

Representative Jordan D. Teuscher proposes the following substitute bill:

LOCAL POLICIES FOR COURSE CONTENT TRANSPARENCY

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jordan D. Teuscher

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill requires local education agency governing boards to establish student instruction transparency policies that include certain determinations.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ requires each local education agency (LEA) governing board to establish a course content transparency policy that includes certain determinations;
- ▶ requires each LEA to:
 - make the LEA's course content transparency policy publicly available on the LEA's website; and
 - annually provide a certain assurance to the State Board of Education regarding the LEA's policy; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:



26 AMENDS:

27 **53G-4-402**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapters 84, 262, 324, and 345

28 **53G-5-404**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 324

29 ENACTS:

30 **53G-10-104**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

31

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

33 Section 1. Section **53G-4-402** is amended to read:

34 **53G-4-402. Powers and duties generally.**

35 (1) A local school board shall:

36 (a) implement the core standards for Utah public schools using instructional materials
37 that best correlate to the core standards for Utah public schools and graduation requirements;

38 (b) administer tests, required by the state board, which measure the progress of each
39 student, and coordinate with the state superintendent and state board to assess results and create
40 plans to improve the student's progress, which shall be submitted to the state board for
41 approval;

42 (c) use progress-based assessments as part of a plan to identify schools, teachers, and
43 students that need remediation and determine the type and amount of federal, state, and local
44 resources to implement remediation;

45 (d) for each grading period and for each course in which a student is enrolled, issue a
46 grade or performance report to the student:

47 (i) that reflects the student's work, including the student's progress based on mastery,
48 for the grading period; and

49 (ii) in accordance with the local school board's adopted grading or performance
50 standards and criteria;

51 (e) develop early warning systems for students or classes failing to make progress;

52 (f) work with the state board to establish a library of documented best practices,
53 consistent with state and federal regulations, for use by the local districts;

54 (g) implement training programs for school administrators, including basic
55 management training, best practices in instructional methods, budget training, staff
56 management, managing for learning results and continuous improvement, and how to help

57 every child achieve optimal learning in basic academic subjects; and

58 (h) ensure that the local school board meets the data collection and reporting standards
59 described in Section 53E-3-501.

60 (2) Local school boards shall spend Minimum School Program funds for programs and
61 activities for which the state board has established minimum standards or rules under Section
62 53E-3-501.

63 (3) (a) A local school board may purchase, sell, and make improvements on school
64 sites, buildings, and equipment and construct, erect, and furnish school buildings.

65 (b) School sites or buildings may only be conveyed or sold on local school board
66 resolution affirmed by at least two-thirds of the members.

67 (4) (a) A local school board may participate in the joint construction or operation of a
68 school attended by children residing within the district and children residing in other districts
69 either within or outside the state.

70 (b) Any agreement for the joint operation or construction of a school shall:

71 (i) be signed by the president of the local school board of each participating district;

72 (ii) include a mutually agreed upon pro rata cost; and

73 (iii) be filed with the state board.

74 (5) A local school board may establish, locate, and maintain elementary, secondary,
75 and applied technology schools.

76 (6) Except as provided in Section 53E-3-905, a local school board may enroll children
77 in school who are at least five years old before September 2 of the year in which admission is
78 sought.

79 (7) A local school board may establish and support school libraries.

80 (8) A local school board may collect damages for the loss, injury, or destruction of
81 school property.

82 (9) A local school board may authorize guidance and counseling services for children
83 and their parents before, during, or following enrollment of the children in schools.

84 (10) (a) A local school board shall administer and implement federal educational
85 programs in accordance with Title 53E, Chapter 3, Part 8, Implementing Federal or National
86 Education Programs.

87 (b) Federal funds are not considered funds within the school district budget under

88 Chapter 7, Part 3, Budgets.

89 (11) (a) A local school board may organize school safety patrols and adopt policies
90 under which the patrols promote student safety.

91 (b) A student appointed to a safety patrol shall be at least 10 years old and have written
92 parental consent for the appointment.

93 (c) Safety patrol members may not direct vehicular traffic or be stationed in a portion
94 of a highway intended for vehicular traffic use.

95 (d) Liability may not attach to a school district, its employees, officers, or agents or to a
96 safety patrol member, a parent of a safety patrol member, or an authorized volunteer assisting
97 the program by virtue of the organization, maintenance, or operation of a school safety patrol.

98 (12) (a) A local school board may on its own behalf, or on behalf of an educational
99 institution for which the local school board is the direct governing body, accept private grants,
100 loans, gifts, endowments, devises, or bequests that are made for educational purposes.

101 (b) These contributions are not subject to appropriation by the Legislature.

102 (13) (a) A local school board may appoint and fix the compensation of a compliance
103 officer to issue citations for violations of Subsection 76-10-105(2)(b).

104 (b) A person may not be appointed to serve as a compliance officer without the
105 person's consent.

106 (c) A teacher or student may not be appointed as a compliance officer.

107 (14) A local school board shall adopt bylaws and policies for the local school board's
108 own procedures.

109 (15) (a) A local school board shall make and enforce policies necessary for the control
110 and management of the district schools.

111 (b) Local school board policies shall be in writing, filed, and referenced for public
112 access.

113 (16) A local school board may hold school on legal holidays other than Sundays.

114 (17) (a) A local school board shall establish for each school year a school traffic safety
115 committee to implement this Subsection (17).

116 (b) The committee shall be composed of one representative of:

117 (i) the schools within the district;

118 (ii) the Parent Teachers' Association of the schools within the district;

- 119 (iii) the municipality or county;
- 120 (iv) state or local law enforcement; and
- 121 (v) state or local traffic safety engineering.
- 122 (c) The committee shall:
 - 123 (i) receive suggestions from school community councils, parents, teachers, and others
 - 124 and recommend school traffic safety improvements, boundary changes to enhance safety, and
 - 125 school traffic safety program measures;
 - 126 (ii) review and submit annually to the Department of Transportation and affected
 - 127 municipalities and counties a child access routing plan for each elementary, middle, and junior
 - 128 high school within the district;
 - 129 (iii) consult the Utah Safety Council and the Division of Family Health Services and
 - 130 provide training to all school children in kindergarten through grade 6, within the district, on
 - 131 school crossing safety and use; and
 - 132 (iv) help ensure the district's compliance with rules made by the Department of
 - 133 Transportation under Section [41-6a-303](#).
- 134 (d) The committee may establish subcommittees as needed to assist in accomplishing
- 135 the committee's duties under Subsection (17)(c).
- 136 (18) (a) A local school board shall adopt and implement a comprehensive emergency
- 137 response plan to prevent and combat violence in the local school board's public schools, on
- 138 school grounds, on its school vehicles, and in connection with school-related activities or
- 139 events.
 - 140 (b) The plan shall:
 - 141 (i) include prevention, intervention, and response components;
 - 142 (ii) be consistent with the student conduct and discipline policies required for school
 - 143 districts under Chapter 11, Part 2, Miscellaneous Requirements;
 - 144 (iii) require professional learning for all district and school building staff on what their
 - 145 roles are in the emergency response plan;
 - 146 (iv) provide for coordination with local law enforcement and other public safety
 - 147 representatives in preventing, intervening, and responding to violence in the areas and activities
 - 148 referred to in Subsection (18)(a); and
 - 149 (v) include procedures to notify a student, to the extent practicable, who is off campus

150 at the time of a school violence emergency because the student is:

151 (A) participating in a school-related activity; or

152 (B) excused from school for a period of time during the regular school day to
153 participate in religious instruction at the request of the student's parent.

154 (c) The state board, through the state superintendent, shall develop comprehensive
155 emergency response plan models that local school boards may use, where appropriate, to
156 comply with Subsection (18)(a).

157 (d) A local school board shall, by July 1 of each year, certify to the state board that its
158 plan has been practiced at the school level and presented to and reviewed by its teachers,
159 administrators, students, and their parents and local law enforcement and public safety
160 representatives.

161 (19) (a) A local school board may adopt an emergency response plan for the treatment
162 of sports-related injuries that occur during school sports practices and events.

163 (b) The plan may be implemented by each secondary school in the district that has a
164 sports program for students.

165 (c) The plan may:

166 (i) include emergency personnel, emergency communication, and emergency
167 equipment components;

168 (ii) require professional learning on the emergency response plan for school personnel
169 who are involved in sports programs in the district's secondary schools; and

170 (iii) provide for coordination with individuals and agency representatives who:

171 (A) are not employees of the school district; and

172 (B) would be involved in providing emergency services to students injured while
173 participating in sports events.

174 (d) The local school board, in collaboration with the schools referred to in Subsection
175 (19)(b), may review the plan each year and make revisions when required to improve or
176 enhance the plan.

177 (e) The state board, through the state superintendent, shall provide local school boards
178 with an emergency plan response model that local school boards may use to comply with the
179 requirements of this Subsection (19).

180 (20) A local school board shall do all other things necessary for the maintenance,

181 prosperity, and success of the schools and the promotion of education.

182 (21) (a) Before closing a school or changing the boundaries of a school, a local school
183 board shall:

184 (i) at least 120 days before approving the school closure or school boundary change,
185 provide notice to the following that the local school board is considering the closure or
186 boundary change:

187 (A) parents of students enrolled in the school, using the same form of communication
188 the local school board regularly uses to communicate with parents;

189 (B) parents of students enrolled in other schools within the school district that may be
190 affected by the closure or boundary change, using the same form of communication the local
191 school board regularly uses to communicate with parents; and

192 (C) the governing council and the mayor of the municipality in which the school is
193 located;

194 (ii) provide an opportunity for public comment on the proposed school closure or
195 school boundary change during at least two public local school board meetings; and

196 (iii) hold a public hearing as defined in Section 10-9a-103 and provide public notice of
197 the public hearing as described in Subsection (21)(b).

198 (b) The notice of a public hearing required under Subsection (21)(a)(iii) shall:

199 (i) indicate the:

200 (A) school or schools under consideration for closure or boundary change; and

201 (B) the date, time, and location of the public hearing;

202 (ii) at least 10 days before the public hearing, be:

203 (A) published:

204 (I) in a newspaper of general circulation in the area; and

205 (II) on the Utah Public Notice Website created in Section 63A-16-601; and

206 (B) posted in at least three public locations within the municipality in which the school
207 is located on the school district's official website, and prominently at the school; and

208 (iii) at least 30 days before the public hearing described in Subsection (21)(a)(iii), be
209 provided as described in Subsections (21)(a)(i)(A), (B), and (C).

210 (22) A local school board may implement a facility energy efficiency program
211 established under Title 11, Chapter 44, Performance Efficiency Act.

212 (23) A local school board may establish or partner with a certified youth court in
213 accordance with Section 80-6-902 or establish or partner with a comparable restorative justice
214 program, in coordination with schools in that district. A school may refer a student to a youth
215 court or a comparable restorative justice program in accordance with Section 53G-8-211.

216 (24) A local school board shall:

217 (a) make the determinations required in Section 53G-10-104 to establish a course
218 content transparency policy;

219 ~~(b)~~ (b) make curriculum that the school district uses readily accessible and available
220 for a parent to view;

221 ~~(c)~~ (c) annually notify a parent of a student enrolled in the school district of how to
222 access the information described in Subsection ~~[(24)(a)]~~ (24)(b); and

223 ~~(d)~~ (d) include on the school district's website information about how to access the
224 information described in Subsection ~~[(24)(a)]~~ (24)(b).

225 Section 2. Section 53G-5-404 is amended to read:

226 **53G-5-404. Requirements for charter schools.**

227 (1) A charter school shall be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies,
228 employment practices, and operations.

229 (2) A charter school may not charge tuition or fees, except those fees normally charged
230 by other public schools.

231 (3) A charter school shall meet all applicable federal, state, and local health, safety, and
232 civil rights requirements.

233 (4) (a) A charter school shall:

234 (i) make the same annual reports required of other public schools under this public
235 education code, including an annual financial audit report described in Section 53G-4-404;

236 (ii) ensure that the charter school meets the data and reporting standards described in
237 Section 53E-3-501; and

238 (iii) use fund and program accounting methods and standardized account codes capable
239 of producing financial reports that comply with:

240 (A) generally accepted accounting principles;

241 (B) the financial reporting requirements applicable to LEAs established by the state
242 board under Section 53E-3-501; and

243 (C) accounting report standards established by the state auditor as described in Section
244 51-2a-301.

245 (b) Before, and as a condition for opening a charter school:

246 (i) a charter school shall:

247 (A) certify to the authorizer that the charter school's accounting methods meet the
248 requirements described in Subsection (4)(a)(iii); or

249 (B) if the authorizer requires, conduct a performance demonstration to verify that the
250 charter school's accounting methods meet the requirements described in Subsection (4)(a)(iii);
251 and

252 (ii) the authorizer shall certify to the state board that the charter school's accounting
253 methods meet the requirements described in Subsection (4)(a)(iii).

254 (c) A charter school shall file the charter school's annual financial audit report with the
255 Office of the State Auditor within six months of the end of the fiscal year.

256 (d) For the limited purpose of compliance with federal and state law governing use of
257 public education funds, including restricted funds, and making annual financial audit reports
258 under this section, a charter school is a government entity governed by the public education
259 code.

260 (5) (a) A charter school shall be accountable to the charter school's authorizer for
261 performance as provided in the school's charter agreement.

262 (b) To measure the performance of a charter school, an authorizer may use data
263 contained in:

264 (i) the charter school's annual financial audit report;

265 (ii) a report submitted by the charter school as required by statute; or

266 (iii) a report submitted by the charter school as required by its charter agreement.

267 (c) A charter school authorizer may not impose performance standards, except as
268 permitted by statute, that limit, infringe, or prohibit a charter school's ability to successfully
269 accomplish the purposes of charter schools as provided in Section 53G-5-104 or as otherwise
270 provided in law.

271 (6) A charter school may not advocate unlawful behavior.

272 (7) Except as provided in Section 53G-5-305, a charter school shall be organized and
273 managed under Title 16, Chapter 6a, Utah Revised Nonprofit Corporation Act, after its

274 authorization.

275 (8) A charter school shall provide adequate liability and other appropriate insurance,
276 including:

277 (a) general liability, errors and omissions, and directors and officers liability coverage
278 through completion of the closure of a charter school under Section 53G-5-504; and

279 (b) tail coverage or closeout insurance covering at least one year after closure of the
280 charter school.

281 (9) Beginning on July 1, 2014, a charter school, including a charter school that has not
282 yet opened, shall submit any lease, lease-purchase agreement, or other contract or agreement
283 relating to the charter school's facilities or financing of the charter school's facilities to the
284 school's authorizer and an attorney for review and advice before the charter school enters the
285 lease, agreement, or contract.

286 (10) A charter school may not employ an educator whose license is suspended or
287 revoked by the state board under Section 53E-6-604.

288 (11) (a) Each charter school shall register and maintain the charter school's registration
289 as a limited purpose entity, in accordance with Section 67-1a-15.

290 (b) A charter school that fails to comply with Subsection (11)(a) or Section 67-1a-15 is
291 subject to enforcement by the state auditor, in accordance with Section 67-3-1.

292 (c) If a charter school is an operating charter school with affiliated satellite charter
293 schools, as defined in Section 53G-5-303:

294 (i) the operating charter school shall register as a limited purpose entity as defined in
295 Section 67-1a-15;

296 (ii) each affiliated satellite charter school is not required to register separately from the
297 operating charter school; and

298 (iii) the operating charter school shall:

299 (A) register on behalf of each affiliated satellite charter school; and

300 (B) when submitting entity registry information under Section 67-1a-15 on behalf of
301 each affiliated satellite charter school, identify and distinguish registry information for each
302 affiliated satellite, including the address of each affiliated satellite charter school and the name
303 and contact information of a primary contact for each affiliated satellite charter school.

304 (12) (a) As used in this Subsection (12), "contracting entity" means a person with

305 which a charter school contracts.

306 (b) A charter school shall provide to the charter school's authorizer any information or
307 documents requested by the authorizer, including documents held by a subsidiary of the charter
308 school or a contracting entity:

309 (i) to confirm the charter school's compliance with state or federal law governing the
310 charter school's finances or governance; or

311 (ii) to carry out the authorizer's statutory obligations, including liquidation and
312 assignment of assets, and payment of debt in accordance with state board rule, as described in
313 Section [53G-5-504](#).

314 (c) A charter school shall comply with a request described in Subsection (12)(b),
315 including after an authorizer recommends closure of the charter school or terminates the charter
316 school's contract.

317 (d) Documents held by a contracting entity or subsidiary of a charter school that are
318 necessary to demonstrate the charter school's compliance with state or federal law are the
319 property of the charter school.

320 (e) A charter school shall include in an agreement with a subsidiary of the charter
321 school or a contracting entity a provision that stipulates that documents held by the subsidiary
322 or a contracting entity, that are necessary to demonstrate the charter school's financial
323 compliance with federal or state law, are the property of the charter school.

324 (13) For each grading period and for each course in which a student is enrolled, a
325 charter school shall issue a grade or performance report to the student:

326 (a) that reflects the student's work, including the student's progress based on mastery,
327 for the grading period; and

328 (b) in accordance with the charter school's adopted grading or performance standards
329 and criteria.

330 (14) A charter school shall:

331 (a) make the determinations required in Section [53G-10-104](#) to establish a course
332 content transparency policy;

333 [~~(a)~~] (b) make curriculum that the charter school uses readily accessible and available
334 for a parent to view;

335 [~~(b)~~] (c) annually notify a parent of a student enrolled in the charter school of how to

336 access the information described in Subsection [~~(14)(a)~~] (14)(b); and
337 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) include on the charter school's website information about how to access the
338 information described in Subsection [~~(14)(a)~~] (14)(b).

339 Section 3. Section **53G-10-104** is enacted to read:

340 **53G-10-104. Local education agency course content transparency policy.**

341 (1) As used in this section:

342 (a) (i) "Activity" means an assembly, guest lecture, speech or discussion from a guest
343 speaker to a group of students, or event that an individual or organization other than the LEA,
344 school, or an employee of the LEA or school conducts.

345 (ii) "Activity" does not include a student presentation.

346 (b) "Course content" means the general topics of study and central or fundamental
347 learning materials a course comprises.

348 (c) (i) "Learning materials" means materials or resource, except original materials, that
349 deliver or support a student's learning.

350 (ii) "Learning materials" includes textbooks, reading materials, videos, an activity,
351 digital materials, websites, and other online applications.

352 (d) (i) "Syllabus" means a document that outlines a calendar of general topics, the
353 course curriculum, and the central or foundational learning materials the course will use
354 throughout the duration of the course.

355 (ii) "Syllabus" does not mean a complete itemization of every lesson and learning
356 material that a student will encounter through the course.

357 (2) (a) Each local governing board shall establish a policy regarding course content that
358 generally promotes transparency to parents and students.

359 (b) In making the policy described in Subsection (2)(a), the local governing board:

360 (i) shall determine how educators will give notice to parents and students of the course
361 content throughout the school year, including whether the local governing board requires
362 educators to:

363 (A) prepare a syllabus, including the circumstances under which a syllabus requirement
364 would apply;

365 (B) provide to students and students' parents any updates regarding changes to course
366 content throughout the school year, including the method of providing any required course

367 content updates;

368 (C) comply with any notice requirements or approval process before using learning
369 materials that the local governing board has not reviewed and approved;

370 (D) obtain approval for or provide any notice to the LEA, students, or students' parents
371 of an activity, either within a given class or an activity available to a broader group of the
372 student body; and

373 (E) provide students and parents of students within the school access to relevant course
374 content from previous years before registering or otherwise selecting classes;

375 (ii) shall determine the method of accessing the course content and other information
376 described in Subsection (2)(b)(i) that are not readily available to the parent on the school's
377 learning management system; and

378 (iii) may consider different approaches based on differences in courses and grade
379 levels.

380 (c) Nothing in this Subsection (2) requires a local governing board to enact a
381 consideration described in Subsection (2)(b)(i)(A) through (E).

382 (3) An LEA shall:

383 (a) make publicly available on the LEA's website the policy, including a record of the
384 required determinations, described in Subsection (2);

385 (b) before November 1, 2023, provide an initial report to the state board regarding the
386 policy and required determinations described in Subsection (2); and

387 (c) before November 1 of each year beginning in 2024, annually provide an assurance
388 to the state board that includes a link to the LEA's policy.