

Ariel Defay proposes the following substitute bill:

1 **Classroom Technology Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ariel Defay

Senate Sponsor:

2 **LONG TITLE**

3 **General Description:**

4 This bill requires the State Board of Education to create model policies on the use of
5 technology and artificial intelligence in a public school classroom.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

8 ▶ defines terms;

9 ▶ requires the State Board of Education (state board) to include certain technology
10 standards in core education standards;

11 ▶ creates certain requirements for a local education agency (LEA) related to the use of
12 technology in the classroom;

13 ▶ requires the state board to create a model policy on:

14 • the balanced use of technology in the classroom; and

15 • the use of artificial intelligence in the classroom;

16 ▶ creates certain requirements for specific grade levels when using technology in the
17 classroom;

18 ▶ exempts certain groups from the grade level requirements when using technology in the
19 classroom;

20 ▶ creates a reporting requirement;

21 ▶ gives authority to the state board to create rules;

22 ▶ requires LEAs to provide additional resources to certain students; and

23 ▶ allows public high schools to create and offer a sandbox artificial intelligence course.

24 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

25 None

26 **Other Special Clauses:**

27 This bill provides a special effective date.

29 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

30 AMENDS:

31 **53E-4-202 (Effective 07/01/26) (Partially Repealed 01/01/28)**, as last amended by Laws
32 of Utah 2024, Third Special Session, Chapter 5

33 ENACTS:

34 **53G-7-228 (Effective 07/01/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 195335 **53G-7-229 (Effective 07/01/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 195336 **53G-7-1401 (Effective 07/01/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 195337 **53G-7-1402 (Effective 07/01/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 195338 **53G-7-1403 (Effective 07/01/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 195340 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*41 Section 1. Section **53E-4-202** is amended to read:42 **53E-4-202 (Effective 07/01/26) (Partially Repealed 01/01/28). Core standards for
43 Utah public schools -- Notice and hearing requirements.**44 (1)(a) In establishing minimum standards related to curriculum and instruction
45 requirements under Section 53E-3-501, the state board shall, in consultation with
46 local school boards, school superintendents, teachers, employers, and parents
47 implement core standards for Utah public schools that will enable students to, among
48 other objectives:49 (i) communicate effectively, both verbally and through written communication;
50 (ii) apply mathematics; and
51 (iii) access, analyze, and apply information.52 (b) Except as provided in this public education code, the state board may recommend
53 but may not require a local school board or charter school governing board to use:
54 (i) a particular curriculum or instructional material; or
55 (ii) a model curriculum or instructional material.

56 (2) The state board shall, in establishing the core standards for Utah public schools:

57 (a) identify the basic knowledge, skills, and competencies each student is expected to
58 acquire or master as the student advances through the public education system;
59 (b) include artificial intelligence standards in core computer science standards that
60 educate a student on:
61 (i) artificial intelligence generally; and
62 (ii) the appropriate use of artificial intelligence as a tool;

63 (c) adopt standards and objectives that address:

64 (i) digital skills concepts;

65 (ii) age-appropriate social media literacy and healthy usage strategies, including

66 recognition of social media's impact on mental health and civic discourse;

67 (iii) artificial intelligence awareness and ethical interaction, including understanding

68 artificial intelligence's role in information filtering and decision-making;

69 (iv) screen-time management and mental health considerations in digital

70 environments;

71 (v) technology that relates to digital responsibility, privacy, and security; and

72 (vi) critical evaluation of digital information sources and media literacy skills

73 necessary for informed digital responsibility; and

74 [({b})] (d) align with each other the core standards for Utah public schools and the

75 assessments described in Section 53E-4-303.

76 (3) The basic knowledge, skills, and competencies identified [pursuant to] in accordance

77 with Subsection (2)(a) shall increase in depth and complexity from year to year and

78 focus on consistent and continual progress within and between grade levels and courses

79 in the basic academic areas of:

80 (a) English, including explicit phonics, spelling, grammar, reading, writing, vocabulary,

81 speech, and listening; and

82 (b) mathematics, including basic computational skills.

83 (4) Before adopting core standards for Utah public schools, the state board shall:

84 (a) publicize draft core standards for Utah public schools for the state, as a class A

85 notice under Section 63G-30-102, for at least 90 days;

86 (b) invite public comment on the draft core standards for Utah public schools for a

87 period of not less than 90 days; and

88 (c) conduct three public hearings that are held in different regions of the state on the

89 draft core standards for Utah public schools.

90 (5) LEA governing boards shall design their school programs, that are supported by

91 generally accepted scientific standards of evidence, to focus on the core standards for

92 Utah public schools with the expectation that each program will enhance or help achieve

93 mastery of the core standards for Utah public schools.

94 (6) Except as provided in Sections 53G-10-103 and 53G-10-402, each school may select

95 instructional materials and methods of teaching, that are supported by generally accepted

96 scientific standards of evidence, that the school considers most appropriate to meet the

97 core standards for Utah public schools.

98 (7) The state may exit any agreement, contract, memorandum of understanding, or
99 consortium that cedes control of the core standards for Utah public schools to any other
100 entity, including a federal agency or consortium, for any reason, including:
101 (a) the cost of developing or implementing the core standards for Utah public schools;
102 (b) the proposed core standards for Utah public schools are inconsistent with community
103 values; or
104 (c) the agreement, contract, memorandum of understanding, or consortium:
105 (i) was entered into in violation of Chapter 3, Part 8, Implementing Federal or
106 National Education Programs, or Title 63J, Chapter 5, Federal Funds Procedures
107 Act;
108 (ii) conflicts with Utah law;
109 (iii) requires Utah student data to be included in a national or multi-state database;
110 (iv) requires records of teacher performance to be included in a national or multi-state
111 database; or
112 (v) imposes curriculum, assessment, or data tracking requirements on home school or
113 private school students.

114 (8) The state board shall:

115 (a) submit a report in accordance with Section 53E-1-203 on the development and
116 implementation of the core standards for Utah public schools, including the time line
117 established for the review of the core standards for Utah public schools; and
118 (b) ensure that the report described in Subsection (8)(a) includes the time line
119 established for the review of the core standards for Utah public schools by a
120 standards review committee and the recommendations of a standards review
121 committee established under Section 53E-4-203.

122 Section 2. Section **53G-7-228** is enacted to read:

123 **53G-7-228 (Effective 07/01/26). Classroom technology requirements -- Model**

124 **policy on balanced technology.**

125 **(1)(a) As used in this section:**

126 (i) "Instructional technology" means technology a student uses in connection to the
127 student's public education, including:
128 (A) an electronic device;
129 (B) a digital tool; or
130 (C) a digital application.

131 (ii) "Public school" means a school under the control of:

132 (A) a school district;

133 (B) a charter school; or

134 (C) the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

135 (iii)(A) "Screen-time" means the time a student spends using an electronic device
136 with a screen in a classroom setting when the use of the electronic device does
137 not involve direct instruction, guidance, or interaction with:

138 (I) a teacher;

139 (II) an instructor; or

140 (III) other designated educational personnel.

141 (B) "Screen-time" does not include school work or instruction for an online
142 student as that term is defined in Section 53G-6-703.

143 (2)(a) Before an LEA allows a public school to use an instructional technology in the
144 classroom, the LEA shall ensure that instructional technology is:

145 (i) designed specifically for instructional use;

146 (ii) absent of design features that:

147 (A) interfere with learning;

148 (B) distract from instruction; or

149 (C) reduce academic focus;

150 (iii) supported by evidence, data, or demonstrated educational value appropriate to
151 the grade level;

152 (iv) safe for a student's physical, cognitive, and emotional development;

153 (v) effective in supporting student learning outcomes;

154 (vi) not used as a substitute for direct instruction;

155 (vii) intentionally integrated into instruction to enhance student learning outcomes;
156 and

157 (viii) compliant with state standards and law, including:

158 (A) Section 53G-10-103, Sensitive instructional materials; and

159 (B) Title 53E, Chapter 9, Student Privacy and Data Protection.

160 (b) An LEA shall select, deploy, and monitor instructional technology in accordance
161 with the requirements of Subsection (2)(a).

162 (3) An LEA shall:

163 (a) minimize non-essential screen-time;

164 (b) prioritize purposeful engagement with instructional technology that directly supports

165 instructional goals;

166 (c) adopt internal monitoring and accountability policies to ensure compliance with the
167 requirements of this section;

168 (d) provide training to faculty and staff on the requirements of this section;

169 (e) provide to a student's parent access to a list of all digital tools and applications used
170 in the student's classroom;

171 (f) upon request, provide to a student's parent access to the student's:
172 (i) school issued electronic device;
173 (ii) account credentials; and
174 (iii) browsing history;

175 (g) provide to a parent of a student enrolled at the LEA:
176 (i) the option to receive an alert when the student attempts to access material flagged
177 as sensitive material as that term is defined in Section 53G-10-103; and
178 (ii) resources to help supervise the student's use of instructional technology in the
179 home; and

180 (h) before July 1, 2027:
181 (i) adopt the model policy described in Subsection (5)(a); or
182 (ii) adopt an amended version of the model policy described in Subsection (5)(a), that
183 includes:
184 (A) a balanced instructional technology use policy that is safe, lawful, effective,
185 intentional, and compliant with Title 53E, Chapter 9, Student Privacy and Data
186 Protection, and Section 53G-10-103;
187 (B) a resource plan for students who demonstrate a pattern of difficulty learning
188 through technology-based instruction, in accordance with Section 53G-7-229;
189 (C) a requirement of transparency with parents regarding instructional technology
190 use;
191 (D) an artificial intelligence use policy consistent with the model artificial
192 intelligence use policy described in Section 53G-7-1402; and
193 (E) a grade-level framework based on the grade-level framework described in
194 Subsection (5)(d);

195 (i) for the policy the LEA adopts in accordance with Subsection (3)(h), submit to the
196 state board:
197 (i) the finalized policy; and
198 (ii) a statement confirming the LEA held a public hearing in accordance with

199 Subsection (4).

200 (4) Before an LEA adopts a policy in accordance with Subsection (3)(h), an LEA governing
201 board shall hold a public meeting to discuss the proposed policy that:
202 (a) allows for public comment; and
203 (b) complies with the requirements of Title 52, Chapter 4, Open and Public Meetings
204 Act.

205 (5) The state board shall:

206 (a) create a model policy on balanced technology use in the classroom that:
207 (i) prioritizes developmental appropriateness and age-based limits on screen exposure;
208 (ii) requires transparency with parents regarding instructional technology use;
209 (iii) prohibits instructional technology practices that undermine student safety,
210 privacy, or wellbeing;
211 (iv) requires regular review of instructional technology to ensure compliance with the
212 requirements listed in Subsection (2)(a);
213 (v) promotes educator modeling of appropriate and responsible technology use; and
214 (vi) emphasizes the use of adaptive technologies to support competency-based
215 instruction;

216 (b) include, as part of the model policy described in Subsection (5)(a), the model
217 artificial intelligence use policy described in Section 53G-7-1402;
218 (c) post the model policy described in Subsection (5)(a) on the state board's website
219 before December 1, 2026;
220 (d) include in the model policy described in Subsection (5)(a) the following grade-level
221 frameworks:
222 (i) for grades kindergarten through 3:
223 (A) prohibiting a student from taking home school-owned instructional
224 technology;
225 (B) prohibiting a required ratio of one electronic device to one student;
226 (C) prohibiting all screen-time in the classroom except for introduction of state
227 kindergarten through grade 5 computer science standards and preparation for,
228 and administration of, a standards assessment;
229 (D) emphasizing hands-on, print-based, and developmentally appropriate learning
230 exercises; and
231 (E) prohibiting homework that requires access to the internet or instructional
232 technology;

233 (ii) for grades 4 through 6 in an elementary school:

234 (A) prohibiting a student from taking home school-owned instructional
technology;

235 (B) prohibiting a required ratio of one electronic device to one student;

236 (C) balancing the use of an instructional technology with instruction through
teacher-led, print-based, and analog methods;

237 (D) limiting the use of instructional technology to only instances with direct
teacher supervision for a defined academic purpose;

238 (E) prohibiting a public school from sending a school issued instructional
technology home with a student;

239 (F) prohibiting homework requiring access to the internet or instructional
technology; and

240 (G) limiting access to the internet through filters consistent with age-appropriate
standards;

241 (iii) for middle or junior high school:

242 (A) limiting the use of instructional technology to use only on campus of a public
school, except where the public school approves the use of instructional
technology for specific academic programs, or when a student lacks home
internet access and a parent provides written opt-in consent to take
instructional technology home;

243 (B) balancing the use of an instructional technology with instruction through
teacher-led, print-based, and analog methods; and

244 (C) limiting access to the internet through filters consistent with age-appropriate
standards; and

245 (iv) for high school:

246 (A) allowing a student to take an instructional technology home, provided a parent
does not choose to opt the parent's student out;

247 (B) balancing the use of an instructional technology with instruction through
teacher-led, print-based, and analog methods; and

248 (C) limiting access to the internet through filters consistent with age-appropriate
standards;

249 (e) for an LEA that fails to adopt or create a policy in accordance with Subsection (3)(h),
declare the model policy described in Subsection (5)(a) as the default policy for that
LEA; and

267 (f) adopt a method for evaluating and measuring the effectiveness of the requirements
268 listed in Subsection (2)(a).

269 (6) The frameworks described in Subsection (5)(d) do not apply to:

270 (a) a course where instructional technology is integral to the subject matter of the course

271 or specialty class;

272 (b) instruction or equipment related to:

273 (i) online district and charter schools; and

274 (ii) the Statewide Online Education Program created in Section 53F-4-502;

275 (c) a course or instruction designed to meet core technology standards the state board
276 creates under Section 53E-4-202;

277 (d) an AI sandbox course as that term is defined in Section 53G-7-1401;

278 (e) a public school located within the boundaries of a tribal nation where the LEA is the
279 internet service provider; or

280 (f) instructional technology use consistent with a student's IEP or 504 plan.

281 (7)(a) Upon the adoption of the policy required under Subsection (3)(h)(i) or (3)(h)(ii),

282 an LEA shall submit a report to the state board, detailing:

283 (i) the specifics of the policy the LEA adopts;

284 (ii) the LEA's plan for:

285 (A) professional development of faculty and staff related to the adoption of the
286 policy; and

287 (B) monitoring compliance with the new policy;

288 (iii) use of instructional technology in the classroom;

289 (iv) monitoring and compliance of a public school within the LEA's jurisdiction; and

290 (v) implementation efforts and outcomes.

291 (b) An LEA that changes the policy after submitting the report described in Subsection
292 (7)(a) shall submit the updated policy to the state board.

293 (8)(a) As a condition of receiving state funds allocated for digital literacy, computer

294 science, or educational technology programs, an LEA shall certify to the state board

295 that the LEA has adopted and is implementing:

296 (i) a policy on balanced technology use in the classroom in accordance with this
297 section;

298 (ii) a resource program for students demonstrating a pattern of difficulty with
299 technology-related learning in accordance with Section 53G-7-229; and

300 (iii) an artificial intelligence use policy consistent with the model artificial

intelligence use policy described in Section 53G-7-1402.

(b) The state board may withhold or delay the distribution of funds described in Subsection (8)(a) to an LEA that fails to meet the requirements of this section until the LEA demonstrates compliance.

(9) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the state board shall make rules to implement the provisions of this section.

Section 3. Section **53G-7-229** is enacted to read:

53G-7-229 (Effective 07/01/26). Resources for a student with a technology-related learning difficulty.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) Instructional technology means the same as that term is defined in Section 53G-7-228.

(b)(i) "Technology-related learning difficulty" means a condition where a student experiences a pattern of difficulty learning through the use of instructional technology.

(ii) "Technology-related learning difficulty" does not include a temporary or situational difficulty with technology use that is unrelated to a learning need that is:

- (A) diagnosed; or
- (B) identifiable.

(2) An LEA shall create a resource plan on how to accommodate a student that demonstrates a technology-related learning difficulty.

(3) An LEA may:

(a) provide additional resources and accommodations to a student that demonstrates a technology-related learning difficulty, including:

- (i) access to printed materials;
- (ii) alternative assignment formats;
- (iii) access to a technology resource center;
- (iv) access to an educational professional with expertise in technology and technology-related learning difficulties; and
- (v) extra time for technology-based tasks; and

(b) provide a student with a technology-related learning difficulty access to alternative learning pathways, including:

(i) hands-on, project-based learning;

- (ii) book-based curriculum; and
- (iii) verbal instruction.

Section 4. Section **53G-7-1401** is enacted to read:

Part 14. Artificial Intelligence

53G-7-1401 (Effective 07/01/26). General provisions -- Definitions.

As used in this part:

(1) "Artificial intelligence" means the same as that term is defined in Section 13-72-101.

(2) "Artificial intelligence sandbox course" or "AI sandbox course" means a high school course offered to a student enrolled in an LEA focused on artificial intelligence technologies that:

(a) operates within a secure and controlled digital environment; and

(b) provides a student with supervised opportunities to apply artificial intelligence technologies through hands-on;

(i) learning;

(ii) experimentation; and

(iii) application of the instructional material.

(3) "Artificial intelligence tool" or "AI tool" means software or a system that generates outputs, predictions, or recommendations through:

(a) machine learning:

(b) natural language processing; or

(c) other artificial intelligence techniques.

(4) "Generative artificial intelligence" means the same as that term is defined in Section 13-77-101

Section 5. Section 53G-7-1402 is enacted to read:

53G-7-1402 (Effective 07/01/26). Model artificial intelligence use policy.

(1) As used in this section "high-stakes determination" means a decision regarding a student's:

(a) placement:

(b) discipline:

(c) academic progression; or

(d) eligibility for a program or service

(2) The state board shall publish and maintain a model artificial intelligence use policy that:

(a) encourages and supports educator instruction through the use of AI tools;

(b) complies with the requirements of the model policy on balanced technology use in

the classroom described in Section 53G-7-228;

(c) encourages a reduction in student and educator workload through the use of AI tools;

(d) requires educators to only use AI tools an LEA approves;

(e) requires educators to retain professional judgment and instructional responsibility when using AI tools in the educator's classroom;

(f) prohibits educators from using generative artificial intelligence to independently grade student work or issue high-stakes determinations;

(g) requires a student to produce work that reflects the student's:

(i) knowledge;

(ii) skill; and

(iii) understanding;

(h) prohibits a student from using generative artificial intelligence to complete academic work unless an educator authorizes the use for a specific instructional purpose;

(i) ensures that all AI tools available to a student meet developmental expectations and align with digital literacy standards for each grade level;

(j) when the school or an educator uses generative artificial intelligence for instruction, assessment, or activities in the classroom, requires the school or educator to:

(i) notify the student's parent in writing; and

(ii) in the notification described in Subsection (2)(j)(ii), provide a link to the LEA's metadata dictionary as described in Section 53E-9-303;

(k) identifies the purpose of each approved AI tool and describes to a student how to use the AI tool;

(l) ensures that AI tools do not expose a student to content that is:

(i) harmful;

(ii) manipulative; or

(iii) inappropriate;

(m) prohibits the use of AI tools for any practice that threatens student safety or wellbeing, including:

(i) biometric surveillance; or

(ii) psychological profiling;

(n) provides a student's parent with clear expectations regarding allowed and prohibited uses of AI tools in the classroom; and

(o) requires educators to communicate assignment-specific guidance on the expectations regarding the use of AI tools.

403 (3)(a) An LEA shall produce and adopt an artificial intelligence use policy based on the
404 model policy described in Subsection (2).

405 (b) After adopting the policy described in Subsection (3)(a), an LEA shall:

406 (i) submit the adopted policy to the state board for review and approval;
407 (ii) provide training to educators and staff on the policy;
408 (iii) ensure compliance to the policy at each school within the LEA;
409 (iv) review the policy at least once every two years; and
410 (v) update the policy as needed.

411 (c) To inform the policy an LEA adopts under Subsection (3)(a), an LEA may create and
412 distribute the following artificial intelligence resources:

413 (i) a vision or guidance document;
414 (ii) an artificial intelligence framework; or
415 (iii) artificial intelligence best practices.

416 (4) The state board shall:

417 (a) declare the model policy described in Subsection (2) as the default policy for an LEA:

418 (i) that fails to adopt a policy in accordance with Subsection (3)(a); or
419 (ii) whose policy the state board does not approve in accordance with Subsection
420 (3)(b)(i); and

421 (b) make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
422 Rulemaking Act, to establish:

423 (i) standards for LEA compliance under this section;
424 (ii) timelines and procedures for LEA policy submission; and
425 (iii) guidance for LEA implementation and educator training.

426 Section 53G-7-1403 is enacted to read:

427 **53G-7-1403 (Effective 07/01/26). Artificial intelligence -- Sandbox course.**

428 (1) An LEA may offer an AI sandbox course to a student in grades 9 through 12 to provide
429 instructional opportunities aligned with workforce development needs in emerging
430 fields, including:

431 (a) artificial intelligence;
432 (b) data science;
433 (c) digital design; and
434 (d) other related disciplines.

435 (2) An LEA shall:

436 (a) limit the delivery of an AI sandbox course to career and technical education courses

437 or focused campuses;

438 (b) ensure that all activities related to the teaching of an AI sandbox course incorporate
439 safeguards to protect students, including:
440 (i) compliance with federal data privacy laws;
441 (ii) compliance with Title 53E, Chapter 9, Student Privacy and Data Protection;
442 (iii) compliance with Section 53G-10-103; and
443 (iv) ethical use guidelines the state board establishes;
444 (c) notify the parent of a student enrolled in a AI sandbox course of the nature of the AI
445 sandbox course; and
446 (d) obtain written consent from a student's parent before allowing a student to participate
447 in an AI sandbox course.

448 (3) An LEA may not require a student to participate in an AI sandbox course.
449 (4) In accordance with Subsection (2)(b)(iv), the state board shall establish ethical use
450 guidelines for an LEA to use during the AI sandbox course's:
451 (a) creation;
452 (b) implementation; and
453 (c) delivery.

454 **Section 7. Effective Date.**

455 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.