



# Inmate Education Amendments

A Policy Summary | January 29, 2023

## Policies included in H.B. 203 1<sup>st</sup> Substitute

- Directs the Higher Education and Corrections Council to facilitate postsecondary education for inmates housed in county jails.
- Directs the Utah Board of Higher Education to assign student success advisors to correctional facilities.
- Removes the requirement that an inmate pay 50% of tuition at the time of enrollment.
- Requires an institute of higher education to consider an inmate a state resident for tuition purposes.
- Directs the Department of Corrections to establish a pilot program to house inmates participating in postsecondary certificate or degree programs in common residential units.
  - The pilot program would begin on July 1, 2023, and end on June 30, 2025.
  - The program requirements include flexibility for the DOC to provide exceptions for “security or medical concerns.”
  - The Department of Corrections will be required to provide a report on the pilot program to the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee before November 30, 2024.
- Requires the Department of Corrections to publish a notice on their website informing an individual depositing money into an inmate’s account that a process exists for the depositing individual to review the inmate’s financial records.
- Requires the Department of Corrections to provide access to “modern technology” for inmates enrolled in an educational or career-readiness program.
  - The definition of “modern technology” is determined by the provider of the program.
- Requires the department of Corrections to provide a tablet to each inmate that is eligible to receive a tablet under established security policies.
  - The tablets must be available for use in the inmate’s cell or common area.
  - The tablets must be capable of:
    1. Communicating with individuals outside the correctional facility through voice and text message.
    2. Assisting the inmate in the inmate’s education.
    3. Providing digital literacy education.
- Requires the Department of Correction to assist an inmate in applying for jobs within 30 days before the day on which the inmate is released from the department’s custody.