, 2028, Title 53G, Chapter 7, Part 13, Teacher and Student Success Program; and

(i) beginning July 1, 2029, Section 53F-2-502, Dual language immersion.

Section 2. Section **53F-5-224** is enacted to read:

**53F-5-224 (Effective 07/01/26). Gold Medal Schools Pilot Program.**

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Eligible school" means an elementary school that:

(i) provides instruction to students in grades kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6; and

(ii) is located in a county of the fourth, fifth, or sixth class as defined in Section 17-60-104.

(b) "Gold medal recognition award" means recognition through a certificate the state board awards to an eligible school that meets the physical education criteria the state board establishes under this section.

(c) "Program" means the Gold Medal Schools Pilot Program created in Subsection (2).

(2) There is created a three-year pilot program, known as the Gold Medal Schools Pilot Program, to provide funding to an eligible school to promote healthy physical lifestyle choices by students in an eligible school and improve the physical education, physical activity, and nutrition of a student by:

(a) encouraging a student to engage in regular physical activity;

(b) promoting healthy eating habits and food choices in an eligible school; and

(c) creating school policies that support lifelong health and wellness for students.

(3) The state board shall, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, make rules to:

(a) establish physical education criteria for a participating, eligible school, including criteria for earning a gold medal recognition award, that:

(i) achieve the purpose of the program as described in Subsection (2); and

(ii) apply alternate criteria to a student with a physical limitation;

(b) select up to 50 eligible schools to participate in the program for three years, prioritizing schools that:

(i) demonstrate the greatest need for health improvement;

(ii) submit an application in accordance with Subsection (4) that outlines measurable health goals and evidence-based strategies; and

(iii) establish partnerships with local entities to support student health and wellness;

(c) subject to legislative appropriations, award \$5,000 in program funds to an eligible school:

(i) that meets the physical education criteria the state board establishes; and

(ii) in accordance with the requirements of this section;

(d) create an application process for an eligible school to participate in the program;

(e) establish limitations on eligible school use of funds an eligible school receives through the program that emphasize physical activity and healthy eating habits;

(f) begin program implementation for the 2027-28 school year;

(g) grant a participating eligible school autonomy to implement the program in

- 167 accordance with local needs and resources; and
- 168 (h) establish a system to distribute program funds to the participating eligible school,
- 169 including a percentage cap for an eligible school's administration of the program.
- 170 (4)(a) An eligible school may submit an application to participate in the program.
- 171 (b) In the eligible school's application, the eligible school shall:
- 172 (i) describe how the eligible school will implement the program's objectives; and
- 173 (ii) outline measurable goals aligned with the program's purpose.
- 174 (c) An eligible school that the state board selects to participate in the program shall, at
- 175 the conclusion of each school year, submit a report to the state board demonstrating
- 176 whether the school has met the physical education criteria the state board establishes
- 177 for the program.
- 178 (5) An eligible school that participates in the Presidential Fitness Test, reestablished under
- 179 Executive Order 14327, satisfies the requirements for participation in the program.
- 180 (6) An eligible school that participates in the program may only use program funds to
- 181 achieve the purposes described in Subsection (2).
- 182 (7) The state board may use up to 6.25% of the money appropriated for the purposes
- 183 described in this section for administrative costs of the state board.
- 184 (8) Upon request of the Education Interim Committee or the Health and Human Services
- 185 Interim Committee, the state board shall report to the Education Interim Committee or
- 186 the Health and Human Services Interim Committee on:
- 187 (a) the implementation of the program; and
- 188 (b) the program's progress and health outcomes.

189 Section 3. Section **63I-1-253** is amended to read:

190 **63I-1-253 (Effective 07/01/26). Repeal dates: Titles 53 through 53G.**

- 191 (1) Section 53-1-122, Road Rage Awareness and Prevention Restricted Account, is
- 192 repealed July 1, 2028.
- 193 (2) Section 53-2a-105, Emergency Management Administration Council created --
- 194 Function -- Composition -- Expenses, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 195 (3) Section 53-2a-1103, Search and Rescue Advisory Board -- Members -- Compensation,
- 196 is repealed July 1, 2030.
- 197 (4) Section 53-2a-1104, General duties of the Search and Rescue Advisory Board, is
- 198 repealed July 1, 2027.
- 199 (5) Title 53, Chapter 2a, Part 15, Grid Resilience Committee, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 200 (6) Section 53-2d-104, State Emergency Medical Services Committee -- Membership --

- 201 Expenses, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 202 (7) Section 53-2d-503, Establishment of maximum rates, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 203 (8) Section 53-5a-302, Concealed Firearm Review Board -- Membership -- Compensation  
204 -- Terms -- Duties, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 205 (9) Section 53-11-104, Board, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 206 (10) Title 53, Chapter 31, Department Interaction With Local Law Enforcement, is repealed  
207 July 1, 2027.
- 208 (11) Subsection 53C-3-203(4)(b)(vii), regarding the distribution of money from the Land  
209 Exchange Distribution Account to the Geological Survey for test wells and other  
210 hydrologic studies in the West Desert, is repealed July 1, 2030.
- 211 (12) Subsection 53E-1-201(1)(q), regarding the Higher Education and Corrections Council,  
212 is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 213 (13) Subsection 53E-2-304(6), regarding foreclosing a private right of action or waiver of  
214 governmental immunity, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 215 (14) Subsection 53E-3-503(5), regarding coordinating councils for youth in care, is  
216 repealed July 1, 2027.
- 217 (15) Subsection 53E-3-503(6), regarding coordinating councils for youth in care, is  
218 repealed July 1, 2027.
- 219 (16) Subsection 53E-4-202(8)(b), regarding a standards review committee, is repealed  
220 January 1, 2028.
- 221 (17) Section 53E-4-203, Standards review committee, is repealed January 1, 2028.
- 222 (18) Title 53E, Chapter 6, Part 5, Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission, is  
223 repealed July 1, 2033.
- 224 (19) Subsection 53E-7-207(7), regarding a private right of action or waiver of governmental  
225 immunity, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 226 (20) Section 53F-5-215, Elementary teacher preparation assessment grant, is repealed July  
227 1, 2028.
- 228 (21) Section 53F-5-219, Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program, is repealed July  
229 1, 2026.
- 230 (22) Section 53F-5-224, Gold Medal Schools Pilot Program, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 231 ~~[(22)]~~ (23) Title 53F, Chapter 10, Part 2, Capital Projects Evaluation Panel, is repealed July  
232 1, 2027.
- 233 ~~[(23)]~~ (24) Subsection 53G-4-608(2)(b), regarding the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, is  
234 repealed January 1, 2025.

235     ~~[(24)]~~ (25) Subsection 53G-4-608(4)(b), regarding the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, is  
236     repealed January 1, 2025.

237     ~~[(25)]~~ (26) Section 53G-9-212, Drinking water quality in schools, is repealed July 1, 2027.

238     ~~[(26)]~~ (27) Subsection 53G-9-703(4), regarding the parental video presentation concerning  
239     student use of technology, is repealed January 1, 2030.

240     ~~[(27)]~~ (28) Subsection 53H-1-402(1)(j), regarding the Higher Education and Corrections  
241     Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.

242     ~~[(28)]~~ (29) Section 53H-1-604, Higher Education and Corrections Council, is repealed July  
243     1, 2027.

244     ~~[(29)]~~ (30) Subsection 53H-4-210(3), regarding the creation of the SafeUT and School  
245     Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

246     ~~[(30)]~~ (31) Subsection 53H-4-210(4), regarding the appointment of the members of the  
247     SafeUT and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

248     ~~[(31)]~~ (32) Subsection 53H-4-210(5), regarding the attorney general designating the chair of  
249     the SafeUT and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

250     ~~[(32)]~~ (33) Subsection 53H-4-210(6), regarding the quorum requirements of the SafeUT and  
251     School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

252     ~~[(33)]~~ (34) Subsection 53H-4-210(7), regarding a formal action of the SafeUT and School  
253     Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

254     ~~[(34)]~~ (35) Subsection 53H-4-210(8), regarding compensation for members of the SafeUT  
255     and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

256     ~~[(35)]~~ (36) Subsection 53H-4-210(9), regarding the support staff for the SafeUT and School  
257     Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

258     ~~[(36)]~~ (37) Section 53H-4-306.1, Definitions -- Electrification of Transportation  
259     Infrastructure Research Center, is repealed July 1, 2028.

260     ~~[(37)]~~ (38) Section 53H-4-306.2, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research  
261     Center -- Designation -- Duties, is repealed July 1, 2028.

262     ~~[(38)]~~ (39) Section 53H-4-306.3, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research  
263     Center -- Steering committee, is repealed July 1, 2028.

264     ~~[(39)]~~ (40) Section 53H-4-306.4, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research  
265     Center -- Industry advisory board, is repealed July 1, 2028.

266     ~~[(40)]~~ (41) Section 53H-4-306.5, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research  
267     Center -- Duties of the project director, is repealed July 1, 2028.

268     ~~[(41)]~~ (42) Section 53H-4-306.6, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research

269 Center -- Project development and strategic objectives -- Reporting requirements, is  
270 repealed July 1, 2028.

271 [(42)] (43) Section 53H-4-307.1, Center for Civic Excellence, is repealed July 1, 2030.

272 [(43)] (44) Section 53H-4-307.2, Center for Civic Excellence -- Duties -- Authority, is  
273 repealed July 1, 2030.

274 [(44)] (45) Section 53H-4-307.3, Center for Civic Excellence -- Leadership, is repealed July  
275 1, 2030.

276 [(45)] (46) Section 53H-4-307.4, Center for Civic Excellence -- Faculty, is repealed July 1,  
277 2030.

278 [(46)] (47) Section 53H-4-307.5, Center for Civic Excellence -- Curriculum, is repealed July  
279 1, 2030.

280 [(47)] (48) Section 53H-4-307.6, Center for Civic Excellence -- Oversight -- Reporting, is  
281 repealed July 1, 2030.

282 [(48)] (49) Section 53H-4-313, Food Security Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.

283 [(49)] (50) Section 53H-8-305, Five-year performance goals, is repealed July 1, 2027.

284 [(50)] (51) Title 53H, Chapter 10, Part 4, Education Savings Incentive Program, is repealed  
285 July 1, 2028.

286 Section 4. **Effective Date.**

287 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.