

CIVICS EDUCATION AMENDMENTS

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Dan N. Johnson

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates a civics engagement pilot program to assess the benefits of, and methods for, implementing a requirement to complete a civics engagement project as a condition for receiving a high school diploma.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ creates a civics engagement pilot program to assess the benefits of, and methods for, implementing a requirement to complete a civics engagement project as a condition for receiving a high school diploma;
- ▶ provides for training for teachers in schools participating in the pilot program;
- ▶ requires schools participating in the pilot program to submit a report to the State Board of Education; and
- ▶ repeals the requirement to pass a basic civics test as a condition for receiving a high school diploma.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:



28 AMENDS:

29 **53G-10-204**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapters 48, 246, 293, 324 and
30 last amended by Coordination Clause, Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 246

31 **63I-2-253**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapters 41, 129, 136, 223, 324,
32 325, and 444



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

35 Section 1. Section **53G-10-204** is amended to read:

36 **53G-10-204. Civic and character education -- Definitions -- Legislative finding --**
37 **Elements -- Reporting requirements.**

38 (1) As used in this section:

39 (a) "Character education" means reaffirming values and qualities of character which
40 promote an upright and desirable citizenry.

41 (b) "Civic education" means the cultivation of informed, responsible participation in
42 political life by competent citizens committed to the fundamental values and principles of
43 representative democracy in Utah and the United States.

44 (c) "Civics engagement pilot program" means the pilot program described in
45 Subsection (7).

46 (d) "Civics engagement project" means the civics engagement project described in
47 Subsection (7), which a student enrolled in a participating LEA may complete.

48 (e) "Participating LEA" means an LEA that meets the eligibility criteria, and is selected
49 by the state board, to participate in the civics engagement pilot program.

50 [~~(c)~~] (f) "Values" means time-established principles or standards of worth.

51 (2) The Legislature recognizes that:

52 (a) Civic and character education are fundamental elements of the public education
53 system's core mission as originally intended and established under Article X of the Utah
54 Constitution;

55 (b) Civic and character education are fundamental elements of the constitutional
56 responsibility of public education and shall be a continuing emphasis and focus in public
57 schools;

58 (c) the cultivation of a continuing understanding and appreciation of a constitutional

59 republic and principles of representative democracy in Utah and the United States among
60 succeeding generations of educated and responsible citizens is important to the nation and
61 state;

62 (d) the primary responsibility for the education of children within the state resides with
63 their parents and that the role of state and local governments is to support and assist parents in
64 fulfilling that responsibility;

65 (e) public schools fulfill a vital purpose in the preparation of succeeding generations of
66 informed and responsible citizens who are deeply attached to essential democratic values and
67 institutions; and

68 (f) the happiness and security of American society relies upon the public virtue of its
69 citizens which requires a united commitment to a moral social order where self-interests are
70 willingly subordinated to the greater common good.

71 (3) Through an integrated curriculum, students shall be taught in connection with
72 regular school work:

73 (a) honesty, integrity, morality, civility, duty, honor, service, and obedience to law;

74 (b) respect for and an understanding of the Declaration of Independence and the
75 constitutions of the United States and of the state of Utah;

76 (c) Utah history, including territorial and preterritorial development to the present;

77 (d) the essentials and benefits of the free enterprise system;

78 (e) respect for parents, home, and family;

79 (f) the dignity and necessity of honest labor; and

80 (g) other skills, habits, and qualities of character which will promote an upright and
81 desirable citizenry and better prepare students to recognize and accept responsibility for
82 preserving and defending the blessings of liberty inherited from prior generations and secured
83 by the constitution.

84 (4) Local school boards and school administrators may provide training, direction, and
85 encouragement, as needed, to accomplish the intent and requirements of this section and to
86 effectively emphasize civic and character education in the course of regular instruction in the
87 public schools.

88 (5) Civic and character education in public schools are:

89 (a) not intended to be separate programs in need of special funding or added specialists

90 to be accomplished; and

91 (b) core principles which reflect the shared values of the citizens of Utah and the
92 founding principles upon which representative democracy in the United States and the state of
93 Utah are based.

94 (6) In accordance with Section 53E-1-203, the state board shall report to the Education
95 Interim Committee the methods used, and the results being achieved, to instruct and prepare
96 students to become informed and responsible citizens through an integrated curriculum taught
97 in connection with regular school work as required in this section.

98 (7) (a) In accordance with this section, subject to appropriations by the Legislature for
99 this purpose, beginning with the 2020-21 school year, the state board shall administer a
100 three-year civics engagement pilot program to assess the benefits of, and methods for,
101 implementing a requirement to complete a civics engagement project as a condition for
102 receiving a high school diploma.

103 (b) The state board shall:

104 (i) make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
105 Rulemaking Act:

106 (A) to create a civics engagement project that complies with core standards for Utah
107 public education for social studies and prepares students for lifelong civic motivation and
108 participation through applied learning of civics content;

109 (B) to establish eligibility requirements for participating LEAs;

110 (C) to create an application process for LEAs to apply to participate in the pilot
111 program; and

112 (D) for a report that a participating LEA is required to submit to the state board at the
113 end of the pilot program;

114 (ii) select participating LEAs:

115 (A) from diverse geographic areas within the state; and

116 (B) with a range of student population sizes; and

117 (iii) subject to appropriations by the Legislature for this purpose, in cooperation with
118 school districts, charter schools, and interested private and nonprofit entities, provide training
119 that prepares teachers in a participating LEA to assist students to successfully complete the
120 civics engagement project.

121 (c) A participating LEA shall submit a report to the state board in accordance with the
122 rules described in Subsection (7)(b)(i)(D).

123 Section 2. Section **63I-2-253** is amended to read:

124 **63I-2-253. Repeal dates -- Titles 53 through 53G.**

125 (1) (a) Subsections **53B-2a-103**(2) and (4), regarding the composition of the UTech
126 Board of Trustees and the transition to that composition, are repealed July 1, 2019.

127 (b) When repealing Subsections **53B-2a-103**(2) and (4), the Office of Legislative
128 Research and General Counsel shall, in addition to its authority under Subsection **36-12-12**(3),
129 make necessary changes to subsection numbering and cross references.

130 (2) (a) Subsection **53B-2a-108**(5), regarding exceptions to the composition of a
131 technical college board of directors, is repealed July 1, 2022.

132 (b) When repealing Subsection **53B-2a-108**(5), the Office of Legislative Research and
133 General Counsel shall, in addition to its authority under Subsection **36-12-12**(3), make
134 necessary changes to subsection numbering and cross references.

135 (3) Section **53B-6-105.7** is repealed July 1, 2024.

136 (4) (a) Subsection **53B-7-705**(6)(b)(ii)(A), the language that states "Except as provided
137 in Subsection (6)(b)(ii)(B)," is repealed July 1, 2021.

138 (b) Subsection **53B-7-705**(6)(b)(ii)(B), regarding comparing a technical college's
139 change in performance with the technical college's average performance, is repealed July 1,
140 2021.

141 (5) (a) Subsection **53B-7-707**(3)(a)(ii), the language that states "Except as provided in
142 Subsection (3)(b)," is repealed July 1, 2021.

143 (b) Subsection **53B-7-707**(3)(b), regarding performance data of a technical college
144 during a fiscal year before fiscal year 2020, is repealed July 1, 2021.

145 (6) Section **53B-8-112** is repealed July 1, 2024.

146 (7) Section **53B-8-114** is repealed July 1, 2024.

147 (8) (a) The following sections, regarding the Regents' scholarship program, are
148 repealed on July 1, 2023:

149 (i) Section **53B-8-202**;

150 (ii) Section **53B-8-203**;

151 (iii) Section **53B-8-204**; and

152 (iv) Section 53B-8-205.

153 (b) (i) Subsection 53B-8-201(2), regarding the Regents' scholarship program for
154 students who graduate from high school before fiscal year 2019, is repealed on July 1, 2023.

155 (ii) When repealing Subsection 53B-8-201(2), the Office of Legislative Research and
156 General Counsel shall, in addition to its authority under Subsection 36-12-12(3), make
157 necessary changes to subsection numbering and cross references.

158 (9) Section 53B-10-101 is repealed on July 1, 2027.

159 (10) Title 53B, Chapter 18, Part 14, Uintah Basin Air Quality Research Project, is
160 repealed July 1, 2023.

161 (11) Section 53E-3-519 regarding school counselor services is repealed July 1, 2020.

162 (12) Section 53E-3-520 is repealed July 1, 2021.

163 (13) Subsection 53E-5-306(3)(b)(ii)(B), related to improving school performance and
164 continued funding relating to the School Recognition and Reward Program, is repealed July 1,
165 2020.

166 (14) Section 53E-5-307 is repealed July 1, 2020.

167 (15) In Subsections 53F-2-205(4) and (5), regarding the State Board of Education's
168 duties if contributions from the minimum basic tax rate are overestimated or underestimated,
169 the language that states "or 53F-2-301.5, as applicable" is repealed July 1, 2023.

170 (16) Subsection 53F-2-301(1), relating to the years the section is not in effect, is
171 repealed July 1, 2023.

172 (17) In Subsection 53F-2-515(1), the language that states "or 53F-2-301.5, as
173 applicable" is repealed July 1, 2023.

174 [~~(18) Section 53F-4-204 is repealed July 1, 2019.~~]

175 [~~(19)~~ (18) In Subsection 53F-9-302(3), the language that states "or 53F-2-301.5, as
176 applicable" is repealed July 1, 2023.

177 [~~(20)~~ (19) In Subsection 53F-9-305(3)(a), the language that states "or 53F-2-301.5, as
178 applicable" is repealed July 1, 2023.

179 [~~(21)~~ (20) In Subsection 53F-9-306(3)(a), the language that states "or 53F-2-301.5, as
180 applicable" is repealed July 1, 2023.

181 [~~(22)~~ (21) In Subsection 53G-3-304(1)(c)(i), the language that states "or 53F-2-301.5,
182 as applicable" is repealed July 1, 2023.

183 (22) Subsections [53G-10-204\(1\)\(c\)](#) through (e), and Subsection [53G-10-204\(7\)](#), related
184 to the civics engagement pilot program, are repealed on July 1, 2023.

185 (23) On July 1, 2023, when making changes in this section, the Office of Legislative
186 Research and General Counsel shall, in addition to the office's authority under Subsection
187 [36-12-12\(3\)](#), make corrections necessary to ensure that sections and subsections identified in
188 this section are complete sentences and accurately reflect the office's perception of the
189 Legislature's intent.