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**ENGLISH IMMERSION PROGRAMS IN  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

2000 GENERAL SESSION  
STATE OF UTAH

**Sponsor: Michael R. Styler**

AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; REQUIRING LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO IMPLEMENT ENGLISH IMMERSION PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WHO ENROLL IN THEIR DISTRICTS FOR THE FIRST TIME AND DO NOT SPEAK, READ, OR WRITE THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AT THE TIME OF ENROLLMENT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This act affects sections of Utah Code Annotated 1953 as follows:

ENACTS:

**53A-13-108**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **53A-13-108** is enacted to read:

**53A-13-108. English immersion classes.**

(1) Each local school board shall implement an English immersion program for students who:

- (a) enroll in the school district for the first time; and
- (b) do not speak, read, or write the English language at the time of enrollment.

(2) A student shall spend at least one full school year in the program, unless the director of the program or the director's designee, in consultation with the student and the student's parent, determines that the student has sufficiently mastered the skills required by the program prior to the year's end.

(3) (a) The State Board of Education shall:

(i) provide a model English immersion program, which a local board may use to satisfy the requirement established in Subsection (1); and

28            (ii) monitor each school district's English immersion program.  
29            (b) The state superintendent of public instruction shall include in the annual report  
30 required under Subsection 53A-1-301(2)(d) information on the status and progress of each school  
31 district's English immersion program.  
32            (4) In accordance with Title 63, Chapter 46a, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the  
33 State Board of Education may make rules that would allow a school district to combine age or  
34 grade levels in implementing its English immersion program, most particularly in the rural areas  
35 of the state.  
36            Section 2. **Effective date.**  
37            This act takes effect on July 1, 2000.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
**as of 12-2-99 1:35 PM**

A limited legal review of this legislation raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns.

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**