

Senator Ann Millner proposes the following substitute bill:

**STATEWIDE ONLINE EDUCATION PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Dan N. Johnson**

Senate Sponsor: Ann Millner

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill amends the Statewide Online Education Program (the program).

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ requires the Utah State Board of Education to:
  - update operating systems to allow for transfer of student information with the program;
  - dedicate staff to offer technical support for the program;
  - create a model cooperative agreement between a primary local education agency and an authorized online provider;
  - provide certain itemized reports to a primary LEA;
  - create a mandatory training for certain LEA staff about the program;
  - create a communication dashboard; and
  - collaborate with the Utah System of Higher Education to offer online concurrent enrollment options including within the program;
- ▶ allows the State Board of Education to contract with a private entity to administer the portion of the program designated for home and private school students and amends provisions to accommodate the potential administration by a private entity;



- 26           ▶ requires a primary LEA to coordinate accommodations of a student's individualized
- 27 education plan or section 504 accommodation plan;
- 28           ▶ establishes a deadline to acknowledge a course enrollment;
- 29           ▶ requires certain coordination between a primary LEA and an authorized online
- 30 course provider; and
- 31           ▶ makes technical changes.

32 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

33           None

34 **Other Special Clauses:**

35           None

36 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

37 AMENDS:

- 38           **53E-3-518**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 70
- 39           **53F-4-501**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 226, 368
- 40           **53F-4-502**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 368
- 41           **53F-4-503**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 226, 368
- 42           **53F-4-504**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 368
- 43           **53F-4-505**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 368
- 44           **53F-4-506**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 2
- 45           **53F-4-507**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 368
- 46           **53F-4-508**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 186
- 47           **53F-4-509**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 2
- 48           **53F-4-510**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 186
- 49           **53F-4-511**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 186
- 50           **53F-4-512**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 186
- 51           **53F-4-513**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 362
- 52           **53F-4-514**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 368
- 53           **53F-4-516**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 186
- 54           **53F-4-517**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 2
- 55           **53F-4-518**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 368

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

58 Section 1. Section **53E-3-518** is amended to read:

59 **53E-3-518. Utah school information management system -- Local education**  
60 **agency requirements.**

61 (1) As used in this section:

62 (a) "LEA data system" or "LEA's data system" means a data system that:

63 (i) is developed, selected, or relied upon by an LEA; and

64 (ii) the LEA uses to collect data or submit data to the state board related to:

65 (A) student information;

66 (B) educator information;

67 (C) financial information; or

68 (D) other information requested by the state board.

69 (b) "LEA financial information system" or "LEA's financial information system" means  
70 an LEA data system used for financial information.

71 (c) "Parent" means the same as that term is defined in Section [53G-6-201](#).

72 (d) "Utah school information management system" or "information management  
73 system" means the state board's data collection and reporting system described in this section.

74 (e) "User" means an individual who has authorized access to the information  
75 management system.

76 (2) On or before July 1, 2024, the state board shall have in place an information  
77 management system that meets the requirements described in this section.

78 (3) The state board shall ensure that the information management system:

79 (a) interfaces with an LEA's data systems that meet the requirements described in  
80 Subsection ~~[(6);~~ (7);

81 (b) serves as the mechanism for the state board to collect and report on all data that  
82 LEAs submit to the state board related to:

83 (i) student information;

84 (ii) educator information;

85 (iii) financial information; and

86 (iv) other information requested by the state board;

87 (c) includes a web-based user interface through which a user may:

- 88 (i) enter data;
- 89 (ii) view data; and
- 90 (iii) generate customizable reports;
- 91 (d) includes a data warehouse and other hardware or software necessary to store or
- 92 process data submitted by an LEA;
- 93 (e) provides for data privacy, including by complying with [~~Title 53E, Chapter 9,~~
- 94 ~~Student Privacy and Data Protection~~] Chapter 9, Student Privacy and Data Protection;
- 95 (f) restricts user access based on each user's role; and
- 96 (g) meets requirements related to a student achievement backpack described in Section
- 97 [53E-3-511](#).
- 98 (4) On or before January 31, 2026, the state board shall:
- 99 (a) ensure the information management system described in this section allows for the
- 100 transfer of a student's transcript, current IEP, or Section 504 accommodation plan including the
- 101 tracking of necessary accommodations and services between:
- 102 (i) different LEA student information systems; and
- 103 (ii) an authorized online course provider and a primary LEA; and
- 104 (b) ensure the transfer capability described in Subsection (4)(a) is available for the
- 105 same use within the operating system the state board uses for the Statewide Online Education
- 106 Program described in Title 53F, Chapter 4, Part 5, Statewide Online Education Program.
- 107 [~~(4)~~] (5) The state board shall establish the restrictions on user access described in
- 108 Subsection (3)(f).
- 109 [~~(5)~~] (6) (a) The state board shall make rules that establish the required capabilities for
- 110 an LEA financial information system.
- 111 (b) In establishing the required capabilities for an LEA financial information system,
- 112 the state board shall consider metrics and capabilities requested by the state treasurer or state
- 113 auditor.
- 114 [~~(6)~~] (7) (a) On or before July 1, 2024, an LEA shall ensure that:
- 115 (i) all of the LEA's data systems:
- 116 (A) meet the data standards established by the state board in accordance with Section
- 117 [53E-3-501](#);
- 118 (B) are fully compatible with the state board's information management system; and

119 (C) meet specification standards determined by the state board; and  
120 (ii) the LEA's financial information system meets the requirements described in  
121 Subsection [~~(5)~~] (6).

122 (b) An LEA shall ensure that an LEA data system purchased or developed on or after  
123 May 14, 2019, will be compatible with the information management system when the  
124 information management system is fully operational.

125 [~~(7)~~] (8) (a) Subject to appropriations and Subsection [~~(7)(b)~~] (8)(b), the state board  
126 may use an appropriation under this section to help an LEA meet the requirements in the rules  
127 described in Subsection [~~(5)~~] (6) by:

128 (i) providing to the LEA funding for implementation and sustainment of the LEA  
129 financial information system, either through:

130 (A) awarding a grant to the LEA; or

131 (B) providing a reimbursement to the LEA; or

132 (ii) in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 6a, Utah Procurement Code, procuring a  
133 financial information system on behalf of an LEA for the LEA to use as the LEA's financial  
134 information system.

135 (b) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the  
136 state board shall make rules describing:

137 (i) how an LEA may apply to the state board for the assistance described in Subsection  
138 [~~(7)(a)~~] (8)(a); and

139 (ii) criteria for the state board to provide the assistance to an LEA.

140 [~~(8)~~] (9) (a) Beginning July 1, 2024, the state board may take action against an LEA  
141 that is out of compliance with a requirement described in Subsection [~~(6)~~] (7) until the LEA  
142 complies with the requirement.

143 (b) An action described in Subsection [~~(8)(a)~~] (9)(a) may include the state board  
144 withholding funds from the LEA.

145 [~~(9)~~] (10) (a) For purposes of this Subsection [~~(9)~~] (10), "education record" means the  
146 same as that term is defined in 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g.

147 (b) The state board shall, by rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah  
148 Administrative Rulemaking Act, establish a procedure under which:

149 (i) a parent may submit information as part of the education records for the parent's

150 student;

151 (ii) the information submitted by the parent is maintained as part of the education  
152 records for the parent's student;

153 (iii) information submitted by the parent and maintained as part of the education  
154 records for the parent's student may be removed at the request of the parent; and

155 (iv) a parent has access only to the education records of the parent's student in  
156 accordance with Subsection [~~(9)(d)~~] (10)(d).

157 (c) The rules made under this Subsection [~~(9)~~] (10) shall allow a parent to submit or  
158 remove information submitted by the parent under this Subsection [~~(9)~~] (10) at least annually,  
159 including at the time of:

160 (i) registering a student in a school; or

161 (ii) changing the school in which a student attends.

162 (d) Subject to the federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec.  
163 1232g, and related regulations, the state board shall provide a parent access to an education  
164 record concerning the parent's student.

165 (e) The state board shall create in the information management system a record  
166 tracking interoperability of education records described in this Subsection [~~(9)~~] (10) when a  
167 student is transitioning between schools or between LEAs.

168 Section 2. Section **53F-4-501** is amended to read:

169 **53F-4-501. Definitions.**

170 As used in this part:

171 (1) "Authorized online course provider" means the entities listed in Subsection  
172 [53F-4-504\(1\)](#).

173 (2) (a) "Certified online course provider" means a provider that the state board  
174 approves to offer courses through the Statewide Online Education Program.

175 (b) "Certified online course provider" does not include an entity described in  
176 Subsections [53F-4-504\(1\)\(a\)](#) through (c).

177 (3) "Credit" means credit for a high school course, or the equivalent for a middle  
178 school course, as determined by the state board.

179 (4) "Eligible student" means a student:

180 (a) who intends to take a course for middle school or high school credit; and

- 181 (b) (i) who is enrolled in an LEA in Utah; or
- 182 (ii) (A) who attends a private school or home school; and
- 183 (B) whose custodial parent is a resident of Utah.
- 184 (5) "High school" means grade 9, 10, 11, or 12.
- 185 (6) "Middle school" means, only for purposes of student eligibility to participate in the
- 186 Statewide Online Education Program, grade 6, 7, or 8.

187 (7) "Online course" means a course of instruction offered by the Statewide Online  
188 Education Program through the use of digital technology, regardless of whether the student  
189 participates in the course at home, at school, at another location, or any combination of these.

190 (8) "Plan for college and career readiness" means the same as that term is defined in  
191 Section [53E-2-304](#).

192 (9) "Primary LEA of enrollment" or "primary LEA" means the LEA in which an  
193 eligible student is enrolled for courses other than online courses offered through the Statewide  
194 Online Education Program.

195 (10) "Released-time" means a period of time during the regular school day a student is  
196 excused from school at the request of the student's parent pursuant to rules of the state board.

197 (11) "State board's contractor" means the private entity described in Section [53F-4-503](#)  
198 with which the state board contracts to administer the portion of the Statewide Online  
199 Education Program designated for a student who attends private school or home school.

200 Section 3. Section **53F-4-502** is amended to read:

201 **53F-4-502. Statewide Online Education Program created -- Designated as**  
202 **program of the public education system -- Purposes.**

203 (1) The Statewide Online Education Program is created to enable an eligible student to,  
204 through the completion of publicly funded online courses:

- 205 (a) earn college credit by July 1, 2025;
- 206 [~~(a)~~] (b) earn high school graduation credit; or
- 207 [~~(b)~~] (c) earn middle school credit.

208 (2) Pursuant to Utah Constitution, Article X, Section 2, the Statewide Online  
209 Education Program is designated as a program of the public education system.

210 (3) The purposes of the Statewide Online Education Program are to:

- 211 (a) provide a student with access to online learning options regardless of where the

212 student attends school, whether a public, private, or home school;

213 (b) provide digital learning options for a student regardless of language, residence,  
214 family income, or special needs;

215 (c) provide online learning options to allow a student to acquire the knowledge and  
216 technology skills necessary in a digital world;

217 (d) utilize the power and scalability of technology to customize education so that a  
218 student may learn in the student's own style preference and at the student's own pace;

219 (e) utilize technology to remove the constraints of traditional classroom learning,  
220 allowing a student to access learning virtually at any time and in any place and giving the  
221 student the flexibility to take advantage of the student's peak learning time;

222 (f) provide personalized learning, where a student can spend as little or as much time  
223 as the student needs to master the material;

224 (g) provide greater access to self-paced programs enabling a high achieving student to  
225 accelerate academically, while a struggling student may have additional time and help to gain  
226 competency;

227 (h) allow a student to customize the student's schedule to better meet the student's  
228 academic goals;

229 (i) provide quality learning options to better prepare a student for post-secondary  
230 education [~~and~~], vocational training, or career opportunities; and

231 (j) allow a student to have an individualized educational experience.

232 (4) The program name, "Statewide Online Education Program," shall be used in the  
233 dissemination of information on the program.

234 Section 4. Section **53F-4-503** is amended to read:

235 **53F-4-503. Option to enroll in online courses offered through the Statewide**  
236 **Online Education Program.**

237 (1) Subject to Subsections [~~(2) and (8);~~] (2), (9) and (12) and, for a public education  
238 student, with the advice of a school counselor at a student's primary LEA, an eligible student  
239 may enroll in an online course offered through the Statewide Online Education Program if:

240 (a) the student meets the course prerequisites;

241 (b) the course is open for enrollment; and

242 (c) the online course is aligned with the student's plan for college and career



243 readiness[;].

244 [~~(d) the online course is consistent with the student's IEP, if the student has an IEP;~~

245 and]

246 [~~(e) the online course is consistent with the student's international baccalaureate~~

247 ~~program, if the student is participating in an international baccalaureate program.]~~

248 (2) An eligible student may enroll in online courses [~~for no more than~~] totaling up to  
249 six credits per school year.

250 (3) Notwithstanding Subsection (2):

251 (a) a student's primary LEA of enrollment may allow an eligible student to enroll in  
252 online courses for more than the number of credits specified in Subsection (2); or

253 (b) upon the request of an eligible student, the state board or, in relation to a student  
254 who attends a private school or home school, the state board's contractor, may allow the student  
255 to enroll in online courses for more than the number of credits specified in Subsection (2), if  
256 the online courses better meet the academic goals of the student.

257 (4) An eligible student's primary LEA of enrollment:

258 (a) in conjunction with the student and the student's parent, is responsible for preparing  
259 and implementing a plan for college and career readiness for the eligible student, as provided in  
260 Section [53E-2-304](#); and

261 (b) shall assist an eligible student in scheduling courses in accordance with the  
262 student's plan for college and career readiness, graduation requirements, and the student's  
263 post-secondary plans.

264 (5) An eligible student's primary LEA of enrollment may not:

265 (a) impose restrictions on a student's selection of an online course that fulfills  
266 graduation requirements and is consistent with the student's plan for college and career  
267 readiness or post-secondary plans; or

268 (b) give preference to an online course or authorized online course provider.

269 (6) The state board, or, in relation to a student who attends a private school or home  
270 school, the state board's contractor, including an employee of the state board or the state board's  
271 contractor, may not give preference to an online course or authorized online course provider.

272 (7) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (7)(b), a person may not provide an  
273 inducement or incentive to a public school student to participate in the Statewide Online

274 Education Program.

275 (b) For purposes of Subsection (7)(a):

276 (i) "Inducement or incentive" does not mean:

277 (A) instructional materials or software necessary to take an online course; or

278 (B) access to a computer or digital learning device for the purpose of taking an online  
279 course.

280 (ii) "Person" does not include a relative of the public school student.

281 (8) The state board shall coordinate with the Utah System of Higher Education to study  
282 funding structures and access barriers related to concurrent enrollment for the Statewide Online  
283 Education Program and provide recommendations to the Education Interim Committee no later  
284 than the November 2024 meeting.

285 (9) Subject to legislative appropriations and for an eligible student who is enrolled at a  
286 public school, the state board shall provide Statewide Online Education Program academic  
287 counseling that:

288 (a) may advise an eligible student or an eligible student's parent regarding an online  
289 course enrollment including how an online course relates to graduation requirements described  
290 in Section 53E-4-204 and administrative rule;

291 (b) provides the training described in Section 53F-4-514;

292 (c) provides technical support to an LEA, school-based counselor, eligible student, or  
293 eligible student's parent;

294 (d) assists in gathering information, reports, and data an LEA requests; and

295 (e) directs an eligible student or an eligible student's parent to a school-specific  
296 counselor for advice regarding an online course enrollment in relation to an LEA, or  
297 school-specific graduation requirement and all other counseling services.

298 (10) If an eligible student has an IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan:

299 (a) the eligible student's primary LEA:

300 (i) shall:

301 (A) forward a copy of the relevant portions of the eligible student's existing IEP or  
302 Section 504 accommodation plan to the authorized online course provider in accordance with  
303 federal law and guidelines; and

304 (B) ensure the authorized online course provider is provided an eligible student's

305 updated IEP when revisions are made;

306 (ii) may:

307 (A) ensure the eligible student's IEP team and the authorized online course provider  
308 review a course enrollment for compliance with requirements described in Subsection (1); and

309 (B) as needed, coordinate additional IEP team reviews with the authorized online  
310 course provider to ensure appropriate services, supports, and accommodations are in place for  
311 the eligible student; and

312 (b) the authorized online course provider:

313 (i) shall implement an eligible student's IEP or section 504 accommodation plan; and

314 (ii) may seek assistance from the primary LEA to implement an eligible student's IEP  
315 or section 504 accommodation plan.

316 (11) The state board shall create a model cooperative agreement between a primary  
317 LEA and an authorized online course provider for use when the primary LEA determines that  
318 an authorized online course provider would best provide IEP services, including a requirement  
319 that a requirement that the eligible student's primary LEA provide funding for the IEP services.

320 (12) If the program lacks sufficient legislative appropriations to fund the enrollment in  
321 online courses for all eligible students who do not have a primary LEA of enrollment, the state  
322 board or, in relation to a student who attends a private school or home school, the state board's  
323 contractor, shall prioritize funding the enrollment of an eligible student who intends to graduate  
324 from high school during the school year in which the student enrolls in an online course.

325 (13) No later than April 1, 2025 and in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 6a, Utah  
326 Procurement Code, the state board may use funds the state board expends to administer to the  
327 Statewide Online Education Program to students who attend private school or home school to  
328 alternatively contract with a private entity:

329 (a) that has demonstrated an expertise or ability to administer a statewide program to  
330 deliver education services to students who attend private school or home school; and

331 (b) to administer the portion of the Statewide Online Education Program that is  
332 designated for students who attend private school or home school, including providing an  
333 enrollment platform or tool separate from the enrollment tool or platform the state board  
334 provides for the program.

335 (14) The state board's contractor described in Subsection (13) may use a percentage of

336 the appropriation for home school and private school students that is equal to the proportion of  
337 the state board's administrative cost in relation to the appropriation for students enrolled in an  
338 LEA.

339 Section 5. Section **53F-4-504** is amended to read:

340 **53F-4-504. Authorized online course providers -- Certified online course**  
341 **providers.**

342 (1) The following entities are known as an authorized online course provider and may  
343 offer online courses to eligible students through the Statewide Online Education Program:

344 (a) ~~[a charter school or district school]~~ a school within an LEA created exclusively for  
345 the purpose of serving students online;

346 (b) an LEA program, approved by the LEA governing board, that is created exclusively  
347 for the purpose of serving students online;

348 (c) a program of an institution of higher education listed in Section **53B-2-101** that:

349 (i) offers secondary school level courses; and

350 (ii) is created exclusively for the purpose of serving students online; and

351 (d) a certified online course provider.

352 (2) The state board shall approve an online course provider as a certified online course  
353 provider if the online course provider:

354 (a) complies with the application procedures described in Section **53F-4-514**;

355 (b) is a for-profit or non-profit entity;

356 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) meets the standards described in Section **53F-4-514**; and

357 (d) unless the online course provider only serves private school or home school  
358 students, has a student information system that is compatible with the state board's information  
359 system described in Section **53E-3-518**; and

360 ~~[(c)]~~ (e) has prior experience offering online courses to secondary students.

361 (3) The state board may revoke the approval described in Subsection (2) if the state  
362 board:

363 (a) finds that a certified online course provider is not complying with the requirements  
364 described in Section **53F-4-514**;

365 (b) provides written notice describing the findings of non-compliance to the certified  
366 online course provider;

367 (c) provides the certified online course provider with at least 60 days to remedy the  
368 findings of non-compliance;

369 (d) reevaluates the findings of non-compliance at least 60 days after the certified online  
370 course provider's remedy period described in Subsection (3)(c); and

371 (e) finds after reevaluation that the certified online course provider has failed to  
372 satisfactorily remedy the findings of non-compliance.

373 Section 6. Section **53F-4-505** is amended to read:

374 **53F-4-505. Payment for an online course.**

375 (1) For the 2012-13 school year, the fee for a .5 credit online course or .5 credit of a 1  
376 credit online course is:

377 (a) \$200 for the following courses, except a concurrent enrollment course:

378 (i) financial literacy;

379 (ii) health;

380 (iii) fitness for life; and

381 (iv) computer literacy;

382 (b) \$200 for driver education;

383 (c) \$250 for a course that meets core standards for Utah public schools in fine arts or  
384 career and technical education, except a concurrent enrollment course;

385 (d) \$300 for the following courses:

386 (i) a course that meets core standards for Utah public schools requirements in social  
387 studies, except a concurrent enrollment course; and

388 (ii) a world language course, except a concurrent enrollment course;

389 (e) \$350 for the following courses:

390 (i) a course that meets core standards for Utah public schools requirements for  
391 language arts, mathematics, or science;

392 (ii) for an eligible student that is a private school or home school student, sequential  
393 mathematics courses, including Algebra I and II; and

394 ~~(ii)~~ (iii) a concurrent enrollment course; and

395 (f) \$250 for a course not described in Subsections (1)(a) through (e).

396 (2) If a course meets the requirements of more than one course fee category described  
397 in Subsection (1), the course fee shall be the lowest of the applicable course fee categories.

398 (3) The online course fees described in Subsection (1) shall be adjusted each school  
399 year in accordance with the percentage change in value of the weighted pupil unit from the  
400 previous school year.

401 (4) An authorized online course provider shall receive payment for an online course as  
402 follows:

403 (a) for a .5 credit online course, 50% of the online course fee after the withdrawal  
404 period described in Section 53F-4-506;

405 (b) for a 1 credit online course, 25% of the online course fee after the withdrawal  
406 period described in Section 53F-4-506 and 25% of the online course fee upon the beginning of  
407 the second .5 credit of the online course; and

408 (c) if a student completes a 1 credit online course within 12 months or a .5 credit  
409 course within nine weeks following the end of a traditional semester, 50% of the online course  
410 fee.

411 (5) (a) If a student fails to complete a 1 credit course within 12 months or a .5 credit  
412 course within nine weeks following the end of a traditional semester, the student may continue  
413 to be enrolled in the course until the student graduates from high school.

414 (b) To encourage an authorized online course provider to provide remediation to a  
415 student who remains enrolled in an online course pursuant to Subsection (5)(a) and avoid the  
416 need for credit recovery, an authorized online course provider shall receive a payment equal to  
417 30% of the online course fee if the student completes the online course:

418 (i) for a high school online course, before the student graduates from high school; or  
419 (ii) for a middle school online course, before the student completes middle school.

420 (6) Notwithstanding the online course fees prescribed in Subsections (1) through (3), a  
421 school district or charter school may:

422 (a) negotiate a fee with an authorized online course provider for an amount up to the  
423 amount prescribed in Subsections (1) through (3); and

424 (b) pay the negotiated fee instead of the fee prescribed in Subsections (1) through (3).

425 (7) An authorized online course provider who contracts with a vendor for the  
426 acquisition of online course content or online course instruction may negotiate the payment for  
427 the vendor's service independent of the fees specified in Subsections (1) through (3).

428 (8) The state board or, in relation to a student who attends a private school or home

429 school, the state board's contractor, may not remove a student from an online course if the  
430 student is eligible for continued enrollment in the online course under Subsection (5).

431 (9) Upon request by a primary LEA, the state board shall provide an itemized report to  
432 the primary LEA showing the deduction described in Subsection 53F-4-508(2) by student and  
433 course enrolled.

434 Section 7. Section **53F-4-506** is amended to read:

435 **53F-4-506. Withdrawal from an online course.**

436 (1) An authorized online course provider shall establish a start date for an online  
437 course, including a start date for the second .5 credit of a 1 credit online course.

438 (2) Except as provided in Subsection (3), a student may withdraw from an online  
439 course:

440 (a) within 20 school calendar days of the start date, if the student enrolls in an online  
441 course on or before the start date established pursuant to Subsection (1); or

442 (b) within 20 school calendar days of enrolling in the online course, if the student  
443 enrolls in an online course after the start date established pursuant to Subsection (1).

444 (3) (a) A student may withdraw from a 1 credit online course within 20 school calendar  
445 days of the start date of the second .5 credit of the online course.

446 (b) An authorized online course provider shall refund a payment received for the  
447 second .5 credit of an online course if a student withdraws from the online course pursuant to  
448 Subsection (3)(a).

449 (c) If a student withdraws from a 1 credit online course as provided in Subsection  
450 (3)(a), the authorized online course provider shall receive payment for the student's completion  
451 of .5 credit of the 1 credit course in the same manner as an authorized online course provider  
452 receives payment for a student's completion of a .5 credit online course as described in  
453 Subsection 53F-4-505(4).

454 Section 8. Section **53F-4-507** is amended to read:

455 **53F-4-507. Direction to deduct funds and make payments -- Plan for the payment**  
456 **of online courses taken by private and home school students.**

457 (1) (a) Subject to future budget constraints, the Legislature shall adjust the  
458 appropriation for the Statewide Online Education Program based on:

459 [~~a~~] (i) the anticipated increase of eligible home school and private school students

460 enrolled in the Statewide Online Education Program; and

461 ~~(b)~~ (ii) the value of the weighted pupil unit.

462 (b) The state board shall:

463 (i) ensure against expenditures for public school students from the funds appropriated  
464 for the Statewide Online Education Program for students who attend private school or home  
465 school; and

466 (ii) if the state board contracts with a private entity under Subsection 53F-4-503(9),  
467 delegate to the state board's contractor the management of the funds appropriated for the  
468 Statewide Online Education Program for students who attend private school or home school.

469 (2) Notwithstanding Subsection (1) and subject to future budget constraints, the  
470 Legislature shall:

471 (a) consider enrollment projections provided by the authorized online course providers  
472 to account for enrollment growth during the appropriations process;

473 (b) provide a supplemental appropriation to adequately fund the Statewide Online  
474 Education Program when the enrollment amount exceeds the projected enrollment amounts  
475 provided by the authorized online course providers; and

476 (c) in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, keep all other appropriations for the  
477 Statewide Online Education Program separate from the appropriations described in Section  
478 53F-4-518.

479 (3) (a) The state board shall deduct money from funds allocated to the student's  
480 primary LEA of enrollment under Chapter 2, State Funding -- Minimum School Program, to  
481 pay for online course fees.

482 (b) Money shall be deducted under Subsection (3)(a) in the amount and at the time an  
483 authorized online course provider qualifies to receive payment for an online course provided to  
484 a public education student, not to exceed 90 days after qualification, as provided in Subsection  
485 53F-4-505(4).

486 (c) ~~[Beginning July 1, 2023, the]~~ The state board or, in relation to a student who  
487 attends a private school or home school, the state board's contractor, shall deduct money from  
488 funds allocated for course fees for a private school or home school student in the amount and at  
489 the time an authorized online course provider qualifies to receive payment for an online course,  
490 not to exceed 90 days after qualification.



491 (4) From money deducted under Subsection (3), the state board or, in relation to a  
492 student who attends a private school or home school, the state board's contractor, shall make  
493 payments to the student's authorized online course provider as provided in Section 53F-4-505.

494 [~~(5) The Legislature shall establish a plan for the payment of online courses taken by a~~  
495 ~~private school or home school student.]~~

496 Section 9. Section 53F-4-508 is amended to read:

497 **53F-4-508. Course credit acknowledgment.**

498 (1) A student's primary LEA of enrollment and the student's authorized online course  
499 provider shall:

500 (a) enter into a course credit acknowledgment in which the primary LEA of enrollment  
501 and the authorized online course provider acknowledge that the authorized online course  
502 provider is responsible for the instruction of the student in a specified online course[-]; and

503 (b) agree upon a process to provide the primary LEA with the ability to ensure  
504 consistency of a course request with a student's IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan;

505 (2) The terms of the course credit acknowledgment shall provide that:

506 (a) the authorized online course provider shall receive a payment in the amount  
507 provided under Section 53F-4-505; and

508 (b) the student's primary LEA of enrollment acknowledges that the state board will  
509 deduct funds allocated to the LEA under Chapter 2, State Funding -- Minimum School  
510 Program, in the amount and at the time the authorized online course provider qualifies to  
511 receive payment for the online course as provided in Subsection 53F-4-505(4).

512 (3) (a) A course credit acknowledgment may originate with either an authorized online  
513 course provider or primary LEA of enrollment.

514 (b) The originating entity shall submit the course credit acknowledgment to the state  
515 board who shall forward it to the primary LEA of enrollment for course selection verification  
516 or the authorized online course provider for acceptance.

517 (c) (i) A primary LEA of enrollment may only reject a course credit acknowledgment  
518 if:

519 (A) the online course is not aligned with the student's plan for college and career  
520 readiness; or

521 [~~(B) the online course is not consistent with the student's IEP, if the student has an~~

522 HEP;]

523 [~~(C)~~ the online course is not consistent with the student's international baccalaureate  
524 program, if the student participates in an international baccalaureate program; or]

525 [~~(D)~~] (B) the number of online course credits exceeds the maximum allowed for the  
526 year as provided in Section 53F-4-503.

527 (ii) Verification of alignment of an online course with a student's plan for college and  
528 career readiness does not require a meeting with the student.

529 (d) An authorized online course provider may only reject a course credit  
530 acknowledgment if:

531 (i) the student does not meet course prerequisites; or

532 (ii) the course is not open for enrollment.

533 (e) [~~A~~] Except as provided in Subsection (5), a primary LEA of enrollment or  
534 authorized online course provider shall submit an acceptance or rejection of a course credit  
535 acknowledgment to the state board within [~~72~~] 24 business hours of the receipt of a course  
536 credit acknowledgment from the state board pursuant to Subsection (3)(b).

537 (f) If an authorized online course provider accepts a course credit acknowledgment, the  
538 authorized online course provider shall forward to the primary LEA of enrollment the online  
539 course start date as established under Section 53F-4-506.

540 (g) If an authorized online course provider rejects a course credit acknowledgment, the  
541 authorized online course provider shall include an explanation which the state board shall  
542 forward to the primary LEA of enrollment for the purpose of assisting a student with future  
543 online course selection.

544 (h) [~~H~~] Except as provided in Subsection (5), if a primary LEA of enrollment does not  
545 submit an acceptance or rejection of a course credit acknowledgment to the state board within  
546 [~~72~~] 24 business hours of the receipt of a course credit acknowledgment from the state board  
547 pursuant to Subsection (3)(b), the state board shall consider the course credit acknowledgment  
548 accepted.

549 (i) (i) Upon acceptance of a course credit acknowledgment, the primary LEA of  
550 enrollment shall notify the student of the acceptance and the start date for the online course as  
551 established under Section 53F-4-506.

552 (ii) Upon rejection of a course credit acknowledgment, the primary LEA of enrollment

553 shall notify the student of the rejection and provide an explanation of the rejection.

554 ~~[(j) If the online course student has an individual education plan (IEP) or 504~~  
 555 ~~accommodations, the primary LEA of enrollment shall forward the IEP or description of 504~~  
 556 ~~accommodations to the online course provider within 72 business hours after the primary LEA~~  
 557 ~~of enrollment receives notice that the online course provider accepted the course credit~~  
 558 ~~acknowledgment.]~~

559 (4) (a) A primary LEA of enrollment may not reject a course credit acknowledgment,  
 560 because the LEA is negotiating, or intends to negotiate, an online course fee with the  
 561 authorized online course provider pursuant to Subsection 53F-4-505(6).

562 (b) If a primary LEA of enrollment negotiates an online course fee with an authorized  
 563 online course provider before the start date of an online course, a course credit  
 564 acknowledgment may be amended to reflect the negotiated online course fee.

565 (5) A primary LEA of enrollment may intervene and reject a course credit  
 566 acknowledgment up to 72 business hours after the actual or constructive acceptance of a  
 567 course credit acknowledgment under Subsection (4), if the primary LEA of enrollment  
 568 determines the online course enrollment meets the criteria of Subsection (3)(c).

569 Section 10. Section 53F-4-509 is amended to read:

570 **53F-4-509. Online course credit hours included in daily membership --**  
 571 **Limitation.**

572 (1) Subject to Subsection (2), a student's primary LEA of enrollment shall include  
 573 online course credit hours in calculating daily membership.

574 (2) A student may not count as more than one FTE, unless the student intends to  
 575 complete high school graduation requirements, and exit high school, early, in accordance with  
 576 the student's plan for college and career readiness.

577 (3) A student who enrolls in an online course may not be counted in membership for a  
 578 released-time class, if counting the student in membership for a released-time class would  
 579 result in the student being counted as more than one FTE.

580 (4) Except as provided in Subsection (5), a student enrolled in an online course may  
 581 not earn ~~[no]~~ more credits in a year than the number of credits a student may earn in a year by  
 582 taking a full course load during the regular school day in the student's primary LEA of  
 583 enrollment.

584 (5) A student enrolled in an online course may earn more credits in a year than the  
585 number of credits a student may earn in a year by taking a full course load during the regular  
586 school day in the student's primary LEA of enrollment:

587 (a) if the student intends to complete high school graduation requirements, and exit  
588 high school, early, in accordance with the student's plan for college and career readiness; or

589 (b) if allowed under [~~local school board or charter school governing board~~] an LEA  
590 governing board policy.

591 Section 11. Section **53F-4-510** is amended to read:

592 **53F-4-510. Administration of statewide assessments to students enrolled in online**  
593 **courses.**

594 (1) A student enrolled in an online course that is a course for which a statewide  
595 assessment is administered under Title 53E, Chapter 4, Part 3, Assessments, shall take the  
596 statewide assessment.

597 (2) (a) The state board shall make rules providing for the administration of a statewide  
598 assessment to a student enrolled in an online course.

599 (b) Rules made under Subsection (2)(a) shall:

600 (i) provide for the administration of a statewide assessment upon a student completing  
601 an online course; and

602 (ii) require an authorized online course provider to proctor the statewide assessment.

603 Section 12. Section **53F-4-511** is amended to read:

604 **53F-4-511. Report on performance of authorized online course providers.**

605 (1) The state board, in collaboration with authorized online course providers and, if  
606 applicable, the state board's contractor, shall develop a report on the performance of authorized  
607 online course providers, which may be used to evaluate the Statewide Online Education  
608 Program and assess the quality of an authorized online course provider.

609 (2) A report on the performance of an authorized online course provider shall include:

610 (a) scores aggregated by test on statewide assessments administered under Title 53E,  
611 Chapter 4, Part 3, Assessments, taken by students at the end of an online course offered  
612 through the Statewide Online Education Program;

613 (b) the percentage of the authorized online course provider's students who complete  
614 online courses within the applicable time period specified in Subsection **53F-4-505(4)(c)**;

615 (c) the percentage of the authorized online course provider's students who complete  
616 online courses after the applicable time period specified in Subsection [53F-4-505\(4\)\(c\)](#) and  
617 before the student graduates from high school; and

618 (d) the pupil-teacher ratio for the combined online courses of the authorized online  
619 course provider.

620 (3) The state board shall post a report on the performance of an authorized online  
621 course provider on the Statewide Online Education Program's website described in Section  
622 [53F-4-512](#).

623 Section 13. Section **53F-4-512** is amended to read:

624 **53F-4-512. Dissemination of information on the Statewide Online Education**  
625 **Program.**

626 (1) The state board shall develop a website for the Statewide Online Education  
627 Program which shall include:

628 (a) a description of the Statewide Online Education Program, including its purposes;

629 (b) notwithstanding Subsection (2), information on who is eligible to enroll, and how  
630 an eligible student may enroll, in an online course;

631 (c) a directory of authorized online course providers;

632 (d) a link to a course catalog for each authorized online course provider; and

633 (e) a report on the performance of authorized online course providers as required by  
634 Section [53F-4-511](#).

635 (2) An authorized online course provider shall provide the following information on  
636 the authorized online course provider's website:

637 (a) a description of the Statewide Online Education Program, including its purposes;

638 (b) information on who is eligible to enroll, and how an eligible student may enroll, in  
639 an online course;

640 (c) a course catalog;

641 (d) scores aggregated by test on statewide assessments administered under Title 53E,  
642 Chapter 4, Part 3, Assessments, taken by students at the end of an online course offered  
643 through the Statewide Online Education Program;

644 (e) the percentage of an authorized online course provider's students who complete  
645 online courses within the applicable time period specified in Subsection [53F-4-505\(4\)\(c\)](#);

646 (f) the percentage of an authorized online course provider's students who complete  
647 online courses after the applicable time period specified in Subsection 53F-4-505(4)(c) and  
648 before the student graduates from high school; and

649 (g) the authorized online [~~learning~~] course provider's pupil-teacher ratio for the online  
650 courses combined.

651 (3) The state board's contractor shall provide on the contractor's website information  
652 regarding enrollment and participation by a private school or home school student through the  
653 contractor.

654 Section 14. Section 53F-4-513 is amended to read:

655 **53F-4-513. Time period to enroll in an online course.**

656 (1) To provide an LEA and an authorized online course [~~providers~~] provider with  
657 estimates of online course enrollment, a student should enroll in an online course, or declare an  
658 intention to enroll in an online course:

659 (a) for a high school online course, during the time period the LEA designates for high  
660 school course registration; or

661 (b) for a middle school online course, during the time period the LEA designates for  
662 middle school course registration.

663 (2) Notwithstanding Subsection (1) and except as provided in Subsection (3), a student  
664 may enroll in an online course at any time during a calendar year.

665 (3) (a) A student may alter a course schedule by dropping a traditional classroom  
666 course and adding an online course consistent with course schedule alteration procedures  
667 adopted by the student's primary LEA of enrollment.

668 (b) [~~A school district's or high school's~~] An LEA or school's deadline for dropping a  
669 traditional classroom course and adding an online course shall be the same deadline for  
670 dropping and adding a traditional classroom course.

671 Section 15. Section 53F-4-514 is amended to read:

672 **53F-4-514. State board -- Rulemaking -- Fees.**

673 (1) Notwithstanding Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the  
674 state board shall provide a delayed effective date that is after the school year has ended for a  
675 change to an administrative rule related to the Statewide Online Education Program if the  
676 change would require an authorized online course provider to make program changes during

677 the school year.

678 (2) The state board shall make rules in accordance with this part and Title 63G,  
679 Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, that establish:

680 (a) a course credit acknowledgement form and procedures for completing and  
681 submitting to the state board or, in relation to a student who attends a private school or home  
682 school, the state board's contractor, a course credit acknowledgement;

683 (b) procedures for the administration of a statewide assessment to a student enrolled in  
684 an online course; and

685 (c) protocols for an online course provider to obtain approval to become a certified  
686 online course provider, including:

687 (i) the application procedure for an online course provider to obtain approval to  
688 become a certified online course provider; and

689 (ii) the standards that a certified online course provider and any online course the  
690 certified online course provider offers shall meet;

691 (d) in accordance with Title 53E, Chapter 4, Academic Standards, Assessments, and  
692 Materials, criteria for an authorized online course provider to submit for approval an online  
693 course that does not have an existing state board course code;

694 (e) no later than July 1, 2024, a process within existing systems at the state board or, in  
695 relation to a student who attends a private school or home school, the state board's contractor,  
696 to allow a certified online course provider access to an educator's licensing, endorsement,  
697 certification, and assignment information if the educator is teaching an online course for the  
698 certified online course provider;

699 (f) in consultation with the authorized online course providers, the parameters for  
700 conducting a site visit including:

701 (i) a definition for the term site visit;

702 (ii) the minimum amount of time required for:

703 (A) notice to an authorized online course provider of a site visit; and

704 (B) an authorized online course provider to prepare for a site visit;

705 (iii) the documents, data, and artifacts subject to inspection during a site visit; and

706 (iv) a process to ensure a site visit allows for observation of instruction without  
707 interfering with the instruction[-];

- 708 (g) annual mandatory training for relevant staff at a primary LEA that includes:  
709 (i) program requirements for a primary LEA including reporting requirements and  
710 methods;  
711 (ii) uses of resources and tools to ensure adequate monitoring of an eligible student's  
712 progress;  
713 (iii) federal and state requirements for accommodating enrollments that involve special  
714 education;  
715 (iv) appropriate circumstances and methodologies for reducing an eligible student's  
716 schedule; and  
717 (v) other components the state board determines are necessary; and  
718 (3) (a) When establishing the standards described in Subsection (2)(c)(ii) the state  
719 board shall:  
720 (i) establish rules and minimum standards regarding accreditation;  
721 (ii) require an online course to be aligned with the core standards described in Section  
722 [53E-4-202](#);  
723 (iii) require proof that a national organization responsible for college athletics  
724 endorses:  
725 (A) the certified online course provider; or  
726 (B) the online course that a certified online course provider offers;  
727 (iv) permit an open-entry, open-exit method of instructional delivery that allows a  
728 student the flexibility to:  
729 (A) schedule in response to individual needs or requirements;  
730 (B) demonstrate competency when the student has mastered knowledge and skills;  
731 (C) begin or end study at any time; and  
732 (D) progress through course material at the student's own pace; and  
733 (v) except as provided in Subsection [~~4~~] (5), require an individual who teaches a  
734 course for a certified online course provider to hold a teaching license issued by the state board.  
735 (b) When establishing the standards described in Subsection (2)(c)(ii), the state board  
736 may not:  
737 (i) specify a minimum duration for an online course;  
738 (ii) specify a minimum amount of time that a student must spend in an online course;



739 or

740 (iii) limit the class size of an online course.

741 (4) No later than January 31, 2026, the state board shall create a communication  
 742 dashboard for the program and only related to eligible students enrolled in a public school that  
 743 may include:

744 (a) a counselor contact list for an eligible student that is accessible to an authorized  
 745 online course provider; and

746 (b) progress monitoring fields that are accessible to the primary LEA, the eligible  
 747 student's counselor, and the eligible student's parent containing:

748 (i) grade progress reporting of an eligible student by an authorized online course  
 749 provider;

750 (ii) an ability to flag a student that is at-risk of failing an online course; and

751 (iii) other relevant capabilities the state board determines to be necessary in  
 752 consultation with LEA users of the dashboard.

753 [~~4~~] (5) If an individual possesses a provider-specific license described in Section  
 754 53E-6-201, the state board may not prohibit the individual from teaching an online course for  
 755 an authorized online course provider while the individual is in the process of obtaining an  
 756 endorsement or additional license issued by the state board.

757 [~~5~~] (6) The state board may establish a fee, in accordance with Section 63J-1-504, in  
 758 an amount to pay the costs to the state board of the application approval process and the  
 759 monitoring of a certified online course provider's compliance with the standards described in  
 760 Subsection (2)(c)(ii).

761 [~~6~~] (7) (a) Fee revenue collected in accordance with Subsection [~~5~~] (6) shall be:

762 (i) deposited into the Uniform School Fund as a dedicated credit; and

763 (ii) used to pay the costs to the state board of reviewing certified online course  
 764 providers' applications and compliance with the standards described in Subsection (2)(c)(ii).

765 Section 16. Section 53F-4-516 is amended to read:

766 **53F-4-516. Report of noncompliance -- Action to ensure compliance.**

767 (1) The state superintendent shall report to the state board any report of noncompliance  
 768 of this part made to a staff member of [the staff of] the state board or, in relation to a student  
 769 who attends a private school or home school, the state board's contractor.

770 (2) The state board and, if applicable, the state board's contractor, shall take appropriate  
771 action to ensure compliance with this part.

772 Section 17. Section **53F-4-517** is amended to read:

773 **53F-4-517. Agreements for online instruction.**

774 (1) In addition to offering online courses to students through the [~~Statewide Online~~  
775 ~~Education Program~~] program, a school district or charter school may enter into an agreement  
776 with another school district or charter school or a consortium of school districts or charter  
777 schools to provide online instruction to the school district's or charter school's students.

778 (2) Online instruction offered pursuant to Subsection (1) is not subject to the  
779 requirements of this part.

780 Section 18. Section **53F-4-518** is amended to read:

781 **53F-4-518. Small school student access to college and career readiness courses.**

782 Subject to legislative appropriations and Subsection 53F-4-514(2)(h), and  
783 notwithstanding Subsections 53F-4-509(2) and (3), the state board shall:

784 (1) use funds from an appropriation for the Statewide Online Education Program to pay  
785 for an online course fee described in Section 53F-4-505 for a student who is enrolled in a  
786 public high school that enrolls fewer than 1,000 students; and

787 (2) after the funds described in Subsection (1) have been expended, make a deduction  
788 as described in Subsection 53F-4-507(3).

789 Section 19. **Effective date.**

790 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.