

School and Classroom Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore

House Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill enacts provisions related to school enrollment and curriculum development.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- requires students to meet personal care independence standards before enrolling in public school;
- creates exemptions from enrollment requirements for students with qualifying conditions;
- directs the State Board of Education to develop open educational resources aligned with Utah core standards;
- provides for reporting on curriculum development and implementation;
- establishes an additional conditional use of the Public Education Economic Stabilization Restricted Account; and
- makes conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53F-9-204, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 413, 433

53G-7-203, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 394

ENACTS:

53E-4-409, Utah Code Annotated 1953

53G-7-228, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **53E-4-409** is enacted to read:

31 **53E-4-409 . Open educational resources -- Development and implementation.**

32 **(1) As used in this section:**

33 **(a) "Open educational resources" means teaching, learning, and research materials that**
34 **are in the public domain or released under an open license that permits free use,**
35 **adaptation, and distribution.**

36 **(b) "Utah core standards" means the standards described in Section 53E-4-202.**

37 **(2) Notwithstanding any other provision in this part, and subject to legislative**
38 **appropriation, the state board shall:**

39 **(a) contract with one or more qualified entities to develop comprehensive open**
40 **educational resources for elementary grades that:**

- 41 **(i) align with Utah core standards;**
- 42 **(ii) meet the instructional needs of students in kindergarten through grade 8 suitable**
43 **for the age of students at the grade level for which the materials are developed;**
- 44 **(iii) reflect Utah values and priorities;**
- 45 **(iv) provide accessibility to students with disabilities in compliance with federal and**
46 **state law; and**
- 47 **(v) are available in digital and, where appropriate, print formats;**

48 **(b) ensure the open educational resources include:**

- 49 **(i) comprehensive instructional materials for all core subject areas;**
- 50 **(ii) teacher resources, including:**

 - 51 **(A) scopes and sequences;**
 - 52 **(B) topics by grade level;**
 - 53 **(C) text selection guides;**
 - 54 **(D) unit and lesson-level implementation guides;**
 - 55 **(E) daily lesson plans;**
 - 56 **(F) formative, interim, and summative assessments; and**
 - 57 **(G) professional development materials;**

58 **(iii) student materials and resources, including:**

- 59 **(A) student-facing instructional materials such as graphic organizers;**
- 60 **(B) guided practice materials;**
- 61 **(C) independent practice materials;**
- 62 **(D) digital learning resources;**
- 63 **(E) project and performance tasks; and**
- 64 **(F) other classroom supports; and**

65 (iv) implementation guides to support LEAs in the adoption and use of the materials;
66 (c) establish quality standards and review processes for materials developed under this
67 section;
68 (d) ensure that:
69 (i) the state owns all intellectual property rights, including copyright, in the open
70 educational resources developed under this section; and
71 (ii) the open educational resources are openly licensed under a Creative Commons
72 license or equivalent license to allow an LEA to use, adapt, customize, and
73 distribute the materials without charge; and
74 (e) make the open educational resources available through a centralized digital platform
75 accessible to all LEAs and the public.

76 (3) The state board shall ensure that the Instructional Materials Commission does not
77 review or approve the open educational resources developed under this section.

78 (4) In developing open educational resources under this section, the state board shall:
79 (a) consult with LEAs, teachers, curriculum specialists, and other education stakeholders;
80 (b) establish timelines for phased development and implementation;
81 (c) provide opportunities for pilot programs and field testing before statewide release;
82 and
83 (d) ensure ongoing review and updates to maintain alignment with Utah core standards
84 and educational best practices.

85 (5) The state board may not require an LEA to adopt or use the open educational resources
86 developed under this section.

87 (6) The state board shall:
88 (a) make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
89 Rulemaking Act, to:
90 (i) establish standards and procedures for contracting under this section;
91 (ii) establish quality standards and suitability rubrics for open educational resources
92 developed under this section;
93 (iii) establish procedures for LEA access to and use of the open educational
94 resources; and
95 (iv) establish procedures for ongoing review, updates, and maintenance of the open
96 educational resources;

97 (b) upon request, report to the Education Interim Committee regarding:
98 (i) progress on curriculum development under this section, including timelines and

99 milestones;

100 (ii) expenditures from appropriations under this section;
101 (iii) LEA adoption and use of the open educational resources;
102 (iv) feedback from LEAs, teachers, and other stakeholders, including parents; and
103 (v) plans and progress for updates, maintenance, and expansion of the open
104 educational resources.

105 Section 2. Section **53F-9-204** is amended to read:

106 **53F-9-204 . Public Education Economic Stabilization Restricted Account.**

107 (1) There is created within the Uniform School Fund a restricted account known as the
108 "Public Education Economic Stabilization Restricted Account."
109 (2)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), the account shall be funded from the
110 following revenue sources:
111 (i) 15% of the difference between, as determined by the Office of the Legislative
112 Fiscal Analyst:
113 (A) the estimated amount of ongoing Income Tax Fund and Uniform School Fund
114 revenue available for the Legislature to appropriate for the next fiscal year; and
115 (B) the amount of ongoing appropriations from the Income Tax Fund and Uniform
116 School Fund in the current fiscal year; and
117 (ii) other appropriations as the Legislature may designate.
118 (b) If the appropriation described in Subsection (2)(a) would cause the ongoing
119 appropriations to the account to exceed 11% of Uniform School Fund appropriations
120 described in Section 53F-9-201.1 for the same fiscal year, the Legislature shall
121 appropriate only those funds necessary to ensure that the ongoing appropriations to
122 the account equal 11% of Uniform School Fund appropriations for that fiscal year.
123 (3) Subject to the availability of ongoing appropriations to the account, in accordance with
124 Utah Constitution, Article X, Section 5, Subsection (4), the ongoing appropriation to the
125 account shall be used to fund:
126 (a) except for a year described in Subsection (3)(b)[-or] ,(c), or (d), one-time
127 appropriations to the public education system, including at least \$65,000,000 to the
128 Catalyst Center Grant Program described in Section 53E-3-507.1;
129 (b) the Minimum School Program for a year in which Income Tax Fund revenue and
130 Uniform School Fund revenue are insufficient to fund:
131 (i) ongoing appropriations to the public education system; and
132 (ii) enrollment growth and inflation estimates, as defined in Section 53F-9-201.1; [and]

133 (c) the Minimum School Program for a year in which changes in federal tax policy cause
134 Income Tax Fund revenue to decrease by an amount equal to or greater than the
135 amount required to fund enrollment growth and inflation estimates, as defined in
136 Section 53F-9-201.1; or

137 [e] (d) the minimum basic local amount as defined in Section 53F-2-301 for a year in
138 which the minimum basic tax rate, as defined in Section 53F-2-301, is insufficient to
139 generate the amount described in Subsection 53F-2-301(2)(a).

140 (4)(a) The account shall earn interest.

141 (b) All interest earned on account money shall be deposited in the account.

142 (5) On or before December 31, 2023, and every three years thereafter, the Office of the
143 Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall:

144 (a) review the percentages described in Subsections (2)(a)(i) and (2)(b); and

145 (b) recommend to the Executive Appropriations Committee any changes based on the
146 review described in Subsection (5)(a).

147 (6) In preparing budget bills for a given fiscal year, the Executive Appropriations
148 Committee shall make the one-time appropriations described in Subsection (3)(a) by
149 appropriating at least the lesser of 10% of the total amount of the one-time
150 appropriations to:

151 (a) the cost of providing 32 paid professional hours for teachers in accordance with
152 Section 53F-7-203;

153 (b) the amount to make the distribution required under Section 53F-2-527;

154 (c) the cost of the Stipends for Future Educators Grant Program described in Section
155 53F-5-223; and

156 (d) the cost of the Rural School Sports Facilities Grant Program described in Section
157 53F-10-303.

158 (7) No later than October 15 of each year, the state board shall report to the Office of the
159 Legislative Fiscal Analyst an estimated cost for each of the one-time appropriations
160 described in Subsection (6).

161 Section 3. Section **53G-7-203** is amended to read:

162 **53G-7-203 . Kindergartens -- Establishment -- Funding -- Assessment.**

163 (1) Kindergartens are an integral part of the state's public education system.

164 (2)(a) Each LEA governing board shall provide kindergarten classes free of charge for
165 kindergarten children residing within the district or attending [the] a charter school.

166 (b) Each LEA governing board shall:

167 (i) provide a half-day kindergarten option for a student that comprises the minimum
168 standards for half-day kindergarten that the state board establishes, in accordance
169 with Subsection (4)(a)(iii), if the student's parent requests a half-day option; [and]
170 (ii)(A) inform parents of the availability of the option to register for a designated
171 full-curriculum half-day kindergarten option at the time of all kindergarten
172 registration, by email, posters, or other announcements when a parent requests
173 kindergarten registration; and
174 (B) provide the option to register for a designated half-day kindergarten option at
175 the time of registration;
176 (iii) provide a dedicated kindergarten class specifically designated as a half-day
177 kindergarten class when enrollment of half-day kindergarten students at an
178 individual school or a regional school exceeds a minimum of 18 students;
179 (iv) when enrollment of half-day kindergarten students at an individual school
180 exceeds a minimum of 18 students, designate the school as a half-day
181 kindergarten provider for the improvement of recruiting teachers that prefer
182 half-day teaching;
183 (v) inform parents regarding the additional educational resources and opportunities
184 available to parents who select the half-day kindergarten option; and
185 (vi) ensure that a half-day kindergarten student who is registered in a class that
186 includes full-day kindergarten students receives instruction that at least meets the
187 minimum standards for half-day kindergarten that the state board establishes, in
188 accordance with Subsection (4)(a)(iii).

189 (c) Nothing in this Subsection (2):

190 (i) allows an LEA governing board to require a student to participate in a full-day
191 kindergarten program;
192 (ii) modifies the non-compulsory status of kindergarten under Chapter 6, Part 2,
193 Compulsory Education; or
194 (iii) requires a student who only attends a half day of kindergarten to participate in
195 dual enrollment under Section 53G-6-702.

196 (3) Kindergartens established under Subsection (2) shall receive state money under Title
197 53F, Public Education System -- Funding.

198 (4)(a) The state board shall:

199 (i) develop and collect data from a kindergarten assessment that the board selects by
200 rule;

- (ii) make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, regarding the administration of and reporting regarding the assessment described in Subsection (4)(a)(i); and
- (iii) establish minimum standards for half-day kindergarten.

(b) An LEA shall:

- (i) administer the assessment described in Subsection (4)(a) to each kindergarten student; and
- (ii) report to the state board the results of the assessment described in Subsection (4)(b)(i) in relation to each kindergarten student in the LEA.

Section 4. Section **53G-7-228** is enacted to read:

53G-7-228 . Personal care independence standards -- School enrollment.

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

- (1) beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, require a student to demonstrate personal care independence by being toilet trained before being enrolled in a public school;
- (2) establish requirements for an LEA's enrollment process to include assurances from a parent that the parent's student meets the personal care independence requirements described in Subsection (1); and
- (3) create exemptions from the requirement in Subsection (1) for a student who is not able to meet personal care independence requirements because of a condition that is subject

235 to federal child find requirements found in Section 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(3), Individuals
236 with Disabilities Education Act, and 34 C.F.R. Sec. 300.111 or described in an IEP or
237 Section 504 accommodation plan.

238 **Section 5. Effective Date.**

239 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.