

Ken Ivory proposes the following substitute bill:

**Social Health in Public Education Curriculum**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Ken Ivory**

Senate Sponsor:

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill includes instruction in social health within the required health curriculum in the public education system.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- defines terms;
- includes instruction in social health within the required health curriculum in the public education system; 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:

**53G-10-402**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 380

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

Section 1. Section **53G-10-402** is amended to read:

**53G-10-402 . Instruction in health -- Parental consent requirements -- Conduct and speech of school employees and volunteers -- Political and religious doctrine prohibited.**

(1) As used in this section:

- (a) "LEA governing board" means a local school board or charter school governing board.
- (b) "Refusal skills" means instruction:

- 30 (i) in a student's ability to clearly and expressly refuse sexual advances by a minor or  
31 adult;
- 32 (ii) in a student's obligation to stop the student's sexual advances if refused by another  
33 individual;
- 34 (iii) informing a student of the student's right to report and seek counseling for  
35 unwanted sexual advances; and
- 36 (iv) informing a student that a student may not consent to criminally prohibited  
37 activities or activities for which the student is legally prohibited from giving  
38 consent, including the electronic transmission of sexually explicit images by an  
39 individual, regardless of whether the image is of the individual who transmits the  
40 image or of another individual.
- 41 (c) "Situational awareness" means instruction in a student's ability to:
- 42 (i) observe the student's environment, including:
- 43 (A) increasing awareness; and
- 44 (B) noticing details and changes in the environment; and
- 45 (ii) respond in unsafe situations, including how to seek help.
- 46 (d) "Social health" means an individual's ability to successfully build, maintain, and  
47 improve mutually beneficial relationships with others, including family, friends,  
48 peers, co-workers, online connections, the broader community, and the individual's  
49 environment, while pursuing an optimal relationship with the individual's self.
- 50 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) "Success sequence" means a three-prong framework for youth and young adults  
51 that encourages:
- 52 (i) completing at least a high school education and pursuing further educational  
53 opportunities;
- 54 (ii) obtaining full-time employment; and
- 55 (iii) having children within a healthy and stable family and marriage.
- 56 (2)(a) In accordance with Section 53E-3-501, the state board shall establish health  
57 curriculum requirements:
- 58 (i) for the purpose of:
- 59 (A) equipping students with practical safety skills regarding sexual abuse,  
60 trafficking, and harassment;
- 61 (B) promoting respect for humankind and individual responsibility;
- 62 (C) fostering character development and decision- making through the success  
63 sequence; and

- (D) encouraging healthy personal and family relationships; and
- (ii) that include instruction in:
  - (A) the success sequence;
  - (B) community and personal health, including personal hygiene and the prevention of communicable disease;
  - (C) physiology;
  - (D) human development;
  - (E) social health;
  - ~~[(E)]~~ (F) marriage and safe dating practices;
  - ~~[(F)]~~ (G) refusal skills;
  - ~~[(G)]~~ (H) resilience;
  - ~~[(H)]~~ (I) situational awareness;
  - ~~[(I)]~~ (J) the harmful effects of pornography; and
  - ~~[(J)]~~ (K) the consequences of behaviors that pose a risk to individual health or of failure under the success sequence.

(b) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the state board shall make rules that:

- (i) ensure that instruction stresses the importance of abstinence from all sexual activity before marriage and fidelity after marriage as methods for:
  - (A) maintaining mental, physical, and social health, including reducing stress;
  - (B) eliminating risks associated with sexual activity, including preventing pregnancy and certain communicable diseases; and
  - (C) achieving the success sequence;
- (ii) ensure that instruction stresses personal skills that encourage abstinence, the return to abstinence, and fidelity;
- (iii) prohibit instruction or discussion, regardless of parental consent or intent to receive the prohibited instruction, in or regarding:
  - (A) the intricacies of sexual stimulation or erotic behavior;
  - (B) the advocacy of premarital or extramarital sexual activity;
  - (C) the advocacy or encouragement of the use of contraceptive methods or devices; and
  - (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 governing board for which parents of students who attend the respective schools receive prior notice; and

- (D) give parents an opportunity to express the parents' views and opinions on the materials at the meeting described in Subsection (2)(e)(ii)(C).
- (f) At the request of the state board, the Department of Health and Human Services shall provide recommendations to the state board as the state board develops the curriculum, rules, or programs described in this Subsection (2).
- (3) ~~[A student shall receive-]~~ An LEA shall ensure that a student receives:
- (a) in kindergarten through grade 6, the age-appropriate instruction described in Subsections (2)(a)(ii)(B), (2)(a)(ii)(E), (2)(a)(ii)(H), and (2)(a)(ii)(I); and
- (b) all of the instruction described in Subsection (2) on at least two occasions between the beginning of grade 7 and the end of grade 12.
- (4)(a) The state board shall, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, make rules that:
- (i) provide for the compliance with the parental consent requirements of Sections 76-7-322; and
- (ii) require advance notice to a student's parent that provides an opportunity to review the information for which parental consent is required under Sections 76-7-322 and 76-7-323.
- (b) The state board shall provide procedures for disciplinary action for violation of Section 76-7-322 or 76-7-323.
- (5)(a) In accordance with Section 53G-10-204 and Subsection (2)(b)(iii), and because school employees and volunteers serve as examples to students, school employees or volunteers acting in an official capacity may not support or encourage criminal conduct by students, teachers, or volunteers.
- (b) To ensure the effective performance of school personnel, the limitations described in Subsection (5)(a) also apply to a school employee or volunteer acting outside of the school employee's or volunteer's official capacity if:
- (i) the employee or volunteer knew or should have known that the employee's or volunteer's action could result in a material and substantial interference or disruption in the normal activities of the school; and
- (ii) the employee's or volunteer's action results in a material and substantial interference or disruption in the normal activities of the school.
- (c) The state board or an LEA governing board may not allow training of school employees or volunteers that supports or encourages criminal conduct.
- (d) The state board shall, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative

- 166 Rulemaking Act, make rules implementing this Subsection (5).
- 167 (e) Nothing in this section limits the ability or authority of the state board or an LEA  
168 governing board to enact and enforce rules or take actions that are otherwise lawful  
169 regarding an educator's, employee's, or volunteer's qualifications or behavior  
170 evidencing unfitness for duty.
- 171 (6) Except as provided in Section 53G-10-202, an individual may not teach or provide  
172 instruction on political, atheistic, sectarian, religious, or denominational doctrine in the  
173 public schools.
- 174 (7)(a) An LEA governing board and an LEA governing board's employees shall  
175 cooperate and share responsibility in carrying out the purposes of this chapter.
- 176 (b) An LEA governing board shall:
- 177 (i)(A) provide appropriate professional development for the LEA governing  
178 board's teachers, counselors, and school administrators to enable the teachers,  
179 counselors, and school administrators to understand, protect, and properly  
180 instruct students in the values and character traits referred to in this section and  
181 Sections 53E-9-202, 53E-9-203, 53G-10-202, 53G-10-203, 53G-10-204, and  
182 53G-10-205; and
- 183 (B) distribute appropriate written materials on the values, character traits, and  
184 conduct described in Subsection (7)(b)(i) to each individual receiving the  
185 professional development; and
- 186 (ii) make the written materials described in Subsection (7)(b) available to education  
187 support professionals, students, and students' parents.
- 188 (c) To assist an LEA governing board in providing the professional development  
189 required under Subsection (7)(b), the state board shall, as appropriate, contract with a  
190 qualified individual or entity possessing expertise in the areas described in  
191 Subsection (7)(b) to develop and disseminate model teacher professional  
192 development programs that an LEA governing board may use to train the individuals  
193 described in Subsection (7)(b) to effectively teach the values and qualities of  
194 character described in Subsection (7)(b).
- 195 (d) In accordance with Subsection (5)(c), professional development may not support or  
196 encourage criminal conduct.
- 197 (8) An LEA governing board shall review every two years:
- 198 (a) LEA governing board policies on instruction described in this section;
- 199 (b) for a local school board, data for each county in which the school district is located,

or, for a charter school governing board, data for the county in which the charter school is located, on the following:

(i) teen pregnancy;

(ii) child sexual abuse; and

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

(c) the number of pornography complaints or other instances reported within the jurisdiction of the LEA governing board.

(9) If any one or more provision, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this section, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is found to be unconstitutional, the balance of this section shall be given effect without the invalid provision, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word.

**Section 2. Effective Date.**

This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.