

1 **Gold Medal Schools Pilot Program**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Katy Hall

Senate Sponsor:

2 **LONG TITLE**3 **Committee Note:**

4 The Health and Human Services Interim Committee recommended this bill.

5 Legislative Vote: 16 voting for 0 voting against 3 absent

6 **General Description:**

7 This bill creates the Gold Medal Schools Pilot Program.

8 **Highlighted Provisions:**

9 This bill:

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

17 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

18 None

19 **Other Special Clauses:**

20 This bill provides a special effective date.

21 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**22 **AMENDS:**23 **53E-1-201 (Effective 07/01/26) (Partially Repealed 07/01/27)**, as last amended by Laws
24 of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 925 **63I-1-253 (Effective 07/01/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special
26 Session, Chapter 927 **ENACTS:**28 **53F-5-224 (Effective 07/01/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

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

32 **53E-1-201 (Effective 07/01/26) (Partially Repealed 07/01/27). Reports to and**
33 **action required of the Education Interim Committee.**

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

36 (a) the report described in Section 9-22-109 by the STEM Action Center Board,
37 including the information described in Section 9-22-113 on the status of the computer
38 science initiative and Section 9-22-114 on the Computing Partnerships Grants
39 Program;

40 (b) the prioritized list of data research described in Section 53H-15-303 and the report
41 on research and activities described in Section 53H-15-305 by the Utah Data
42 Research Center;

43 (c) the report described in Section 53H-1-203 by the Utah Board of Higher Education on
44 career and technical education issues and addressing workforce needs;

45 (d) the annual report of the Utah Board of Higher Education described in Section
46 53H-1-203;

47 (e) the reports described in Section 53H-7-603 by the Utah Board of Higher Education
48 regarding activities related to campus safety;

49 (f) the State Superintendent's Annual Report by the state board described in Section
50 53E-1-203;

51 (g) the annual report described in Section 53E-2-202 by the state board on the strategic
52 plan to improve student outcomes;

53 (h) the report described in Section 53E-3-501 by the state board on students in an LEA
54 who receive academic credit through the packet method;

55 (i) the report described in Section 53E-8-204 by the state board on the Utah Schools for
56 the Deaf and the Blind;

57 (j) the report described in Section 53E-10-703 by the Utah Leading through Effective,
58 Actionable, and Dynamic Education director on research and other activities;

59 (k) the report described in Section 53F-2-522 regarding mental health screening
60 programs;

61 (l) the report described in Section 53F-4-203 by the state board and the independent
62 evaluator on an evaluation of early interactive reading software;

63 (m) the report described in Section 53F-6-412 by the program manager of the Utah Fits
64 All Scholarship Program;

65 (n) the report described in Section 63N-20-107 by the Governor's Office of Economic
66 Opportunity on UPSTART;

67 (o) the report described in Section 53F-5-215 by the state board related to a grant for an
68 elementary teacher preparation assessment;

69 (p) upon request, the report described in Section 53F-5-219 by the state board on the
70 Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program;

71 (q) the report described in Section 53F-5-405 by the state board regarding an evaluation
72 of a partnership that receives a grant to improve educational outcomes for students
73 who are low-income;

74 (r) the report described in Section 53H-1-604 regarding the Higher Education and
75 Corrections Council;

76 (s) the report described in Section 53G-7-221 by the state board regarding innovation
77 plans; and

78 (t) the reports described in Section 53F-6-412 regarding the Utah Fits All Scholarship
79 Program.

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

82 (a) in 2027, 2030, 2033, and 2035, the reports described in Sections 53H-1-502,
83 53H-1-503, and 53H-1-504;

84 (b) in 2025, the report described in Section 53H-6-203 by a degree-granting institution
85 regarding policies on abusive coaching practices;

86 (c) if required, the report described in Section 53E-4-309 by the state board explaining
87 the reasons for changing the grade level specification for the administration of
88 specific assessments;

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

92 (e) the report described in Section 53E-10-702 by Utah Leading through Effective,
93 Actionable, and Dynamic Education;

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

97 (g) upon request, the report described in Section 53F-5-224 by the state board regarding
98 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;

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

[~~(f)~~] (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

(c) beginning July 1, 2020, Section 52E 2.502, Dual language immersion

Section 2. Section **53E.5.224** is enacted to read:

(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

133 (ii) is located in a county of the fourth, fifth, or sixth class as defined in Section
134 17-60-104.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

154 (i) demonstrate the greatest need for health improvement;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

166 (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.