

Daniel McCay proposes the following substitute bill:

**Dual Language Immersion Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Daniel McCay**

House Sponsor: Candice B. Pierucci

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

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

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- defines terms;
- requires universities to teach certain upper-level concurrent enrollment courses;
- requires a qualified teacher to teach certain courses;
- allows a local education agency to partner with certain institutions;
- requires the State Board of Education to prepare and submit a certain report; 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:

**53E-1-202**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 7

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

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

Section 1. Section **53E-1-202** is amended to read:

**53E-1-202 . Reports to and action required of the Public Education**

**Appropriations Subcommittee.**

(1) In accordance with applicable provisions and Section 68-3-14, the following recurring

- 29 reports are due to the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee:
- 30 (a) the State Superintendent's Annual Report by the state board described in Section
- 31 53E-1-203;
- 32 (b) the state board's report described in Section 53E-10-307 regarding the cost of
- 33 expanding the dual language immersion proficiency assessment;
- 34 ~~(b)~~ (c) the report described in Section 53E-10-703 by the Utah Leading through
- 35 Effective, Actionable, and Dynamic Education director on research and other
- 36 activities; and
- 37 ~~(e)~~ (d) the report by the STEM Action Center Board described in Section 9-22-109,
- 38 including the information described in Section 9-22-113 on the status of the computer
- 39 science initiative.
- 40 (2) In accordance with applicable provisions, the Public Education Appropriations
- 41 Subcommittee shall complete, if required, the study described in Section 53F-4-304 of
- 42 scholarship payments.

43 Section 2. Section **53E-10-307** is amended to read:

44 **53E-10-307 . Concurrent enrollment courses for accelerated foreign language**

45 **students.**

46 (1) As used in this section:

- 47 (a) "Accelerated foreign language student" means an eligible student who has passed a
- 48 world language Advanced Placement exam.
- 49 (b) "Blended learning delivery model" means an education delivery model in which a
- 50 student learns, at least in part:
- 51 (i) through ~~[online learning with an element of student control over time, place, path,~~
- 52 ~~and pace]~~ synchronous online learning; and
- 53 (ii) in the physical presence of an instructor.
- 54 (c) "Partner language" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53F-2-502.
- 55 (d) "Program" means the Utah Language Bridge Program, the foreign language
- 56 concurrent enrollment program described in this section.
- 57 (e)(i) "Qualified instructor" means:
- 58 (A) a university instructor of record:
- 59 (I) who holds a master's degree or higher or has at least 18 completed credit
- 60 hours of graduate course work in an academic field related to the program;
- 61 (II) who demonstrates language proficiency of advanced-high or higher on a
- 62 verbal and written exam using a nationally recognized assessment that

- 63 assesses an instructor's language proficiency or holds a bachelor's degree  
 64 from a relevant country of origin of the target language; and  
 65 (III) whom an institution hires according to the standards of the institution;  
 66 (B) an LEA employee teaching the course individually who:  
 67 (I) holds a master's degree or higher, has at least 18 completed credit hours of  
 68 graduate work in an academic field related to the program, or acquires  
 69 exception for approval without a master's degree from the partnering  
 70 institution and the LEA; and  
 71 (II) demonstrates language proficiency of advanced-high or higher on a verbal  
 72 and written exam from a nationally recognized assessment used that  
 73 measures an instructor's language proficiency or holds a bachelor's degree  
 74 from a relevant country of origin of the target language; or  
 75 (C) an LEA employee co-teaching with a Utah System of Higher Education  
 76 faculty member who:  
 77 (I) has qualifying experience, including demonstrated language proficiency of  
 78 advanced-mid or higher on a verbal and written exam using nationally  
 79 recognized standards to assess an instructor's language proficiency; or  
 80 (II) holds a bachelor's degree from a relevant country of origin in the target  
 81 language.  
 82 (ii) "Qualified instructor" does not include an instructor with qualifications based on  
 83 years of experience alone.  
 84 (f) "Service area" means the geographic area, as board policy determines, where a state  
 85 university has primary responsibility for providing educational programs and services.  
 86 [(e)] (g) "State university" means an institution of higher education that offers courses  
 87 leading to a bachelor's degree.  
 88 (2) The University of Utah shall partner with all state universities to develop and maintain,  
 89 as part of the concurrent enrollment program described in this part, concurrent  
 90 enrollment courses that:  
 91 (a) are age-appropriate foreign language courses for accelerated foreign language  
 92 students participating in the program;  
 93 (b) count toward a foreign language degree offered by an institution of higher education;  
 94 and  
 95 (c) ~~[are delivered]~~ the university delivers:  
 96 (i) using [a] an in-person or blended learning delivery model; and

- 97 (ii) ~~[by an eligible]~~ through a qualified instructor~~[-described in Subsection~~  
98 53E-10-302(6)(a)].
- 99 (3) Subject to budget constraints, in addition to the base increases described in Section  
100 53F-2-208, the Legislature shall annually increase the money appropriated for  
101 concurrent enrollment courses for accelerated foreign language students participating in  
102 the program in proportion to the percentage increase over the previous school year in the  
103 value of the weighted pupil unit.
- 104 (4)(a) A state university that offers an upper-division course under the program shall  
105 ensure that a qualified instructor teaches or co-teaches the upper-division course.
- 106 (b) If a state university cannot provide a qualified instructor to an LEA in the state  
107 university's service area before April 1 of each year, in accordance with Subsection  
108 (4)(a), an LEA shall:
- 109 (i) partner with a state institution from outside the service area that contains the LEA  
110 to provide an upper-division course under this program; and
- 111 (ii) enter into a contract with a state institution from outside the service area that  
112 contains the LEA, in accordance with Section 53E-10-303, to provide the program  
113 at the LEA.
- 114 (5) A state university that offers an upper-division course under this section shall ensure the  
115 course counts toward a foreign language degree an institution of higher education offers.
- 116 (6) The state board shall:
- 117 (a) identify the estimated cost to extend the dual language immersion proficiency  
118 assessments described in Section 53F-2-502 from grades 3 through 8 to grades 3  
119 through 12 in the following four skills:
- 120 (i) speaking;
- 121 (ii) listening;
- 122 (iii) reading; and
- 123 (iv) writing; and
- 124 (b) submit a report to the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee detailing the  
125 estimated costs described in Subsection (6)(a) before the subcommittee's October  
126 2026 interim meeting.

127 Section 3. **Effective Date.**

128 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.