

EDUCATOR LICENSE AMENDMENTS

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Norman K Thurston

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses the licensing of educators by the State Board of Education.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ allows individuals who complete certain educator training programs, without receiving a bachelor's degree, to obtain an educator license from the State Board of Education;
- ▶ requires the State Board of Education to establish licensing standards for educator training programs; and
- ▶ makes technical corrections.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53E-6-201, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapters 365, 408

53E-6-302, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 285

53E-6-303, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 186



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

Section 1. Section **53E-6-201** is amended to read:

53E-6-201. State board licensure.

(1) ~~[To be fully implemented by July 1, 2020, and, if technology and funds are available, the]~~ The state board shall establish in rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, a system for educator licensing that includes:

(a) an associate educator license that permits an individual to provide educational services in a public school while working to meet the requirements of a professional educator license;

(b) a professional educator license that permits an individual to provide educational services in a public school after demonstrating that the individual meets licensure requirements established in state board rule; ~~[and]~~

(c) an LEA-specific educator license issued by the state board at the request of an LEA's governing body that is valid for an individual to provide educational services in the requesting LEA's schools~~[-];~~ and

(d) a certified educator license that permits an individual who has successfully completed a certified educator training program, as defined in Section [53E-6-302](#), to provide educational services in a public school after demonstrating that the individual meets licensure requirements established in state board rule.

(2) An individual employed in a position that requires licensure by the state board shall hold the license that is appropriate to the position.

(3) (a) The state board may by rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, rank, endorse, or otherwise classify licenses and establish the criteria for obtaining, retaining, and reinstating licenses.

(b) An educator who is enrolling in a course of study at an institution within the state system of higher education to satisfy the state board requirements for retaining a license is exempt from tuition, except for a semester registration fee established by the Utah Board of Higher Education, if:

(i) the educator is enrolled on the basis of surplus space in the class after regularly enrolled students have been assigned and admitted to the class in accordance with regular

59 procedures, normal teaching loads, and the institution's approved budget; and
 60 (ii) enrollments are determined by each institution under rules and guidelines
 61 established by the Utah Board of Higher Education in accordance with findings of fact that
 62 space is available for the educator's enrollment.

63 Section 2. Section **53E-6-302** is amended to read:

64 **53E-6-302. Educator preparation programs.**

65 (1) As used in this section:

66 (a) "Certified educator training program" means a competency-based program that:

67 (i) provides educators with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to teach in the
 68 classroom and prepare educators for licensure; and

69 (ii) does not lead to a bachelor's degree.

70 [~~(a)~~] (b) "Educator preparation program" means:

71 (i) a university teacher education program; [~~or~~]

72 (ii) a program that prepares individuals using an alternative pathway to licensure, as the
 73 state board provides[~~;~~]; or

74 (iii) a certified educator training program.

75 [~~(b)~~] (c) "Required literacy preparation assessment" means the same as that term is
 76 defined in Section **53E-6-301**.

77 [~~(c)~~] (d) "University teacher preparation program" means a program that an institution
 78 of higher education offers to prepare educators for licensure.

79 (2) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
 80 state board shall make rules that establish standards for approval of an educator preparation
 81 program.

82 (3) (a) [~~The~~] Subject to Subsection (3)(b), the state board shall ensure that standards
 83 adopted under Subsection (2):

84 [~~(a)~~] (i) meet or exceed generally recognized national standards for preparation of
 85 educators; and

86 [~~(b)~~] (ii) include requirements for educator preparation programs to:

87 [(i)] (A) provide instruction in the science of reading; and

88 [(ii)] (B) prepare license applicants to pass the required literacy preparation assessment
 89 at no cost to the applicants for the preparation, including providing ongoing preparation for up

90 to three total attempts of the required literacy preparation assessment.

91 (b) Rules made by the state board under Subsection (2) may not require a license
92 applicant who has completed a certified educator training program to obtain a bachelor's
93 degree.

94 (4) The state board shall designate an employee of the state board's staff to:

95 (a) work with education deans of state institutions of higher education to coordinate
96 university teacher preparation programs that may include:

- 97 (i) monitoring courses for university teacher preparation programs; and
- 98 (ii) working with course instructors for university teacher preparation programs;

99 (b) act as a liaison between:

- 100 (i) the state board;
- 101 (ii) local school boards or charter school governing boards; and
- 102 (iii) representatives of university teacher preparation programs; and

103 (c) report the employee's findings and recommendations for the improvement of
104 teacher preparation programs to:

- 105 (i) the state board; and
- 106 (ii) education deans of state institutions of higher education.

107 (5) The state board shall:

108 (a) in good faith, consider the findings and recommendations described in Subsection
109 (4)(c); and

110 (b) in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act,
111 make rules, as the state board determines is necessary, to implement recommendations
112 described in Subsection (4)(c).

113 (6) Subject to legislative appropriations, the Utah Board of Higher Education shall:

114 (a) provide matching funds to each of the state's institutions of higher education with a
115 university teacher preparation program:

116 (i) to hire an additional faculty member who has training in the science of reading and
117 the science of reading instruction; and

118 (ii) in an amount equal to 75% of the cost of making the hire described in Subsection
119 [~~(6)(a)~~] (6)(a)(i) if the institution provides 25% of the cost; and

120 (b) consult the state superintendent regarding:

121 (i) criteria for the hire described in Subsection [~~(6)(a)~~] (6)(a)(i) that would qualify for a
122 distribution of funding; and

123 (ii) an individual institution's fulfillment of the criteria described in Subsection
124 (6)(b)(i) before distributing funding.

125 (7) An institution that hires an additional faculty member shall coordinate with the
126 science of reading panel described in Section 53E-3-1003 to include two members of the panel
127 in the institution's hiring process.

128 (8) The state board shall:

129 (a) monitor accreditation of university programs regarding the science of reading
130 preparation described in Subsection [~~(3)(b)~~] (3)(a)(ii) at the institutions described in
131 Subsection (6)(a); and

132 (b) (i) develop strategies to provide support for preparation programs with low rates of
133 passage on the required literacy preparation assessment; and

134 (ii) provide increasing levels of support to a preparation program with low rates of
135 passage on the required literacy preparation assessment for two consecutive years.

136 Section 3. Section 53E-6-303 is amended to read:

137 **53E-6-303. Prohibition on use of degrees or credit from unapproved institutions.**

138 (1) An individual may not use a postsecondary degree, certificate, or credit awarded by
139 a postsecondary institution or program to gain a license, employment, or any other benefit
140 within the public school system unless the institution or program was, at the time the degree,
141 certificate, or credit was awarded:

142 (a) approved for the granting of the degree, certificate, or credit by the state board; or

143 (b) accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the state board.

144 (2) The state board may grant an exemption from Subsection (1) to an individual who
145 shows good cause for the granting of the exemption.