

1 **Social Health in Public Education Curriculum**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ken Ivory

Senate Sponsor:

2 **LONG TITLE**3 **General Description:**4 This bill includes instruction in social health within the required health curriculum in the
5 public education system.6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

8

- 9 ▶ defines terms;

10 - ▶ includes instruction in social health within the required health curriculum in the public
11 education system; and

12 - ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

13 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

14 None

15 **Other Special Clauses:**

16 This bill provides a special effective date.

17 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**18 **AMENDS:**19 **53G-10-402**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 380

20 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*21 Section 1. Section **53G-10-402** is amended to read:22 **53G-10-402 . Instruction in health -- Parental consent requirements -- Conduct
23 and speech of school employees and volunteers -- Political and religious doctrine
24 prohibited.**25 **(1) As used in this section:**26

- 27 (a) "LEA governing board" means a local school board or charter school governing
28 board.
- 29 (b) "Refusal skills" means instruction:
 - 30 (i) in a student's ability to clearly and expressly refuse sexual advances by a minor or

adult;

- (ii) in a student's obligation to stop the student's sexual advances if refused by another individual;
- (iii) informing a student of the student's right to report and seek counseling for unwanted sexual advances; and
- (iv) informing a student that a student may not consent to criminally prohibited activities or activities for which the student is legally prohibited from giving consent, including the electronic transmission of sexually explicit images by an individual, regardless of whether the image is of the individual who transmits the image or of another individual.

(c) "Situational awareness" means instruction in a student's ability to:

- (i) observe the student's environment, including:
 - (A) increasing awareness; and
 - (B) noticing details and changes in the environment; and
- (ii) respond in unsafe situations, including how to seek help.

(d) "Social health" means:

- (i) an individual's ability to successfully build, maintain, and improve mutually beneficial relationships with others, including family, friends, peers, co-workers, online connections, the broader community, and the individual's environment, while pursuing an optimal relationship with the individual's self; and
- (ii) the measurable condition of connection, belonging, and positive relationships within individuals, organizations, and communities.

[**(d)**] **(e)** "Success sequence" means a three-prong framework for youth and young adults that encourages:

- (i) completing at least a high school education and pursuing further educational opportunities;
- (ii) obtaining full-time employment; and
- (iii) having children within a healthy and stable family and marriage.

(2)(a) In accordance with Section 53E-3-501, the state board shall establish health curriculum requirements:

- (i) for the purpose of:
 - (A) equipping students with practical safety skills regarding sexual abuse trafficking, and harassment;
 - (B) promoting respect for humankind and individual responsibility;

65 (C) fostering character development and decision-making through the success
66 sequence; and
67 (D) encouraging healthy personal and family relationships; and
68 (ii) that include instruction in:
69 (A) the success sequence;
70 (B) community and personal health, including personal hygiene and the
71 prevention of communicable disease;
72 (C) physiology;
73 (D) human development;
74 (E) social health;
75 [(E)] (F) marriage and safe dating practices;
76 [(F)] (G) refusal skills;
77 [(G)] (H) resilience;
78 [(H)] (I) situational awareness;
79 [(I)] (J) the harmful effects of pornography; and
80 [(J)] (K) the consequences of behaviors that pose a risk to individual health or of
81 failure under the success sequence.

82 (b) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
83 state board shall make rules that:
84 (i) ensure that instruction stresses the importance of abstinence from all sexual
85 activity before marriage and fidelity after marriage as methods for:
86 (A) maintaining mental, physical, and social health, including reducing stress;
87 (B) eliminating risks associated with sexual activity, including preventing
88 pregnancy and certain communicable diseases; and
89 (C) achieving the success sequence;
90 (ii) ensure that instruction stresses personal skills that encourage abstinence, the
91 return to abstinence, and fidelity;
92 (iii) prohibit instruction or discussion, regardless of parental consent or intent to
93 receive the prohibited instruction, in or regarding:
94 (A) the intricacies of sexual stimulation or erotic behavior;
95 (B) the advocacy of premarital or extramarital sexual activity;
96 (C) the advocacy or encouragement of the use of contraceptive methods or
97 devices; and
98 (D) any means or methods that facilitate or encourage the violation of any state or

federal criminal law by a minor or an adult, including as a response to a spontaneous question from a student; and

- (iv) subject to Subsection (2)(c), allow instruction to include information about contraceptive methods or devices, not including abortion or any abortive methods, that stresses effectiveness, failure rates for youth, limitations, risks, and information on state law applicable to minors obtaining contraceptive methods or devices.

(c)(i) As used in this Subsection (2), "contraceptive methods or devices" does not include abortion or any abortive methods.

(ii) Notwithstanding the allowance for instruction about contraceptive methods or devices in Subsection (2)(b):

- (A) the state board may not require an LEA to teach or adopt instructional materials that include information on contraceptive methods or devices; and
- (B) the instruction may not demonstrate or otherwise depict the use of a contraceptive method or device.

(d) The state board shall:

(i) recommend instructional materials for use in the curricula required under Subsection (2)(a); and

(ii) in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, make rules for an LEA governing board that adopts alternative instructional materials under Subsection (2)(e) to:

- (A) require the LEA governing board to report on the materials the governing board selects and the governing board's compliance with Subsection (2)(e); and
- (B) provide for an appeal and review process of the LEA governing board's adoption of instructional materials.

(e)(i) An LEA governing board may choose to adopt:

- (A) the instructional materials recommended under Subsection (2)(d); or
- (B) alternative instructional materials in accordance with Subsection (2)(e)(ii).

(ii) An LEA governing board that adopts instructional materials under Subsection (2)(e)(i) shall:

- (A) ensure that the materials comply with state law and state board rules;
- (B) base the adoption of the materials on the recommendations of the LEA governing board's Curriculum Materials Review Committee;

(C) adopt the instructional materials in an open and regular meeting of the LEA

133 governing board for which parents of students who attend the respective
134 schools receive prior notice; and

135 (D) give parents an opportunity to express the parents' views and opinions on the
136 materials at the meeting described in Subsection (2)(e)(ii)(C).

137 (f) At the request of the state board, the Department of Health and Human Services shall
138 provide recommendations to the state board as the state board develops the
139 curriculum, rules, or programs described in this Subsection (2).

140 (3) [A student shall receive-] An LEA shall ensure that a student receives:

141 (a) in kindergarten through grade 12, the age-appropriate instruction described in
142 Subsections (2)(a)(ii)(B), (2)(a)(ii)(E), (2)(a)(ii)(H), and (2)(a)(ii)(I); and

143 (b) all of the instruction described in Subsection (2) on at least two occasions between
144 the beginning of grade 7 and the end of grade 12.

145 (4)(a) The state board shall, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
146 Administrative Rulemaking Act, make rules that:

147 (i) provide for the compliance with the parental consent requirements of Sections
148 76-7-322; and

149 (ii) require advance notice to a student's parent that provides an opportunity to review
150 the information for which parental consent is required under Sections 76-7-322
151 and 76-7-323.

152 (b) The state board shall provide procedures for disciplinary action for violation of
153 Section 76-7-322 or 76-7-323.

154 (5)(a) In accordance with Section 53G-10-204 and Subsection (2)(b)(iii), and because
155 school employees and volunteers serve as examples to students, school employees or
156 volunteers acting in an official capacity may not support or encourage criminal
157 conduct by students, teachers, or volunteers.

158 (b) To ensure the effective performance of school personnel, the limitations described in
159 Subsection (5)(a) also apply to a school employee or volunteer acting outside of the
160 school employee's or volunteer's official capacity if:

161 (i) the employee or volunteer knew or should have known that the employee's or
162 volunteer's action could result in a material and substantial interference or
163 disruption in the normal activities of the school; and

164 (ii) the employee's or volunteer's action results in a material and substantial
165 interference or disruption in the normal activities of the school.

166 (c) The state board or an LEA governing board may not allow training of school

167 employees or volunteers that supports or encourages criminal conduct.

168 (d) The state board shall, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
169 Rulemaking Act, make rules implementing this Subsection (5).

170 (e) Nothing in this section limits the ability or authority of the state board or an LEA
171 governing board to enact and enforce rules or take actions that are otherwise lawful
172 regarding an educator's, employee's, or volunteer's qualifications or behavior
173 evidencing unfitness for duty.

174 (6) Except as provided in Section 53G-10-202, an individual may not teach or provide
175 instruction on political, atheistic, sectarian, religious, or denominational doctrine in the
176 public schools.

177 (7)(a) An LEA governing board and an LEA governing board's employees shall
178 cooperate and share responsibility in carrying out the purposes of this chapter.

179 (b) An LEA governing board shall:

180 (i)(A) provide appropriate professional development for the LEA governing
181 board's teachers, counselors, and school administrators to enable the teachers,
182 counselors, and school administrators to understand, protect, and properly
183 instruct students in the values and character traits referred to in this section and
184 Sections 53E-9-202, 53E-9-203, 53G-10-202, 53G-10-203, 53G-10-204, and
185 53G-10-205; and
186 (B) distribute appropriate written materials on the values, character traits, and
187 conduct described in Subsection (7)(b)(i) to each individual receiving the
188 professional development; and
189 (ii) make the written materials described in Subsection (7)(b) available to education
190 support professionals, students, and students' parents.

191 (c) To assist an LEA governing board in providing the professional development
192 required under Subsection (7)(b), the state board shall, as appropriate, contract with a
193 qualified individual or entity possessing expertise in the areas described in
194 Subsection (7)(b) to develop and disseminate model teacher professional
195 development programs that an LEA governing board may use to train the individuals
196 described in Subsection (7)(b) to effectively teach the values and qualities of
197 character described in Subsection (7)(b).

198 (d) In accordance with Subsection (5)(c), professional development may not support or
199 encourage criminal conduct.

200 (8) An LEA governing board shall review every two years:

201 (a) LEA governing board policies on instruction described in this section;

202 (b) for a local school board, data for each county in which the school district is located,

203 or, for a charter school governing board, data for the county in which the charter

204 school is located, on the following:

205 (i) teen pregnancy;

206 (ii) child sexual abuse; and

207 (iii) sexually transmitted diseases and sexually transmitted infections; and

208 (c) the number of pornography complaints or other instances reported within the

209 jurisdiction of the LEA governing board.

210 (9) If any one or more provision, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this

211 section, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is found to be

212 unconstitutional, the balance of this section shall be given effect without the invalid

213 provision, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word.

214 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

215 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.