

Doug Welton proposes the following substitute bill:

**School Scheduling Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Doug Welton**

Senate Sponsor: Michael K. McKell

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill creates a minimum credit hour requirement rather than a day or instructional hour requirement for certain grades in the public education system.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- defines terms;
- creates a minimum credit hour requirement rather than a day or instructional hour requirement for certain grades 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:

**53F-2-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 17

**53G-6-705**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 340

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

Section 1. Section **53F-2-102** is amended to read:

**53F-2-102 . Definitions.**

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Attendance-validated program" means an educational program where:

(a) student participation is measured by physical or virtual attendance at scheduled instructional periods; and

(b) a student receives direct teacher interaction and instruction for the course or program

30           the student is enrolled in.

31    ~~[(1)]~~ (2) "Basic state-supported school program," "basic program," or "basic school  
32           program" means public education programs for kindergarten, elementary, and secondary  
33           school students that are operated and maintained for the amount derived by multiplying  
34           the number of weighted pupil units for each school district or charter school by the value  
35           established each year in the enacted public education budget, except as otherwise  
36           provided in this chapter.

37    ~~[(2)]~~ (3) "LEA governing board" means a local school board or charter school governing  
38           board.

39    ~~[(3)]~~ (4) "Pupil in average daily membership" or "ADM" means a full-day equivalent pupil.

40    ~~[(4)]~~ (5)(a) "Minimum School Program" means the state-supported public school  
41           programs for kindergarten, elementary, and secondary schools as described in this  
42           Subsection ~~[(4)]~~ (5).

43           (b) The Minimum School Program established in school districts and charter schools  
44           shall include the equivalent of a school term of nine months as determined by the  
45           state board.

46           (c)(i) The state board shall establish[-] :

47                   (A) except as provided in Subsection (5)(c)(i)(B), the number of days or  
48                   equivalent instructional hours that school is held for an academic school year[-] ,  
49                   allowing flexibility for elementary, middle, and junior high schools to adapt  
50                   schedules to align with high schools described in Subsection (5)(c)(i)(B); and  
51                   (B) for grades 9 through 12 that use an attendance-validated program, the number  
52                   of credits required to graduate high school based on one credit representing at  
53                   least 83 class hours, in lieu of a requirement of days or instructional hours.

54                   (ii) Education, enhanced by utilization of technologically enriched delivery systems,  
55                   when approved by an LEA governing board, shall receive full support by the state  
56                   board as it pertains to fulfilling the attendance requirements, excluding time spent  
57                   viewing commercial advertising.

58           (d)(i) An LEA governing board may reallocate up to 32 instructional hours or four  
59           school days established under Subsection ~~[(4)(e)]~~ (5)(c) for teacher preparation  
60           time or teacher professional development.

61                   (ii) A reallocation of instructional hours or school days under Subsection ~~[(4)(d)(i)]~~  
62                   (5)(d)(i) is subject to the approval of two-thirds of the members of an LEA  
63                   governing board voting in a regularly scheduled meeting:

- 64 (A) at which a quorum of the LEA governing board is present; and  
 65 (B) held in compliance with Title 52, Chapter 4, Open and Public Meetings Act.
- 66 (iii) If an LEA governing board reallocates instructional hours or school days as  
 67 provided by this Subsection [~~(4)(d)~~] (5)(d), the school district or charter school  
 68 shall notify students' parents of the school calendar at least:  
 69 (A) 90 days before the beginning of the school year; or  
 70 (B) for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years, due to circumstances within  
 71 the LEA or a given school due to the COVID-19 pandemic, at least 14 calendar  
 72 days before the reallocated instructional hours or school days.
- 73 (iv) Instructional hours or school days reallocated for teacher preparation time or  
 74 teacher professional development [~~pursuant to~~] in accordance with this Subsection [~~(4)(d)~~] (5)(d) is considered part of a school term referred to in Subsection [~~(4)(b)~~] (5)(b).
- 75 (e) The Minimum School Program includes a program or allocation funded by a line  
 76 item appropriation or other appropriation designated as follows:  
 77 (i) Basic School Program;  
 78 (ii) Related to Basic Programs;  
 79 (iii) Voted and Board Levy Programs; or  
 80 (iv) Minimum School Program.
- 81 [~~(5)~~] (6) "Weighted pupil unit[~~-or units~~] " or "WPU[~~-or WPUs~~]" means the unit of measure of  
 82 factors that is computed in accordance with this chapter for the purpose of determining  
 83 the costs of a program on a uniform basis for each school district or charter school.  
 84 Section 2. Section **53G-6-705** is amended to read:  
 85 **53G-6-705 . Online students' participation in extracurricular activities.**  
 86 (1) As used in this section:  
 87 (a) "Association" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53G-7-1101.  
 88 (b) "Extracurricular activity" means the same as that term is defined in Section  
 89 53G-7-501.  
 90 (c) "Initial establishment of eligibility requirements" means the same as that term is  
 91 defined in Section 53G-6-703.  
 92 (d) "Online education" means the use of information and communication technologies to  
 93 deliver educational opportunities to a student in a location other than a school.  
 94 (e) "Online student" means a student who:  
 95 (i) participates in an online education program sponsored or supported by the state  
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- 98 board, a school district, or a charter school; and
- 99 (ii) generates funding for the school district or the school [~~pursuant to~~] in accordance
- 100 with Subsection [~~53F-2-102(4)~~] 53F-2-102(5) and rules of the state board.
- 101 (2) An online student is eligible to participate in an extracurricular activity at:
- 102 (a) the school with attendance boundaries within which the student's custodial parent
- 103 resides, if, for an interscholastic competition of athletic teams, the student did not
- 104 initially establish the student's eligibility at another public school in grade 9 or 10; or
- 105 (b) the public school from which the student withdrew for the purpose of participating in
- 106 an online education program.
- 107 (3) A public school other than a school described in Subsection (2) may allow an online
- 108 student to participate in an extracurricular activity that the public school sponsors and
- 109 supports if:
- 110 (a) for interschool competitions of athletic teams sponsored and supported by a public
- 111 school, the online school student meets the initial establishment of eligibility
- 112 requirements;
- 113 (b) for interschool contests or competitions for music, drama, or forensic groups or
- 114 teams sponsored and supported by a public school, the online school student meets
- 115 the entry requirements for participation;
- 116 (c) the online school student meets the eligibility requirements under this section; and
- 117 (d) the online school student meets the enrollment requirements for public school in
- 118 accordance with Part 4, School District Enrollment.
- 119 (4) An online student is eligible to participate in an extracurricular activity at a public
- 120 school consistent with eligibility standards as applied to full-time students of the public
- 121 school.
- 122 (5) A school district or public school may not impose additional requirements on an online
- 123 school student to participate in an extracurricular activity that are not imposed on
- 124 full-time students of the public school.
- 125 (6)(a) The state board shall make rules establishing fees for an online school student's
- 126 participation in an extracurricular activity at school district schools.
- 127 (b) The rules shall provide that:
- 128 (i) online school students pay the same fees as other students to participate in an
- 129 extracurricular activity;
- 130 (ii) online school students are eligible for fee waivers pursuant to Section 53G-7-504;
- 131 (iii) for each online school student who participates in an extracurricular activity at a

- 132 school district school, the online school shall pay a share of the school district's  
133 costs for the extracurricular activity; and
- 134 (iv) an online school's share of the costs of an extracurricular activity shall reflect  
135 state and local tax revenues expended, except capital facilities expenditures, for an  
136 extracurricular activity in a school district or school divided by total student  
137 enrollment of the school district or school.
- 138 (c) In determining an online school's share of the costs of an extracurricular activity  
139 under Subsections (6)(b)(iii) and (iv), the state board may establish uniform fees  
140 statewide based on average costs statewide or average costs within a sample of  
141 school districts.
- 142 (7) When selection to participate in an extracurricular activity at a public school is made on  
143 a competitive basis, an online student is eligible to try out for and participate in the  
144 activity as provided in this section.

145 Section 3. **Effective Date.**

146 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.