

Heard in the Health and Human Services  
Interim Committee on 11/19/2025

1 **Gold Medal Schools Pilot Program**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor:**

Sponsor:

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2 **LONG TITLE**

3 **General Description:**

4 This bill creates the Gold Medal Schools Pilot Program.

5 **Highlighted Provisions:**

6 This bill:

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- 8 ▶ defines terms;
- 9 ▶ creates a three-year pilot program;
- 10 ▶ requires the State Board of Education to administer the program;
- 11 ▶ creates a reporting requirement;
- 12 ▶ creates a sunset for the program; and
- 13 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

14 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

15 None

16 **Other Special Clauses:**

17 This bill provides a special effective date.

18 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

19 **AMENDS:**

20 **53E-1-201 (Effective 07/01/26) (Partially Repealed 07/01/27)**, as last amended by Laws  
21 of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 9

22 **63I-1-253 (Effective 07/01/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special  
23 Session, Chapter 9

24 **ENACTS:**

25 **53F-5-224 (Effective 07/01/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

28 Section 1. Section **53E-1-201** is amended to read:

29 **53E-1-201 (Effective 07/01/26) (Partially Repealed 07/01/27). Reports to and**  
30 **action required of the Education Interim Committee.**

31 (1) In accordance with applicable provisions and Section 68-3-14, the following recurring  
32 reports are due to the Education Interim Committee:

33 (a) the report described in Section 9-22-109 by the STEM Action Center Board,  
34 including the information described in Section 9-22-113 on the status of the computer  
35 science initiative and Section 9-22-114 on the Computing Partnerships Grants  
36 Program;

37 (b) the prioritized list of data research described in Section 53H-15-303 and the report  
38 on research and activities described in Section 53H-15-305 by the Utah Data  
39 Research Center;

40 (c) the report described in Section 53H-1-203 by the Utah Board of Higher Education on  
41 career and technical education issues and addressing workforce needs;

42 (d) the annual report of the Utah Board of Higher Education described in Section  
43 53H-1-203;

44 (e) the reports described in Section 53H-7-603 by the Utah Board of Higher Education  
45 regarding activities related to campus safety;

46 (f) the State Superintendent's Annual Report by the state board described in Section  
47 53E-1-203;

48 (g) the annual report described in Section 53E-2-202 by the state board on the strategic  
49 plan to improve student outcomes;

50 (h) the report described in Section 53E-3-501 by the state board on students in an LEA  
51 who receive academic credit through the packet method;

52 (i) the report described in Section 53E-8-204 by the state board on the Utah Schools for  
53 the Deaf and the Blind;

54 (j) the report described in Section 53E-10-703 by the Utah Leading through Effective,  
55 Actionable, and Dynamic Education director on research and other activities;

56 (k) the report described in Section 53F-2-522 regarding mental health screening  
57 programs;

58 (l) the report described in Section 53F-4-203 by the state board and the independent  
59 evaluator on an evaluation of early interactive reading software;

60 (m) the report described in Section 53F-6-412 by the program manager of the Utah Fits  
61 All Scholarship Program;

62 (n) the report described in Section 63N-20-107 by the Governor's Office of Economic  
63 Opportunity on UPSTART;

64 (o) the report described in Section 53F-5-215 by the state board related to a grant for an

elementary teacher preparation assessment;

(p) upon request, the report described in Section 53F-5-219 by the state board on the Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program;

(q) the report described in Section 53F-5-405 by the state board regarding an evaluation of a partnership that receives a grant to improve educational outcomes for students who are low-income;

(r) the report described in Section 53H-1-604 regarding the Higher Education and Corrections Council;

(s) the report described in Section 53G-7-221 by the state board regarding innovation plans; and

(t) the reports described in Section 53F-6-412 regarding the Utah Fits All Scholarship Program.

) In accordance with applicable provisions and Section 68-3-14, the following occasional reports are due to the Education Interim Committee:

(a) in 2027, 2030, 2033, and 2035, the reports described in Sections 53H-1-502, 53H-1-503, and 53H-1-504;

(b) in 2025, the report described in Section 53H-6-203 by a degree-granting institution regarding policies on abusive coaching practices;

(c) if required, the report described in Section 53E-4-309 by the state board explaining the reasons for changing the grade level specification for the administration of specific assessments;

(d) if required, the report described in Section 53E-5-210 by the state board of an adjustment to the minimum level that demonstrates proficiency for each statewide assessment;

(e) the report described in Section 53E-10-702 by Utah Leading through Effective, Actionable, and Dynamic Education;

(f) if required, the report described in Section 53F-2-513 by the state board evaluating the effects of salary bonuses on the recruitment and retention of effective teachers in high-poverty schools;

(g) upon request, the report described in Section 53F-5-224 by the state board regarding implementation, progress, and health outcomes of the Gold Medal Schools Pilot Program;

[(g)] (h) upon request, the report described in Section 53F-10-303 by the state board regarding the Rural School Sports Facilities Grant Program;

99 [§(h)] (i) upon request, a report described in Section 53G-7-222 by an LEA regarding  
100 expenditure of a percentage of state restricted funds to support an innovative  
101 education program;  
102 [§(i)] (j) the reports described in Section 53G-11-304 by the state board regarding  
103 proposed rules and results related to educator exit surveys; and  
104 [§(j)] (k) the report described in Section 26B-5-113 by the Office of Substance Use and  
105 Mental Health, the state board, and the Department of Health and Human Services  
106 regarding recommendations related to Medicaid reimbursement for school-based  
107 health services.

108 (3) In accordance with applicable provisions and Section 68-3-14, every five years the  
109 Education Interim Committee shall review the programs described in the following  
110 sections of code:  
111 (a) beginning July 1, 2027, Title 53E, Chapter 10, Part 3, Concurrent Enrollment;  
112 (b) beginning July 1, 2027, Section 53F-2-408, Enhancement for Accelerated Students  
113 Program;  
114 (c) beginning July 1, 2027, Section 53F-2-409, Concurrent enrollment funding;  
115 (d) beginning July 1, 2027, Section 53F-2-415, Student health and counseling support --  
116 Qualifying personnel -- Distribution formula -- Rulemaking;  
117 (e) beginning July 1, 2028, Section 53F-2-416, Appropriation and distribution for the  
118 Teacher and Student Success Program;  
119 (f) beginning July 1, 2028, Section 53F-2-510, Digital Teaching and Learning Grant  
120 Program;  
121 (g) beginning July 1, 2028, Section 53F-9-306, Teacher and Student Success Account;  
122 (h) beginning July 1, 2028, Title 53G, Chapter 7, Part 13, Teacher and Student Success  
123 Program; and  
124 (i) beginning July 1, 2029, Section 53F-2-502, Dual language immersion.

125 Section 2. Section **53F-5-224** is enacted to read:

126 **53F-5-224 (Effective 07/01/26). Gold Medal Schools Pilot Program.**

127 (1) As used in this section:

128 (a) "Eligible school" means an elementary school that:  
129 (i) provides instruction to students in grades kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6; and  
130 (ii) is located in a county of the fourth, fifth, or sixth class as defined in Section  
131 17-60-104.  
132 (b) "Gold medal recognition award" means recognition through a certificate the state

133 board awards to an eligible school that meets the physical education criteria the state  
134 board establishes under this section.

135 (c) "Program" means the Gold Medal Schools Pilot Program created in Subsection (2).

136 (2) There is created a three-year pilot program, known as the Gold Medal Schools Pilot  
137 Program, to provide funding to an eligible school to promote healthy physical lifestyle  
138 choices by students in an eligible school and improve the physical education, physical  
139 activity, and nutrition of a student by:

140 (a) encouraging a student to engage in regular physical activity;

141 (b) promoting healthy eating habits and food choices in an eligible school; and

142 (c) creating school policies that support lifelong health and wellness for students.

143 (3) The state board shall, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative  
144 Rulemaking Act, make rules to:

145 (a) establish physical education criteria for a participating, eligible school, including  
146 criteria for earning a gold medal recognition award, that:

147 (i) achieve the purpose of the program as described in Subsection (2); and

148 (ii) apply alternate criteria to a student with a physical limitation;

149 (b) select up to 50 eligible schools to participate in the program for three years,  
150 prioritizing schools that:

151 (i) demonstrate the greatest need for health improvement;

152 (ii) submit an application in accordance with Subsection (4) that outlines measurable  
153 health goals and evidence-based strategies; and

154 (iii) establish partnerships with local entities to support student health and wellness;

155 (c) subject to legislative appropriations, award \$5,000 in program funds to an eligible  
156 school:

157 (i) that meets the physical education criteria the state board establishes; and

158 (ii) in accordance with the requirements of this section;

159 (d) create an application process for an eligible school to participate in the program;

160 (e) establish limitations on eligible school use of funds an eligible school receives  
161 through the program that emphasize physical activity and healthy eating habits;

162 (f) begin program implementation for the 2027-28 school year;

163 (g) grant a participating eligible school autonomy to implement the program in  
164 accordance with local needs and resources; and

165 (h) establish a system to distribute program funds to the participating eligible school,  
166 including a percentage cap for an eligible school's administration of the program.

167 (4)(a) An eligible school may submit an application to participate in the program.

168 (b) In the eligible school's application, the eligible school shall:

169 (i) describe how the eligible school will implement the program's objectives; and

170 (ii) outline measurable goals aligned with the program's purpose.

171 (c) An eligible school that the state board selects to participate in the program shall, at

172 the conclusion of each school year, submit a report to the state board demonstrating

173 whether the school has met the physical education criteria the state board establishes

174 for the program.

175 (5) An eligible school that participates in the Presidential Fitness Test, reestablished under

176 Executive Order 14327, satisfies the requirements for participation in the program.

177 (6) An eligible school that participates in the program may only use program funds to

178 achieve the purposes described in Subsection (2).

179 (7) The state board may use up to 6.25% of the money appropriated for the purposes

180 described in this section for administrative costs of the state board.

181 (8) Upon request of the Education Interim Committee or the Health and Human Services

182 Interim Committee, the state board shall report to the Education Interim Committee or

183 the Health and Human Services Interim Committee on:

184 (a) the implementation of the program; and

185 (b) the program's progress and health outcomes.

186 Section 3. Section **63I-1-253** is amended to read:

187 **63I-1-253 (Effective 07/01/26). Repeal dates: Titles 53 through 53G.**

188 (1) Section 53-1-122, Road Rage Awareness and Prevention Restricted Account, is

189 repealed July 1, 2028.

190 (2) Section 53-2a-105, Emergency Management Administration Council created --

191 Function -- Composition -- Expenses, is repealed July 1, 2029.

192 (3) Section 53-2a-1103, Search and Rescue Advisory Board -- Members -- Compensation,

193 is repealed July 1, 2030.

194 (4) Section 53-2a-1104, General duties of the Search and Rescue Advisory Board, is

195 repealed July 1, 2027.

196 (5) Title 53, Chapter 2a, Part 15, Grid Resilience Committee, is repealed July 1, 2027.

197 (6) Section 53-2d-104, State Emergency Medical Services Committee -- Membership --

198 Expenses, is repealed July 1, 2029.

199 (7) Section 53-2d-503, Establishment of maximum rates, is repealed July 1, 2027.

200 (8) Section 53-5a-302, Concealed Firearm Review Board -- Membership -- Compensation

201 -- Terms -- Duties, is repealed July 1, 2029.

202 (9) Section 53-11-104, Board, is repealed July 1, 2029.

203 (10) Title 53, Chapter 31, Department Interaction With Local Law Enforcement, is repealed

204 July 1, 2027.

205 (11) Subsection 53C-3-203(4)(b)(vii), regarding the distribution of money from the Land

206 Exchange Distribution Account to the Geological Survey for test wells and other

207 hydrologic studies in the West Desert, is repealed July 1, 2030.

208 (12) Subsection 53E-1-201(1)(q), regarding the Higher Education and Corrections Council,

209 is repealed July 1, 2027.

210 (13) Subsection 53E-2-304(6), regarding foreclosing a private right of action or waiver of

211 governmental immunity, is repealed July 1, 2027.

212 (14) Subsection 53E-3-503(5), regarding coordinating councils for youth in care, is

213 repealed July 1, 2027.

214 (15) Subsection 53E-3-503(6), regarding coordinating councils for youth in care, is

215 repealed July 1, 2027.

216 (16) Subsection 53E-4-202(8)(b), regarding a standards review committee, is repealed

217 January 1, 2028.

218 (17) Section 53E-4-203, Standards review committee, is repealed January 1, 2028.

219 (18) Title 53E, Chapter 6, Part 5, Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission, is

220 repealed July 1, 2033.

221 (19) Subsection 53E-7-207(7), regarding a private right of action or waiver of governmental

222 immunity, is repealed July 1, 2027.

223 (20) Section 53F-5-215, Elementary teacher preparation assessment grant, is repealed July

224 1, 2028.

225 (21) Section 53F-5-219, Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program, is repealed July

226 1, 2026.

227 (22) Section 53F-5-224, Gold Medal Schools Pilot Program, is repealed July 1, 2029.

228 [(22)] (23) Title 53F, Chapter 10, Part 2, Capital Projects Evaluation Panel, is repealed July

229 1, 2027.

230 [(23)] (24) Subsection 53G-4-608(2)(b), regarding the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, is

231 repealed January 1, 2025.

232 [(24)] (25) Subsection 53G-4-608(4)(b), regarding the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, is

233 repealed January 1, 2025.

234 [(25)] (26) Section 53G-9-212, Drinking water quality in schools, is repealed July 1, 2027.

235 [26] (27) Subsection 53G-9-703(4), regarding the parental video presentation concerning  
236 student use of technology, is repealed January 1, 2030.

237 [27] (28) Subsection 53H-1-402(1)(j), regarding the Higher Education and Corrections  
238 Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.

239 [28] (29) Section 53H-1-604, Higher Education and Corrections Council, is repealed July  
240 1, 2027.

241 [29] (30) Subsection 53H-4-210(3), regarding the creation of the SafeUT and School  
242 Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

243 [30] (31) Subsection 53H-4-210(4), regarding the appointment of the members of the  
244 SafeUT and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

245 [31] (32) Subsection 53H-4-210(5), regarding the attorney general designating the chair of  
246 the SafeUT and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

247 [32] (33) Subsection 53H-4-210(6), regarding the quorum requirements of the SafeUT and  
248 School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

249 [33] (34) Subsection 53H-4-210(7), regarding a formal action of the SafeUT and School  
250 Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

251 [34] (35) Subsection 53H-4-210(8), regarding compensation for members of the SafeUT  
252 and School Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

253 [35] (36) Subsection 53H-4-210(9), regarding the support staff for the SafeUT and School  
254 Safety Commission, is repealed January 1, 2030.

255 [36] (37) Section 53H-4-306.1, Definitions -- Electrification of Transportation  
256 Infrastructure Research Center, is repealed July 1, 2028.

257 [37] (38) Section 53H-4-306.2, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research  
258 Center -- Designation -- Duties, is repealed July 1, 2028.

259 [38] (39) Section 53H-4-306.3, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research  
260 Center -- Steering committee, is repealed July 1, 2028.

261 [39] (40) Section 53H-4-306.4, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research  
262 Center -- Industry advisory board, is repealed July 1, 2028.

263 [40] (41) Section 53H-4-306.5, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research  
264 Center -- Duties of the project director, is repealed July 1, 2028.

265 [41] (42) Section 53H-4-306.6, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research  
266 Center -- Project development and strategic objectives -- Reporting requirements, is  
267 repealed July 1, 2028.

268 [42] (43) Section 53H-4-307.1, Center for Civic Excellence, is repealed July 1, 2030.

269 [43] (44) Section 53H-4-307.2, Center for Civic Excellence -- Duties -- Authority, is  
270 repealed July 1, 2030.

271 [44] (45) Section 53H-4-307.3, Center for Civic Excellence -- Leadership, is repealed July  
272 1, 2030.

273 [45] (46) Section 53H-4-307.4, Center for Civic Excellence -- Faculty, is repealed July 1,  
274 2030.

275 [46] (47) Section 53H-4-307.5, Center for Civic Excellence -- Curriculum, is repealed July  
276 1, 2030.

277 [47] (48) Section 53H-4-307.6, Center for Civic Excellence -- Oversight -- Reporting, is  
278 repealed July 1, 2030.

279 [48] (49) Section 53H-4-313, Food Security Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.

280 [49] (50) Section 53H-8-305, Five-year performance goals, is repealed July 1, 2027.

281 [50] (51) Title 53H, Chapter 10, Part 4, Education Savings Incentive Program, is repealed  
282 July 1, 2028.

283       **Section 4. Effective Date.**

284       This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.