

Dual Language Immersion Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Daniel McCay

House Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill amends provisions related to concurrent enrollment courses for accelerated foreign language students.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- makes technical and conforming changes;
- requires universities to teach certain upper-level concurrent enrollment courses;
- requires a qualified teacher to teach certain courses;
- establishes a proficiency assessment; and
- allows a local education agency to partner with certain institutions.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53E-10-307, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 129

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

Section 1. Section **53E-10-307** is amended to read:

53E-10-307 . Concurrent enrollment courses for accelerated foreign language students.

(1) As used in this section:

- (a) "Accelerated foreign language student" means an eligible student who has passed a world language Advanced Placement exam.
- (b) "Blended learning delivery model" means an education delivery model in which a

student learns, at least in part:

(i) through ~~[online learning with an element of student control over time, place, path, and pace]~~ synchronous online learning; and

(ii) in the physical presence of an instructor.

(c) "Partner language" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53F-2-502.

(d) "Program" means the Utah Language Bridge Program, the foreign language concurrent enrollment program described in this section.

(e)(i) "Qualified instructor" means:

(A) a university instructor of record, which may include a high school teacher accepted to teach under a one-teacher model:

(I) who holds a master's degree or higher or has at least 18 completed credit hours of graduate work in an academic field related to the program;

(II) who demonstrates language proficiency of advanced-high or higher on a verbal and written exam using a nationally recognized assessment that assesses an instructor's language proficiency or holds a bachelor's degree from a relevant country or origin of the target language; and

(III) whom an institution hires according to the standards of the institution; or

(B) a high school instructor of record who:

(I) holds a master's degree or higher or has at least 18 completed credit hours of graduate course work in an academic field related to the program; and

(II) demonstrates language proficiency of advanced-high or higher on a verbal and written exam from a nationally recognized assessment used that measures an instructor's language proficiency or holds a bachelor's degree from a relevant country or origin of the target language.

(ii) "Qualified instructor" does not include an instructor with qualifications based on years of experience alone.

(f) "Service area" means the geographic area, as board policy determines, where a state university has primary responsibility for providing educational programs and services.

[(e)] (g) "State university" means an institution of higher education that offers courses leading to a bachelor's degree.

(2) The University of Utah shall partner with all state universities to develop and maintain, as part of the concurrent enrollment program described in this part, concurrent enrollment courses that:

(a) are age-appropriate foreign language courses for accelerated foreign language

- 65 students participating in the program;
- 66 (b) count toward a foreign language degree offered by an institution of higher education;
- 67 and
- 68 (c) ~~[are delivered]~~ the university delivers:
- 69 (i) using [a] an in-person or blended learning delivery model; and
- 70 (ii) ~~[by an eligible]~~ through a qualified instructor~~[described in Subsection~~
- 71 53E-10-302(6)(a)].
- 72 (3) Subject to budget constraints, in addition to the base increases described in Section
- 73 53F-2-208, the Legislature shall annually increase the money appropriated for
- 74 concurrent enrollment courses for accelerated foreign language students participating in
- 75 the program in proportion to the percentage increase over the previous school year in the
- 76 value of the weighted pupil unit.
- 77 (4)(a) A state university that offers an upper-division course under the program shall
- 78 ensure that a qualified instructor teaches or co-teaches the upper-division course.
- 79 (b) If a state university cannot provide a qualified instructor to an LEA in the state
- 80 university's service area before April 1 of each year, in accordance with Subsection
- 81 (4)(a), an LEA shall:
- 82 (i) partner with a state institution from outside the service area that contains the LEA
- 83 to provide an upper-division course under this program; and
- 84 (ii) enter into a contract with a state institution from outside the service area that
- 85 contains the LEA, in accordance with Section 53E-10-303, to provide the program
- 86 at the LEA.
- 87 (5) A state university that offers an upper-division course under this section shall ensure the
- 88 course counts toward a foreign language degree an institution of higher education offers.
- 89 (6) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
- 90 state board shall make rules to:
- 91 (a) establish a proficiency assessment for each partner language in grades 10 through 12;
- 92 and
- 93 (b) distribute funds to the board to administer the assessment described in Subsection
- 94 (6)(a).

95 Section 2. **Effective Date.**

96 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.