

EDUCATION ETHICS TRAINING REQUIREMENT

2015 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Joel K. Briscoe

Senate Sponsor: Brian E. Shiozawa

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill requires ~~H→ [a school employee]~~ certain school employees ←H to complete education ethics training.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

▶ defines terms;

▶ requires a local education agency (LEA) ~~H→ [or private school]~~ ~~S→ [and certain private schools]~~ ←S ←H to require new employees

~~H→ [and certain new volunteers]~~ ←H to complete an approved education ethics training course within one year of the day on which the employee ~~H→ [or volunteer]~~ ←H begins working at the LEA;

▶ requires an LEA ~~H→ [or private school]~~ ~~S→ [and certain private schools]~~ ←S ←H to require

employees ~~H→ [and certain volunteers]~~ ←H to

complete approved education ethics training on an ongoing basis; and

▶ provides for an LEA ~~H→ [or private school]~~ ~~S→ [and certain private schools]~~ ←S ←H to

approve certain education ethics training courses.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:



26 ENACTS:

27 [53A-3-410.5](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953

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29 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*30 Section 1. Section **53A-3-410.5** is enacted to read:31 **53A-3-410.5. Education ethics training requirement.**32 (1) As used in this section:33 (a) "Approved education ethics training" means an education ethics course that:34 (i) meets the education ethics training requirements described in Subsection (5);35 (ii) is approved by an LEA ~~§→ [or private school] ←§~~ in accordance with Subsection (2);35a and36 (iii) is offered online or in person.37 (b) "Local Education Agency" or "LEA" means:38 (i) a school district;39 (ii) a charter school; or40 (iii) the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.41 ~~§→ [(c) "Private school" means a school that:~~42 ~~(i) is not part of the public education system; and~~43 ~~(ii) enrolls scholarship students under Chapter 1a, Part 7, Carson Smith Scholarships~~44 ~~for Students with Special Needs Act.] ←§~~45 ~~§→ [(d) (c) ←§~~ "School employee" means ~~§→~~ [:46 ~~(i) ←§~~ an employee of an LEA ~~§→ [or private school] ←§~~ ~~§→~~ [: or47 ~~(ii) a volunteer for an LEA or private school who has significant unsupervised access~~48 ~~to a student in connection with the volunteer's assignment] ←§~~ .49 (2) An LEA ~~§→ [or private school] ←§~~ shall approve at least one education ethics training50 course that a school employee of the LEA ~~§→ [or private school] ←§~~ may take to meet the50a requirements51 described in Subsection (3).52 (3) Except as provided in Subsection (4), an LEA ~~§→ [or private school] ←§~~ shall require a

53 school employee to complete:

54 (a) one hour of approved education ethics training within one year after the day on55 which the school employee begins employment; and56 (b) two hours of approved education ethics training once every five years after the day57 on which the school employee begins employment.

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(4) (a) An employee hired before July 1, 2015, is not subject to Subsection (3)(a).

59 **(b) An LEA ~~→~~ [or private school] ← may exempt a school employee who worked at**
59a **another**
60 **LEA ~~→~~ [or private school] ← from the requirement described in Subsection (3)(a) if the**
60a **employee**
61 **fulfilled that requirement at the previous LEA ~~→~~ [or private school] ← .**

- 62 **(5) An LEA may approve an education ethics training course if:**
63 **(a) the education ethics training course covers one or more of the following topics:**
64 **(i) appropriate boundaries between a school employee and a student, a parent of a**
65 **student, or a colleague;**
66 **(ii) appropriate use of social media for a school employee;**
67 **(iii) general school employee rights and responsibilities related to ethics, including**
68 **state regulations and best practices; or**
69 **(iv) the Utah Educator Standards, described in State Board of Education rule; and**
70 **(b) one of the following entities offers the education ethics training course:**
71 **(i) the State Board of Education;**
72 **(ii) a private entity with significant experience or training in ethics best practices for**
73 **school employees;**
74 **(iii) a university or college pre-service teacher training program;**
75 **(iv) an LEA; or**
76 **(v) an education employee association.**

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Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

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