

Senator Bill Wright proposes the following substitute bill:

CORE CURRICULUM AMENDMENTS

2003 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: Bill Wright

This act modifies the State System of Public Education Code by requiring the core curriculum to include phonics, spelling, and basic computational skills.

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

AMENDS:

53A-1-402.6, as last amended by Chapters 299 and 324, Laws of Utah 2002

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

Section 1. Section **53A-1-402.6** is amended to read:

53A-1-402.6. Core curriculum.

(1) In establishing minimum standards related to curriculum and instruction requirements under Section 53A-1-402, the State Board of Education shall, in consultation with local school boards, school superintendents, teachers, and parents define and establish a core curriculum.

(2) The board shall:

(a) include in its definition an identification of the basic knowledge, skills, and competencies each student is expected to acquire or master as the student advances through the public education system; and

(b) align the core curriculum and tests administered under the Utah Performance Assessment System for Students (U-PASS) with each other.

(3) The basic knowledge, skills, and competencies identified pursuant to Subsection (2)(a) shall increase in depth and complexity from year to year and focus on consistent and continual progress in the core academic areas of:



26 (a) English, including phonics, spelling, grammar, reading, writing, vocabulary, and
27 speech;

28 (b) mathematics, including basic computational skills; and

29 (c) science.

30 [~~(3)~~] (4) Local school boards shall design their school programs to focus on the core
31 curriculum with the expectation that each program will enhance or help achieve mastery of the
32 core curriculum.

33 [~~(4)~~] (5) Except as provided in Section 53A-13-101, each school may select
34 instructional materials and methods of teaching that it considers most appropriate to meet core
35 curriculum objectives.