

**PUBLIC SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL**

**REQUIREMENTS**

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore**

House Sponsor: Melissa G. Ballard

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill addresses requirements related to the approval of materials for classroom use and certain policies.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ requires a process for a local school board or charter school governing board to follow if the board chooses to adopt or approve instructional materials for classroom use across the school district or charter school;
- ▶ requires local school boards and charter school governing boards to adopt policies to provide guidance to educators on the use of certain learning materials that have not been adopted or approved under the open process; ~~§~~ ~~and~~ ~~§~~

~~§~~ ~~[§]~~ ▶ **requires that contracts for online or digital learning materials include a requirement**

**for notice if the provider changes the content of the materials; and [§] [§] §**

- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

S.B. 55



28 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

29 AMENDS:

30 **53G-4-402**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapters 84, 262, 324, and 345

31 **53G-5-404**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 324

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

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

35 **53G-4-402. Powers and duties generally.**

36 (1) A local school board shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

55 (g) implement training programs for school administrators, including basic  
56 management training, best practices in instructional methods, budget training, staff  
57 management, managing for learning results and continuous improvement, and how to help  
58 every child achieve optimal learning in basic academic subjects; and

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

61 (2) Local school boards shall spend Minimum School Program funds for programs and  
62 activities for which the state board has established minimum standards or rules under Section  
63 53E-3-501.

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

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

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

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

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

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

74 (iii) be filed with the state board.

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

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

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

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

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

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

88 (b) Federal funds are not considered funds within the school district budget under  
89 Chapter 7, Part 3, Budgets.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

118 (i) the schools within the district;

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

120 (iii) the municipality or county;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

166 (c) The plan may:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

181 (20) A local school board shall do all other things necessary for the maintenance,  
182 prosperity, and success of the schools and the promotion of education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

200 (i) indicate the:

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

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

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

204 (A) published~~[-(F)]~~ in a newspaper of general circulation in the area~~[-and (H)]~~ on the  
205 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)]~~ Subsection (21)(a)(i).

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) As used in this Subsection (24):

217 (i) "Learning material" means any learning material or resource used to deliver or  
 218 support a student's learning, including textbooks, reading materials, videos, digital materials,  
 219 websites, and other online applications.

220 (ii) (A) "Instructional material" means learning material that a local school board  
 221 adopts and approves for use within the LEA.

222 (B) "Instructional material" does not include ~~it~~ news media or ~~it~~ learning material  
 222a used in a concurrent  
 223 enrollment, advanced placement, or international baccalaureate program or class or another  
 224 class with required instructional material that is not subject to selection by the local school  
 225 board.

226 (iii) "Supplemental material" means learning material that:

227 (A) an educator selects for classroom use; and

228 (B) a local school board has not considered and adopted, approved, or prohibited for  
 229 classroom use within the LEA.

230 (b) A local school board shall:

231 ~~[(a)]~~ (i) make ~~curriculum~~ instructional material that the school district uses readily  
 232 accessible and available for a parent to view;

233 ~~[(b)]~~ (ii) annually notify a parent of a student enrolled in the school district of how to  
 234 access the information described in Subsection ~~[(24)(a)]~~ (24)(b)(i); and

235 ~~[(c)]~~ (iii) include on the school district's website information about how to access the  
 236 information described in Subsection ~~[(24)(a)]~~ (24)(b)(i).

237 (c) In selecting and approving instructional materials for use in the classroom, a local  
 238 school board shall:

239 (i) establish an open process, involving educators and parents of students enrolled in  
 240 the LEA, to review and recommend instructional materials for board approval; and

241 (ii) ensure that under the process described in Subsection (24)(c)(i), the board:

242 (A) before the meetings described in Subsection (24)(c)(ii)(B), posts the recommended  
 243 learning material online to allow for public review or, for copyrighted material, make the  
 244 recommended learning material available at the LEA for public review;



245 (B) before adopting or approving the recommended instructional materials, holds at  
 246 least two public meetings on the recommendation that provides an opportunity for educators  
 247 whom the LEA employs and parents of students enrolled in the LEA to express views and  
 248 opinions on the recommendation; and

249 (C) adopts or approves the recommended instructional materials in an open and regular  
 250 board meeting.

251 (d) A local school board shall adopt a supplemental materials policy that provides  
 252 flexible guidance to educators on the selection of supplemental materials or resources that an  
 253 educator reviews and selects for classroom use using the educator's professional judgment,  
 254 including whether any process or permission is required before classroom use of the materials  
 255 or resources.

256 ~~H→~~ [~~§→~~] [H] **(e) If an LEA contracts with another party to provide online or digital**  
 256a **materials, the**  
 257 **LEA shall include in the contract a requirement that the provider give notice to the LEA any**  
 258 **time that the provider makes a material change to the content of the online or digital materials.**

259 **(f) [H] [~~e←~~§] ←H Nothing in this Subsection (24) requires a local school board to**  
 259a **review all**  
 259a **learning**  
 260 **materials used within the LEA.**

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

262 **53G-5-404. Requirements for charter schools.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

276 (A) generally accepted accounting principles;  
277 (B) the financial reporting requirements applicable to LEAs established by the state  
278 board under Section 53E-3-501; and  
279 (C) accounting report standards established by the state auditor as described in Section  
280 51-2a-301.

281 (b) Before, and as a condition for opening a charter school:  
282 (i) a charter school shall:  
283 (A) certify to the authorizer that the charter school's accounting methods meet the  
284 requirements described in Subsection (4)(a)(iii); or  
285 (B) if the authorizer requires, conduct a performance demonstration to verify that the  
286 charter school's accounting methods meet the requirements described in Subsection (4)(a)(iii);  
287 and  
288 (ii) the authorizer shall certify to the state board that the charter school's accounting  
289 methods meet the requirements described in Subsection (4)(a)(iii).

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

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

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

298 (b) To measure the performance of a charter school, an authorizer may use data  
299 contained in:  
300 (i) the charter school's annual financial audit report;  
301 (ii) a report submitted by the charter school as required by statute; or  
302 (iii) a report submitted by the charter school as required by its charter agreement.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

334 (iii) the operating charter school shall:

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

336 (B) when submitting entity registry information under Section 67-1a-15 on behalf of  
337 each affiliated satellite charter school, identify and distinguish registry information for each

338 affiliated satellite, including the address of each affiliated satellite charter school and the name  
339 and contact information of a primary contact for each affiliated satellite charter school.

340 (12) (a) As used in this Subsection (12), "contracting entity" means a person with  
341 which a charter school contracts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

366 (14) (a) As used in this Subsection (14):

367 (i) "Learning material" means any learning material or resource used to deliver or  
368 support a student's learning, including textbooks, reading materials, videos, digital materials,

369 websites, and other online applications.

370 (ii) (A) "Instructional material" means learning material that a charter school governing  
 371 board adopts and approves for use within the charter school.

372 (B) "Instructional material" does not include ~~it~~ **news media or** ~~it~~ learning material  
 372a used in a concurrent  
 373 enrollment, advanced placement, or international baccalaureate program or class or another  
 374 class with required instructional material that is not subject to selection by the charter school  
 375 governing board.

376 (iii) "Supplemental material" means learning material that:

377 (A) an educator selects for classroom use; and

378 (B) a charter school governing board has not considered and adopted, approved, or  
 379 prohibited for classroom use within the charter school.

380 (b) A charter school shall:

381 ~~(a)~~ (i) make ~~curriculum~~ instructional material that the charter school uses readily  
 382 accessible and available for a parent to view;

383 ~~(b)~~ (ii) annually notify a parent of a student enrolled in the charter school of how to  
 384 access the information described in Subsection ~~(14)(a)~~ (14)(b)(i); and

385 ~~(c)~~ (iii) include on the charter school's website information about how to access the  
 386 information described in Subsection ~~(14)(a)~~ (14)(b)(i).

387 (c) In selecting and approving instructional materials for use in the classroom, a charter  
 388 school governing board shall:

389 (i) establish an open process, involving educators and parents of students enrolled in  
 390 the charter school, to review and recommend instructional materials for board approval; and

391 (ii) ensure that under the process described in Subsection (14)(c)(i), the charter school  
 392 governing board:

393 (A) before the public meetings described in Subsection (14)(c)(ii)(B), posts the  
 394 recommended learning materials online to allow for public review or, for copyrighted material,  
 395 make the recommended learning material available at the charter school for public review;

396 (B) before adopting or approving the recommended instructional materials, holds at  
 397 least two public meetings on the recommendation that provide an opportunity for educators  
 398 whom the charter school employs and parents of students enrolled in the charter school to  
 399 express views and opinions on the recommendation; and

400 (C) adopts or approves the recommended instructional materials in an open and regular  
401 board meeting.

402 (d) A charter school governing board shall adopt a supplemental materials policy that  
403 provides flexible guidance to educators on the selection of supplemental materials or resources  
404 that an educator reviews and selects for classroom use using the educator's professional  
405 judgment, including whether any process or permission is required before classroom use of the  
406 materials or resources.

407 Ĥ→ [Ŧ→] [†] (e) If a charter school contracts with another party to provide online or digital  
408 materials, the charter school shall include in the contract a requirement that the provider give  
409 notice to the charter school any time that the provider makes a material change to the content of  
410 the online or digital materials.

411 (f) [†] [~~e~~←Ŧ] ←Ĥ Nothing in this Subsection (14) requires a charter school governing  
411a1 board to  
411a review  
412 all learning materials used within the charter school.