

Effective 7/1/2026

53E-4-204 Standards and graduation requirements.

- (1) The state board shall establish rigorous core standards for Utah public schools and graduation requirements under Section 53E-3-501 for grades 9 through 12 that:
 - (a) are consistent with state law and federal regulations;
 - (b) use competency-based standards and assessments;
 - (c) include instruction that stresses general financial literacy from basic budgeting to financial investments, including bankruptcy education and a general financial literacy test-out option;
 - (d) include graduation requirements in language arts, mathematics, and science that exceed:
 - (i) 3.0 units in language arts including up to 0.5 units emphasizing verbal communication completed in a course or a school sponsored activity;
 - (ii) 2.0 units in mathematics; and
 - (iii) and 2.0 units in science;
 - (e) include a graduation requirement in social studies that is equal to or exceeds 3.5 units, including:
 - (i) at least 1.0 unit in American constitutional government and citizenship as described in Section 53E-4-205.2, consisting of two distinct semester courses that may not be duplicated to satisfy the requirement; and
 - (ii) at least 1.0 unit in United States history, consisting of two distinct semester courses that may not be duplicated to satisfy the requirement; and
 - (f) ensure up to 0.5 units of the 1.0 unit in American constitutional government and citizenship described in Subsection (1)(e)(i) may be earned by:
 - (i) completing a course or a school sponsored activity emphasizing verbal communication provided that a significant portion of the course or activity is dedicated to civic education, including:
 - (A) policy analysis;
 - (B) governmental systems; and
 - (C) civic engagement; or
 - (ii) participation in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps described in 10 U.S.C. Sec. 2031.
- (2) The state board shall establish competency-based standards and assessments for elective courses.
- (3) The state board shall study requiring all LEAs to issue a high school diploma to students who receive:
 - (a) an associate's degree with at least 60 credit hours from an accredited post-secondary institution; or
 - (b) an industry certification with at least 500 hours of instruction from a business, trade association, or other industry group in accordance with Section 53E-3-501.

Amended by Chapter 413, 2026 General Session