

Daniel McCay proposes the following substitute bill:

1 **Dual Language Immersion Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Daniel McCay

House Sponsor:

2 **LONG TITLE**

3 **General Description:**

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

7 **Highlighted Provisions:**

8 This bill:

9 ▶ defines terms;

10 ▶ requires universities to teach certain upper-level concurrent enrollment courses;

11 ▶ requires a qualified teacher to teach certain courses;

12 ▶ extends a current proficiency assessment related to dual language immersion students;

13 ▶ allows a local education agency to partner with certain institutions; and

14 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

15 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

16 None

17 **Other Special Clauses:**

18 This bill provides a special effective date.

19 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

20 **AMENDS:**

21 **53E-10-307**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 129

22 **53F-2-502**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 9

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

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

26 **53E-10-307 . Concurrent enrollment courses for accelerated foreign language**
27 **students.**

28 (1) As used in this section:

29 (a) "Accelerated foreign language student" means an eligible student who has passed a
30 world language Advanced Placement exam.

31 (b) "Blended learning delivery model" means an education delivery model in which a
32 student learns, at least in part:
33 (i) through [online learning with an element of student control over time, place, path,
34 and pace] synchronous online learning; and
35 (ii) in the physical presence of an instructor.

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

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

39 (e)(i) Qualified instructor means:
40 (A) a university instructor of record:
41 (I) who holds a master's degree or higher or has at least 18 completed credit
42 hours of graduate course work in an academic field related to the program;
43 (II) who demonstrates language proficiency of advanced-high or higher on a
44 verbal and written exam using a nationally recognized assessment that
45 assesses an instructor's language proficiency or holds a bachelor's degree
46 from a relevant country of origin of the target language; and
47 (III) whom an institution hires according to the standards of the institution;
48 (B) an LEA employee teaching the course individually who:
49 (I) holds a master's degree or higher, has at least 18 completed credit hours of
50 graduate work in an academic field related to the program, or acquires
51 exception for approval without a master's degree from the partnering
52 institution and the LEA; and
53 (II) demonstrates language proficiency of advanced-high or higher on a verbal
54 and written exam from a nationally recognized assessment used that
55 measures an instructor's language proficiency or holds a bachelor's degree
56 from a relevant country of origin of the target language; or
57 (C) an LEA employee co-teaching with a Utah System of Higher Education
58 faculty member who:
59 (I) has qualifying experience, including demonstrated language proficiency of
60 advanced-mid or higher on a verbal and written exam using nationally
61 recognized standards to assess an instructor's language proficiency; or
62 (II) holds a bachelor's degree from a relevant country of origin in 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 students participating in the program;

(b) count toward a foreign language degree offered by an institution of higher education;
and

(c) [are delivered] the university delivers:

(i) using [a] an in-person or blended learning delivery model; and

(ii) [by an eligible] through a qualified instructor[described in Subsection 53E-10-302(6)(a)].

(3) Subject to budget constraints, in addition to the base increases described in Section 53F-2-208, the Legislature shall annually increase the money appropriated for concurrent enrollment courses for accelerated foreign language students participating in the program in proportion to the percentage increase over the previous school year in the value of the weighted pupil unit.

(4)(a) A state university that offers an upper-division course under the program shall ensure that a qualified instructor teaches or co-teaches the upper-division course.

(b) If a state university cannot provide a qualified instructor to an LEA in the state university's service area before April 1 of each year, in accordance with Subsection (4)(a), an LEA shall:

(i) partner with a state institution from outside the service area that contains the LEA to provide an upper-division course under this program; and

(ii) enter into a contract with a state institution from outside the service area that contains the LEA, in accordance with Section 53E-10-303, to provide the pro

(5) A state university that offers an upper-division course under this section shall ensure the

97 course counts toward a foreign language degree an institution of higher education offers.

98 (6) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
99 state board shall make rules to extend the current proficiency assessment for dual
100 immersion students to grades 3 through 12 for each partner language, in accordance with
101 Section 53F-2-502.

102 Section 2. Section **53F-2-502** is amended to read:

103 **53F-2-502 . Dual language immersion.**

104 (1) As used in this section:

105 (a) "Dual language immersion" means an instructional setting in which a student
106 receives a portion of instruction in English and a portion of instruction exclusively in
107 a partner language.

108 (b) "Local education agency" or "LEA" means a school district or a charter school.

109 (c) "Participating LEA" means an LEA selected by the state board to receive a grant
110 described in this section.

111 (d) "Partner language" means a language other than English in which instruction is
112 provided in dual language immersion.

113 (e) "Restricted foreign entity" means the same as that term is defined in Section
114 53H-8-501.

115 (2) The state board shall:

116 (a) establish a dual language immersion program;

117 (b) in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act,
118 make rules that establish:
119 (i) a grant program for an LEA to receive funding for dual language immersion;
120 (ii) the required qualifications for an LEA to be a participating LEA;
121 (iii) subject to this section, requirements of a participating LEA;
122 (iv) a proficiency assessment for each partner language; and
123 (v) a progression of how a school in a participating LEA adds grade levels in which
124 the school offers dual language immersion; and

125 (c) subject to legislative appropriations:
126 (i) select participating LEAs; and
127 (ii) award to a participating LEA a grant to support dual language immersion in the
128 LEA.

129 (3) A participating LEA shall:

130 (a) establish in a school a full-day dual language immersion instructional model that

131 provides at least 50% of instruction exclusively in a partner language;

132 (b) in accordance with the state board rules described in Subsection (2)(b), add grades in
133 which dual language immersion is provided in a school; and
134 (c) annually administer to each student in grades 3 through [8] 12 who participates in
135 dual language immersion an assessment described in Subsection (2)(b)(iv).

136 (4) The state board shall:

137 (a) provide support to a participating LEA, including by:
138 (i) offering professional learning for dual language immersion educators;
139 (ii) developing curriculum related to dual language immersion; or
140 (iii) providing instructional support for a partner language;
141 (b) conduct a program evaluation of the dual language immersion program established
142 under Subsection (2)(a); and
143 (c) on or before November 1, 2019, report to the Education Interim Committee and the
144 Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee on the results of the program
145 evaluation described in Subsection (4)(b).

146 (5) The state board may, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 6a, Utah Procurement Code,
147 contract with a third party to conduct the program evaluation described in Subsection
148 (4)(b).

149 (6) Regardless of whether an LEA is a participating LEA or provides language instruction
150 through another method, beginning July 1, 2024, an LEA may not seek or accept
151 funding support from a restricted foreign entity or an entity that passes on funding
152 support from a restricted foreign entity.

153 (7) Subject to budget constraints, in addition to the base increases described in Section
154 53F-2-208, the Legislature shall annually increase the money appropriated for dual
155 language immersion in proportion to the percentage increase over the previous school
156 year in the value of the weighted pupil unit.

157 **Section 3. Effective Date.**

158 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.