

STUDENT ASSESSMENT MODIFICATIONS

2016 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Marie H. Poulson

Senate Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions related to student assessments.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ provides that a school district or charter school may waive certain assessment requirements for students in grade 11; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53A-1-603, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapters 258, 415, and 444

53A-1-611, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2013, Chapter 161

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

Section 1. Section **53A-1-603** is amended to read:

53A-1-603. Duties of State Board of Education.

(1) The State Board of Education shall:



28 (a) require ~~[each]~~ a school district ~~[and]~~ or charter school to implement the Utah
29 Performance Assessment System for Students~~[-hereafter referred to as U-PASS];~~

30 (b) require the state superintendent of public instruction to submit and recommend
31 criterion-referenced achievement tests or online computer adaptive tests, college readiness
32 assessments, an online writing assessment for grades 5 and 8, and a test for students in grade 3
33 to measure reading grade level to the board for approval and adoption and distribution to ~~[each]~~
34 a school district ~~[and]~~ or charter school by the state superintendent;

35 (c) develop an assessment method to uniformly measure statewide performance, school
36 district performance, and school performance of students in grades 3 through 12 in mastering
37 basic academic subjects; and

38 (d) provide for the state to participate in the National Assessment of Educational
39 Progress state-by-state comparison testing program.

40 (2) Except as provided in Subsection ~~[(3)]~~ (9) and Subsection 53A-1-611~~[(3)]~~(4), under
41 U-PASS, the State Board of Education shall annually require ~~[each]~~ a school district ~~[and]~~ or
42 charter school~~[-as applicable;]~~ to administer:

43 (a) as determined by the State Board of Education, statewide criterion-referenced tests
44 or online computer adaptive tests in grades 3 through 12 and courses in basic academic subjects
45 of the core standards for Utah public schools;

46 (b) an online writing assessment to all students in grades 5 and 8;

47 (c) college readiness assessments as detailed in Section 53A-1-611; and

48 (d) a test to all students in grade 3 to measure reading grade level.

49 (3) ~~[Beginning with the 2014-15 school year, the]~~ The State Board of Education shall
50 annually require ~~[each]~~ a school district ~~[and]~~ or charter school~~[-as applicable;]~~ to administer a
51 computer adaptive assessment system that is:

52 (a) adopted by the State Board of Education; and

53 (b) aligned to the core standards for Utah public schools.

54 (4) The board shall adopt rules for the conduct and administration of U-PASS to
55 include the following:

56 (a) the computation of student performance based on information that is disaggregated
57 with respect to race, ethnicity, gender, limited English proficiency, and those students who
58 qualify for free or reduced price school lunch;

59 (b) security features to maintain the integrity of the system, which [~~could~~] may include
60 statewide uniform testing dates, multiple test forms, and test administration protocols;

61 (c) the exemption of student test scores, by exemption category, such as limited
62 English proficiency, mobility, and students with disabilities, with the percent or number of
63 student test scores exempted being [~~publically~~] publicly reported at a district level;

64 (d) compiling of criterion-referenced, online computer adaptive, and online writing test
65 scores and test score averages at the classroom level to allow for:

66 (i) an annual review of those scores by parents of students and professional and other
67 appropriate staff at the classroom level at the earliest point in time;

68 (ii) the assessment of year-to-year student progress in specific classes, courses, and
69 subjects; and

70 (iii) a teacher to review, prior to the beginning of a new school year, test scores from
71 the previous school year of students who have been assigned to the teacher's class for the new
72 school year;

73 (e) allowing a school district or charter school to have its tests administered and scored
74 electronically to accelerate the review of test scores and their usefulness to parents and
75 educators under Subsection (4)(d), without violating the integrity of U-PASS; and

76 (f) providing that scores on the tests and assessments required under Subsection (2)(a)
77 and Subsection (3) may not be considered in determining:

78 (i) a student's academic grade for the appropriate course; or

79 (ii) whether a student may advance to the next grade level.

80 (5) (a) A school district or charter school [~~, as applicable, is encouraged to~~] may
81 administer an online writing assessment to students in grade 11.

82 (b) The State Board of Education may award a grant to a school district or charter
83 school to pay for an online writing assessment and instruction program that may be used to
84 assess the writing of students in grade 11.

85 (6) The State Board of Education shall make rules:

86 (a) establishing procedures for applying for and awarding money for computer adaptive
87 tests;

88 (b) specifying how money for computer adaptive tests shall be allocated among school
89 districts and charter schools that qualify to receive the money; and

90 (c) requiring reporting of the expenditure of money awarded for computer adaptive
91 testing and evidence that the money was used to implement computer adaptive testing.

92 (7) The State Board of Education shall assure that computer adaptive tests are
93 administered in compliance with the requirements of Chapter 13, Part 3, Utah Family
94 Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

95 (8) (a) The State Board of Education shall establish a committee consisting of 15
96 parents of Utah public education students to review all computer adaptive test questions.

97 (b) The committee established in Subsection (8)(a) shall include the following parent
98 members:

99 (i) five members appointed by the chair of the State Board of Education;

100 (ii) five members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives; and

101 (iii) five members appointed by the president of the Senate.

102 (c) The State Board of Education shall provide staff support to the parent committee.

103 (d) The term of office of each member appointed in Subsection (8)(b) is four years.

104 (e) The chair of the State Board of Education, the speaker of the House of
105 Representatives, and the president of the Senate shall adjust the length of terms to stagger the
106 terms of committee members so that approximately 1/2 of the committee members are
107 appointed every two years.

108 (f) No member may receive compensation or benefits for the member's service on the
109 committee.

110 (9) Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, for all students in grade 11, a school
111 district or charter school may waive the obligation to administer a test required under
112 Subsection (2)(a).

113 [~~9~~] (10) (a) School districts and charter schools shall require each licensed employee
114 to complete two hours of professional development on youth suicide prevention within their
115 license cycle in accordance with Section 53A-6-104.

116 (b) The State Board of Education shall develop or adopt sample materials to be used by
117 a school district or charter school for professional development training on youth suicide
118 prevention.

119 (c) The training required by this Subsection (9) shall be incorporated into professional
120 development training required by rule in accordance with Section 53A-6-104.

121 Section 2. Section 53A-1-611 is amended to read:

122 **53A-1-611. College readiness assessments.**

123 (1) The Legislature recognizes the need for the State Board of Education to develop
124 and implement standards and assessment processes to ensure that student progress is measured
125 and that school boards and school personnel are accountable.

126 (2) In addition to its responsibilities under Sections 53A-1-603 through 53A-1-605, the
127 State Board of Education shall:

128 (a) adopt college readiness assessments for secondary students; and

129 (b) require a school [~~districts and charter schools~~] district or charter school to
130 administer the college readiness assessments adopted by the State Board of Education
131 [~~beginning with the 2013-14 school year~~].

132 (3) [~~The~~] A college readiness [~~assessments~~] assessment adopted by the State Board of
133 Education:

134 (a) shall include the college admissions test that includes an assessment of language
135 arts, mathematics, and science that is most commonly submitted to local universities; and

136 (b) may include:

137 (i) the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery; and

138 (ii) a battery of assessments that are predictive of success in higher education.

139 (4) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(b), the State Board of Education shall
140 require a school [~~districts and charter schools~~] district or charter school to administer a test
141 adopted under Subsection (3)(a) to all students in grade 11.

142 (b) A student with an IEP may take an appropriate college readiness assessment other
143 than a test adopted by the State Board of Education under Subsection (3)(a), as determined by
144 the student's IEP.

145 [~~(5) The requirements of this section are to be complementary to the other achievement~~
146 ~~testing provisions of this part.~~]