

PUBLIC EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT AMENDMENTS

2011 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: LaVar Christensen

Senate Sponsor: Margaret Dayton

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions related to an annual report of civic and character education requirements to the Education Interim Committee.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- requires the State Board of Education to annually report to the Education Interim Committee the methods used to instruct and prepare students on how to become informed and responsible citizens through an integrated curriculum taught in connection with regular school work.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53A-13-109, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2004, Chapter 196

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

Section 1. Section **53A-13-109** is amended to read:

53A-13-109. Civic and character education -- Definitions -- Legislative finding -- Elements -- Annual report.

(1) As used in this section:

30 (a) "Character education" means reaffirming values and qualities of character which
31 promote an upright and desirable citizenry.

32 (b) "Civic education" means the cultivation of informed, responsible participation in
33 political life by competent citizens committed to the fundamental values and principles of
34 representative democracy in Utah and the United States.

35 (c) "Values" means time-established principles or standards of worth.

36 (2) The Legislature recognizes that:

37 (a) Civic and character education are fundamental elements of the public education
38 system's core mission as originally intended and established under Article X of the Utah
39 Constitution;

40 (b) Civic and character education are fundamental elements of the constitutional
41 responsibility of public education and shall be a continuing emphasis and focus in public
42 schools;

43 (c) the cultivation of a continuing understanding and appreciation of representative
44 democracy in Utah and the United States among succeeding generations of educated and
45 responsible citizens is important to the nation and state;

46 (d) the primary responsibility for the education of children within the state resides with
47 their parents or guardians and that the role of state and local governments is to support and
48 assist parents in fulfilling that responsibility;

49 (e) public schools fulfill a vital purpose in the preparation of succeeding generations of
50 informed and responsible citizens who are deeply attached to essential democratic values and
51 institutions; and

52 (f) the happiness and security of American society relies upon the public virtue of its
53 citizens which requires a united commitment to a moral social order where self-interests are
54 willingly subordinated to the greater common good.

55 (3) Through an integrated curriculum, students shall be taught in connection with
56 regular school work:

57 (a) honesty, integrity, morality, civility, duty, honor, service, and obedience to law;

58 (b) respect for and an understanding of the Declaration of Independence and the
59 constitutions of the United States and of the state of Utah;
60 (c) Utah history, including territorial and preterritorial development to the present;
61 (d) the essentials and benefits of the free enterprise system;
62 (e) respect for parents, home, and family;
63 (f) the dignity and necessity of honest labor; and
64 (g) other skills, habits, and qualities of character which will promote an upright and
65 desirable citizenry and better prepare students to recognize and accept responsibility for
66 preserving and defending the blessings of liberty inherited from prior generations and secured
67 by the constitution.

68 (4) Local school boards and school administrators may provide training, direction, and
69 encouragement, as needed, to accomplish the intent and requirements of this section and to
70 effectively emphasize civic and character education in the course of regular instruction in the
71 public schools.

72 (5) Civic and character education in public schools are:

73 (a) not intended to be separate programs in need of special funding or added specialists
74 to be accomplished; and

75 (b) core principles which reflect the shared values of the citizens of Utah and the
76 founding principles upon which representative democracy in the United States and the state of
77 Utah are based.

78 (6) Each year, the State Board of Education shall report to the Education Interim
79 Committee, on or before the October meeting, the methods used, and the results being
80 achieved, to instruct and prepare students to become informed and responsible citizens through
81 an integrated curriculum taught in connection with regular school work as required in this
82 section.