

**Statewide Online Education Program Modifications**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor:**

---

**LONG TITLE****General Description:**

This bill amends the small school portion of the Statewide Online Education Program.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- requires the state board to establish funding priorities;
- creates an annual assessment process for school needs;
- provides for a report to the Education Interim Committee; and
- makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

This bill contains a special effective date.

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**53F-4-518**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 24

---

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

Section 1. Section **53F-4-518** is amended to read:

**53F-4-518 . Small school student access to courses.**

Subject to legislative appropriations and Subsection 53F-4-514(2), and notwithstanding Subsections 53F-4-509(2) and (3), the state board shall:

- (1) use funds from an appropriation for the Statewide Online Education Program to pay for an online course fee described in Section 53F-4-505 for a student who is enrolled in a public high school that enrolls fewer than 1,000 students; ~~and~~
- (2) after the funds described in Subsection (1) have been expended, make a deduction as described in Subsection 53F-4-507(3)[-] ;
- (3) establish a prioritized funding distribution system that evaluates and ranks schools based on:

(a) the school's demonstrated inability to provide courses, including Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or Concurrent Enrollment due to:

(i) insufficient student enrollment to justify full course sections;

(ii) geographic isolation from qualified instructors;

(iii) limited staff capacity to teach courses; or

(iv) financial constraints in hiring qualified instructors; and

(b) the school's current access to college and career readiness programming;

(4) develop an annual assessment process to:

(a) identify schools with the highest demonstrated need based on the criteria in Subsection (3); and

(b) adjust funding priorities based on program outcomes;

(5) establish reporting requirements for recipient schools to:

(a) document the use of allocated funds;

(b) track student participation in online courses;

(c) measure student achievement in funded courses; and

(d) demonstrate ongoing need for continued funding; and

(6) at the request of the Education Interim Committee, submit a report that includes:

(a) a list of schools receiving prioritized funding;

(b) the basis for funding prioritization;

(c) student participation and achievement data; and

(d) recommendations for program improvement.

**Section 2. Effective Date.**

This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.