

**SCHOOL TURNAROUND AND LEADERSHIP AMENDMENTS**

2018 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Bruce R. Cutler**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Cosponsor: Derrin R. Owens

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill amends provisions related to a turnaround expert selected by a local school board.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

▶ permits a local school board to select a turnaround expert that is a school district or an employee of a school district.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**53E-5-303**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 1

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

Section 1. Section **53E-5-303** is amended to read:

**53E-5-303. Required action to turn around a low performing district school.**



27 (1) In accordance with deadlines established by the board, a local school board of a low  
 28 performing school shall:

29 (a) establish a school turnaround committee composed of the following members:

30 (i) the local school board member who represents the voting district where the low  
 31 performing school is located;

32 (ii) the school principal;

33 (iii) three parents of students enrolled in the low performing school appointed by the  
 34 chair of the school community council;

35 (iv) one teacher at the low performing school appointed by the principal;

36 (v) one teacher at the low performing school appointed by the school district  
 37 superintendent; and

38 (vi) one school district administrator;

39 (b) solicit proposals from a turnaround expert identified by the board under Section  
 40 [53E-5-305](#);

41 (c) partner with the school turnaround committee to select a proposal;

42 (d) submit the proposal described in Subsection (1)(b) to the board for review and  
 43 approval; and

44 (e) subject to Subsections (3) and (4), contract with a turnaround expert.

45 (2) A proposal described in Subsection (1)(b) shall include a:

46 (a) strategy to address the root causes of the low performing school's low performance  
 47 identified through the needs assessment described in Section [53E-5-302](#); and

48 (b) scope of work to facilitate implementation of the strategy that includes at least the  
 49 activities described in Subsection (4)(b).

50 (3) A local school board may [~~not~~] select a turnaround expert that is:

51 (a) ~~the~~ a school district; or

52 (b) an employee of ~~the~~ a school district.

53 (4) A contract between a local school board and a turnaround expert:

54 (a) shall be based on an explicit stipulation of desired outcomes and consequences for  
 55 not meeting goals, including cancellation of the contract;

56 (b) shall include a scope of work that requires the turnaround expert to at a minimum:

57 (i) develop and implement, in partnership with the school turnaround committee, a

58 school turnaround plan that meets the criteria described in Subsection (5);  
59 (ii) monitor the effectiveness of a school turnaround plan through reliable means of  
60 evaluation, including on-site visits, observations, surveys, analysis of student achievement data,  
61 and interviews;  
62 (iii) provide ongoing implementation support and project management for a school  
63 turnaround plan;  
64 (iv) provide high-quality professional development personalized for school staff that is  
65 designed to build:  
66 (A) the leadership capacity of the school principal;  
67 (B) the instructional capacity of school staff;  
68 (C) educators' capacity with data-driven strategies by providing actionable, embedded  
69 data practices; and  
70 (v) leverage support from community partners to coordinate an efficient delivery of  
71 supports to students inside and outside the classroom;  
72 (c) may include a scope of work that requires the turnaround expert to:  
73 (i) develop sustainable school district and school capacities to effectively respond to  
74 the academic and behavioral needs of students in high poverty communities; or  
75 (ii) other services that respond to the needs assessment conducted under Section  
76 [53E-5-302](#);  
77 (d) shall include travel costs and payment milestones; and  
78 (e) may include pay for performance provisions.  
79 (5) A school turnaround committee shall partner with the turnaround expert selected  
80 under Subsection (1) to develop and implement a school turnaround plan that:  
81 (a) addresses the root causes of the low performing school's low performance identified  
82 through the needs assessment described in Section [53E-5-302](#);  
83 (b) includes recommendations regarding changes to the low performing school's  
84 personnel, culture, curriculum, assessments, instructional practices, governance, leadership,  
85 finances, policies, or other areas that may be necessary to implement the school turnaround  
86 plan;  
87 (c) includes measurable student achievement goals and objectives and benchmarks by  
88 which to measure progress;

89 (d) includes a professional development plan that identifies a strategy to address  
90 problems of instructional practice;

91 (e) includes a detailed budget specifying how the school turnaround plan will be  
92 funded;

93 (f) includes a plan to assess and monitor progress;

94 (g) includes a plan to communicate and report data on progress to stakeholders; and

95 (h) includes a timeline for implementation.

96 (6) A local school board of a low performing school shall:

97 (a) prioritize school district funding and resources to the low performing school;

98 (b) grant the low performing school streamlined authority over staff, schedule, policies,  
99 budget, and academic programs to implement the school turnaround plan; and

100 (c) assist the turnaround expert and the low performing school with:

101 (i) addressing the root cause of the low performing school's low performance; and

102 (ii) the development or implementation of a school turnaround plan.

103 (7) (a) On or before June 1 of an initial remedial year, a school turnaround committee  
104 shall submit the school turnaround plan to the local school board for approval.

105 (b) Except as provided in Subsection (7)(c), on or before July 1 of an initial remedial  
106 year, a local school board of a low performing school shall submit the school turnaround plan  
107 to the board for approval.

108 (c) If the local school board does not approve the school turnaround plan submitted  
109 under Subsection (7)(a), the school turnaround committee may appeal the disapproval in  
110 accordance with rules made by the board as described in Subsection [53E-5-305\(6\)](#).

111 (8) A local school board, or a local school board's designee, shall annually report to the  
112 board progress toward the goals, benchmarks, and timetable in a low performing school's  
113 turnaround plan.