



HB 273

Civics Education Amendments

(Rep. Dan Johnson)

SUMMARY

This bill creates the **Local Innovations Civic Education Pilot Program** to support innovative, evidence-based approaches to civic teaching and learning. HB 273 will clarify what works and provide a structure and process for LEAs and schools to learn from one another. It is a top priority for the HCR 15 (*Concurrent Resolution Emphasizing the Importance of Civics Education*) workgroup formed in 2021.

MEASURING OUTCOMES

HB 273 specifies that innovations must be evidence informed and based first and foremost on a strong foundation of civic knowledge. Qualitative and quantitative data about student knowledge and civics dispositions will inform next steps after the pilot.

THE OVERALL GOAL

HB 273 will test the effectiveness of different approaches to preparing youth for civic life and identify institutional barriers to innovation in civic teaching and learning.

With HB 273, Utah can take a giant step towards building the strongest civics and history instruction in the nation.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will this program work?

LEAs or schools from urban, suburban, and rural Utah will be invited to submit proposals to undertake a new initiative or take a proven approach to scale.

What approach qualifies for funding?

To qualify, an initiative must be aligned with one or more state civic learning standards and grounded in proven practices, including:

- promoting responsibility for preserving the blessings of liberty secured by the Constitution
- building confidence in the foundations of American democracy
- building civic skills and dispositions
- teaching media literacy and digital citizenship
- promoting informed participation in civic life through academic service learning

What kinds of projects could HB273 support?

See the UCLC's "[Civics Ideas & Innovations that May Be Supported by HB 273](#)." Most of the ideas came from our listening tours around Utah.

The bottom line: The appetite to go deeper on civic teaching and learning is truly unprecedented; but teachers, schools, and school districts need resources and direction to take worthy ideas to scale.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION...

HB 273 is a top priority for the HCR 15 Workgroup and in a recent [Utah Civic Learning Collaborative stakeholder survey](#). It passed the House 69-0 and has been referred to the Senate for further action.