

Senator Todd D. Weiler proposes the following substitute bill:

IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION PRIORITIZATION

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Todd D. Weiler

House Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill requires the Department of Health to support widespread testing of a school's students for COVID-19 under certain conditions.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ requires the Department of Health to provide support to a local education agency (LEA) that initiates widespread COVID-19 testing for a school (test to stay program);
- ▶ requires that guidance that the Department of Health provides to LEAs related to test to stay programs complies with certain statutory provisions;
- ▶ establishes the case threshold in a school above which the LEA initiates a "test to stay program" for the school; and
- ▶ enacts provisions related to a "test to stay program", including provisions related to parental consent for COVID-19 testing for the parent's student.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.



26 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

27 ENACTS:

28 [26-6-33](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953

29 [53G-9-210](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953

30

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

32 Section 1. Section **26-6-33** is enacted to read:

33 **26-6-33. Department support for local education agency test to stay programs --**

34 **Department guidance for local education agencies.**

35 (1) As used in this section:

36 (a) "Case threshold" means the same as that term is defined in Section [53G-9-210](#).

37 (b) "COVID-19" means the same as that term is defined in Section [53G-9-210](#).

38 (c) "Local education agency" or "LEA" means the same as that term is defined in

39 Section [53G-9-210](#).

40 (d) "Test to stay program" means the same as that term is defined in Section

41 [53G-9-210](#).

42 (2) In coordination with the State Board of Education, and at the request of an LEA,
43 the department shall provide support for the LEA's test to stay program if a school in the LEA
44 reaches the case threshold, including by providing:

45 (a) COVID-19 testing supplies;

46 (b) a mobile testing unit; and

47 (c) other support requested by the LEA related to the LEA's test to stay program.

48 (3) The department shall ensure that guidance the department provides to LEAs related

49 to test to stay programs complies with Section [53G-9-210](#), including the determination of

50 whether a school meets a case threshold described in Subsection [53G-9-210](#)(3).

51 Section 2. Section **53G-9-210** is enacted to read:

52 **53G-9-210. Test to stay programs.**

53 (1) As used in this section:

54 (a) "Case threshold" means as applicable, the number of students in a school, or
55 percentage of students in a school who meet the conditions described in Subsection (3).

56 (b) "COVID-19" means:

57 (i) severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2; or
58 (ii) the disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2.
59 (c) "Local Education Agency" or LEA means:
60 (i) a school district;
61 (ii) a charter school, other than an online-only charter school; or
62 (iii) the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.
63 (d) "Test to stay program" means a program through which an LEA provides testing for
64 COVID-19 for students during an outbreak of COVID-19 at a school in order to:

65 (i) identify cases of COVID-19; and
66 (ii) allow individuals who test negative for COVID-19 to attend school in person.
67 (2) An LEA may allow a school that reaches the case threshold to continue to offer
68 in-person instruction if the school initiates a test to stay program for the school.

69 (3) (a) For purposes of determining whether a school has reached the school's case
70 threshold, a student is included in positive cases for the school if the student:

71 (i) tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 14 days;
72 (ii) contracted COVID-19 at school; and
73 (iii) did not receive the student's positive COVID-19 test results through regular
74 periodic testing required to participate in LEA-sponsored athletics or another LEA-sponsored
75 extracurricular activity.

76 (b) (i) A school with 1,500 or more students meets the case threshold if at least 2% of
77 the school's students meet the conditions described in Subsection (3)(a).

78 (ii) A school with fewer than 1,500 students meets the case threshold if 30 or more of
79 the school's students meet the conditions described in Subsection (3)(a).

80 (4) An LEA may seek advance consent from a student's parent for future testing for
81 COVID-19.

82 **Section 3. Effective date.**

83 If approved by two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, this bill takes effect
84 upon approval by the governor, or the day following the constitutional time limit of Utah
85 Constitution, Article VII, Section 8, without the governor's signature, or in the case of a veto,
86 the date of veto override.