

SCHOOL GRADING AMENDMENTS

2015 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ann Millner

House Sponsor: Bradley G. Last

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions related to assigning a letter grade to a school based on the proficiency, learning gains, or college and career readiness of the school's students.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ exempts the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind from school grading;
- ▶ requires the State Board of Education to annually evaluate the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind in accordance with an accountability plan approved by the State Board of Education;
- ▶ provides an alternative grade distribution for the 2014-15 school year only;
- ▶ amends provisions related to calculating student growth; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53A-1-1102, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 403

53A-1-1104, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 403



28 [53A-1-1107.5](#), as enacted by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 403

29 [53A-1-1114](#), as enacted by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 403

30

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

32 Section 1. Section **53A-1-1102** is amended to read:

33 **53A-1-1102. Definitions.**

34 As used in this part:

35 (1) "Alternative school" means a school:

36 (a) established to serve youth who are not succeeding in a traditional school

37 environment; and

38 (b) designated as an alternative school by the State Board of Education.

39 (2) "Board" means the State Board of Education.

40 (3) "Combination school" means a school that includes:

41 (a) grade 12; and

42 (b) a grade lower than grade 7.

43 (4) "High school" means:

44 (a) a school that:

45 (i) includes grade 12; and

46 (ii) does not include any grade lower than grade 7; or

47 (b) grades 9 through 12 of a combination school.

48 (5) "Individualized education program" or "IEP" means a written statement, for a

49 student with a disability, that is developed, reviewed, and revised in accordance with the

50 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.

51 (6) "Statewide assessment" means a criterion-referenced test of student achievement in

52 language arts, mathematics, or science, including a test administered in a computer adaptive

53 format, which is administered statewide under Part 6, Achievement Tests.

54 (7) "Sufficient growth" means a student's scale score on a statewide assessment is

55 equal to or exceeds the student's growth target established pursuant to Section [53A-1-1107.5](#).

56 [~~(8) "Year 1" means the first year of two consecutive years in which a student takes a~~
57 ~~statewide assessment in the same subject.~~]

58 [~~(9) "Year 2" means the second year of two consecutive years in which a student takes~~

59 ~~a statewide assessment in the same subject.]~~

60 Section 2. Section **53A-1-1104** is amended to read:

61 **53A-1-1104. Schools included in grading system.**

62 (1) Except as provided in Subsections (2) through (5), a school that has students who
63 take statewide assessments shall receive a school grade.

64 (2) A school may not receive a school grade, if the number of a school's students tested
65 is less than the minimum sample size necessary, based on accepted professional practice for
66 statistical reliability or the prevention of the unlawful release of personally identifiable student
67 data under 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232h.

68 (3) (a) An alternative school ~~[is]~~ and the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind are
69 exempt from school grading.

70 (b) The board shall annually:

71 (i) evaluate an alternative school and the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind in
72 accordance with an accountability plan approved by the board; ~~[and]~~

73 (ii) report the results on a school report card~~[-];~~ and

74 (iii) electronically publish the school report card in the same manner and at the same
75 time as other school report cards under Section 53A-11-1112.

76 (c) The ~~[State Board of Education]~~ Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, a local
77 school board, and a charter school governing board shall provide to a parent or guardian ~~[a]~~ the
78 school report card ~~[for an alternative school and electronically publish the school report card in~~
79 ~~the same manner and at the same time as other school report cards are provided and published~~
80 ~~pursuant to Section 53A-11-1112]~~ described in Subsection (3)(b)(ii).

81 (4) The ~~[State Board of Education]~~ board shall exempt a school from school grading in
82 the school's first year of operations if the school's local school board or charter school
83 governing board requests the exemption.

84 (5) The ~~[State Board of Education]~~ board shall exempt a high school from school
85 grading or exempt a combination school from the school grading requirement described in
86 Subsection **53A-1-1104.5(2)** in the high school's or combination school's second year of
87 operations if the school's local school board or charter school governing board requests the
88 exemption.

89 Section 3. Section **53A-1-1107.5** is amended to read:

90 **53A-1-1107.5. Growth target established to determine whether a student**
91 **demonstrates sufficient growth in a subject.**

92 ~~[(1) (a) For the purpose of determining whether a student demonstrates sufficient~~
93 ~~growth in the 2013-14 school year in language arts, mathematics, or science as provided in~~
94 ~~Section 53A-1-1107, the board shall establish a growth target for a student for each statewide~~
95 ~~assessment the student takes.]~~

96 ~~[(b) A student demonstrates sufficient growth in the 2013-14 school year if the~~
97 ~~student's scale score on a statewide assessment administered in the 2013-14 school year is~~
98 ~~equal to or exceeds the growth target established pursuant to Subsections (1)(c) and (1)(d).]~~

99 ~~[(c) The board shall establish a 2013-14 growth target for each cohort of students with~~
100 ~~the same scale score on a particular statewide assessment in the 2012-13 school year.]~~

101 ~~[(d) (i) The board shall establish a 2013-14 growth target based on actual student~~
102 ~~growth in the 2011-12 school year as measured by statewide assessments administered at the~~
103 ~~end of the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years.]~~

104 ~~[(ii) Among a cohort of students with the same scale score on a particular statewide~~
105 ~~assessment in the 2010-11 school year, the scale score of the student who scores in the 2011-12~~
106 ~~school year, at a percentile determined by the board in rule, becomes the 2013-14 growth target~~
107 ~~for any student with a scale score in the 2012-13 school year that is the same as the cohort's~~
108 ~~scale score in the 2010-11 school year.]~~

109 ~~[(2) (a)]~~ (1) For the purpose of determining whether a student demonstrates sufficient
110 growth in the 2014-15 school year, or a succeeding school year, in language arts, mathematics,
111 or science as provided in Section 53A-1-1107, the board shall establish a [year-2] formula for a
112 growth target for a student for each statewide assessment the student takes.

113 ~~[(b)]~~ (2) A student demonstrates sufficient growth if the student's scale score on a
114 statewide assessment [~~in year-2~~] is equal to or exceeds the [~~year-2~~] student's growth target
115 established pursuant to Subsections [~~(2)(c)]~~ (3) and [~~(2)(d)]~~ (4).

116 ~~[(c)]~~ (3) The board shall establish a [~~year-2~~] formula for a growth target for each
117 [~~cohort of students with~~] student based on:

118 (a) the statewide cohort of students with the same scale score on a particular statewide
119 assessment [~~in year 1~~]; and

120 ~~[(d) (i) The board shall establish a year 2 growth target based on]~~

121 (b) actual student growth in the 2014-15 school year as measured by statewide
122 assessments administered at the end of the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years and for each
123 succeeding school year.

124 [~~(ii) Among a cohort of students with the same scale score on a particular statewide~~
125 ~~assessment in the 2013-14 school year, the scale score of the student who scores on a similar~~
126 ~~statewide assessment in the 2014-15 school year, at a percentile determined by the board in~~
127 ~~rule, becomes the year 2 growth target for statewide assessments administered in the 2014-15~~
128 ~~school year and succeeding years for any student with a year 1 scale score that is the same as~~
129 ~~the cohort's scale score in the 2013-14 school year.]~~

130 (4) The board shall report the growth target for each student as a targeted scale score,
131 as defined in board rule.

132 Section 4. Section **53A-1-1114** is amended to read:

133 **53A-1-1114. Exceptions applicable to determining school grades for the 2014-15**
134 **school year.**

135 [(+) Notwithstanding the requirements of [~~Subsection 53A-1-1102(7), Subsection~~
136 ~~53A-1-1103(4), Section 53A-1-1107.5,] Subsection 53A-1-1110(1)[, and Subsections~~
137 ~~53A-1-1112(5) through (7)], for the purposes of determining school grades for the [2013-14]
138 2014-15 school year, [when] as schools transition to a new assessment system[:], a school's
139 grade is based on the percentage of the maximum number of points the school may earn as
140 calculated under Section 53A-1-1109 as follows:~~

141 [~~(a) the State Board of Education is not required to create an alignment mapping of~~
142 ~~scale scores between assessments administered in the 2012-13 school year and those~~
143 ~~administered in the 2013-14 school year;]~~

144 [~~(b) the State Board of Education shall determine, by rule:]~~

145 [~~(i) how to measure growth of a school's students on statewide assessments of language~~
146 ~~arts, mathematics, and science achievement; and]~~

147 [~~(ii) a standard for sufficient growth;]~~

148 [~~(c) the State Board of Education may, by rule, adjust the percentage of the maximum~~
149 ~~number of points required to earn A through F letter grades; and]~~

150 [~~(d) the State Board of Education, school districts, and charter schools shall publish on~~
151 ~~their websites school grades for the 2013-14 school year on or before December 15, 2014.]~~

152 ~~[(2) (a) Before the State Board of Education adopts a rule pursuant to Subsection~~
153 ~~(1)(c), the board shall submit one or more proposals to the Executive Appropriations~~
154 ~~Committee to adjust the maximum number of points required to earn A through F letter grades~~
155 ~~for the 2013-14 school year.]~~

156 ~~[(b) For each proposal submitted to the Executive Appropriations Committee, the~~
157 ~~board shall model the projected distribution of schools earning each letter grade.]~~

158 ~~[(c) The Executive Appropriations Committee may:]~~

159 ~~[(i) recommend that the board adopt a proposal to adjust the maximum number of~~
160 ~~points required to earn A through F letter grades for the 2013-14 school year;]~~

161 ~~[(ii) recommend that the board modify a proposal to adjust the maximum number of~~
162 ~~points required to earn A through F letter grades for the 2013-14 school year; or]~~

163 ~~[(iii) recommend that no adjustment be made to the maximum number of points~~
164 ~~required to earn A through F letter grades for the 2013-14 school year.]~~

165 (1) for a school that is not a high school:

166 (a) A, 100%-64%;

167 (b) B, 63%-51%;

168 (c) C, 50%-39%;

169 (d) D, 38%-30%; and

170 (e) F, 30% or less; and

171 (2) for a high school:

172 (a) A, 100%-64%;

173 (b) B, 63%-51%;

174 (c) C, 50%-43%;

175 (d) D, 42%-40%; and

176 (e) F, 40% or less.

Legislative Review Note
as of 2-18-15 12:00 PM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel