

**UPSTART PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

2014 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: J. Stuart Adams**

House Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill amends provisions related to the UPSTART early education program.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ establishes the UPSTART program as a permanent, nonpilot program;
- ▶ repeals a repeal date related to the UPSTART program; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**53A-1a-1001**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 397

**53A-1a-1002**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 397

**53A-1a-1003**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 397

**53A-1a-1004**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 397

**63I-2-253**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2013, Chapters 173 and 434

---

---

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



28 Section 1. Section **53A-1a-1001** is amended to read:

29 **53A-1a-1001. Definitions.**

30 As used in this part:

31 (1) "Contractor" means the educational technology provider selected by the State Board  
32 of Education under Section **53A-1a-1002**.

33 (2) "Low income" means an income below 200% of the federal poverty guideline.

34 (3) "Preschool children" means children who are:

35 (a) age four or five; and

36 (b) have not entered kindergarten.

37 (4) "UPSTART" means the [~~pilot project~~] program established by Section  
38 **53A-1a-1002** that uses a home-based educational technology program to develop school  
39 readiness skills of preschool children.

40 Section 2. Section **53A-1a-1002** is amended to read:

41 **53A-1a-1002. UPSTART program to develop school readiness skills of preschool**  
42 **children.**

43 (1) UPSTART, [~~a pilot project that uses~~] a home-based educational technology  
44 program to develop school readiness skills of preschool children, is established within the  
45 public education system.

46 (2) UPSTART is created to:

47 (a) evaluate the effectiveness of giving preschool children access, at home, to  
48 interactive individualized instruction delivered by computers and the Internet to prepare them  
49 academically for success in school; and

50 (b) test the feasibility of scaling a home-based curriculum in reading, math, and science  
51 delivered by computers and the Internet to all preschool children in Utah.

52 (3) The State Board of Education shall contract with an educational technology  
53 provider, selected through a request for proposals process, for the delivery of a home-based  
54 educational technology program for preschool children that meets the requirements of  
55 Subsection (4).

56 (4) A home-based educational technology program for preschool children shall meet  
57 the following standards:

58 (a) the contractor shall provide computer-assisted instruction for preschool children on

- 59 a home computer connected by the Internet to a centralized file storage facility;
- 60 (b) the contractor shall:
- 61 (i) provide technical support to families for the installation and operation of the
- 62 instructional software; and
- 63 (ii) provide for the installation of computer and Internet access in homes of low income
- 64 families that cannot afford the equipment and service;
- 65 (c) the contractor shall have the capability of doing the following through the Internet:
- 66 (i) communicating with parents;
- 67 (ii) updating the instructional software;
- 68 (iii) validating user access;
- 69 (iv) collecting usage data;
- 70 (v) storing research data; and
- 71 (vi) producing reports for parents, schools, and the Legislature;
- 72 (d) the program shall include the following components:
- 73 (i) computer-assisted, individualized instruction in reading, mathematics, and science;
- 74 (ii) a multisensory reading tutoring program; and
- 75 (iii) a validated computer adaptive reading test that does not require the presence of
- 76 trained adults to administer and is an accurate indicator of reading readiness of children who
- 77 cannot read;
- 78 (e) the contractor shall have the capability to quickly and efficiently modify, improve,
- 79 and support the product;
- 80 (f) the contractor shall work in cooperation with school district personnel who will
- 81 provide administrative and technical support of the program as provided in Section
- 82 [53A-1a-1003](#);
- 83 (g) the contractor shall solicit families to participate in the program as provided in
- 84 Section [53A-1a-1004](#); and
- 85 (h) in implementing the home-based educational technology program, the contractor
- 86 shall seek the advise and expertise of early childhood education professionals within the Utah
- 87 System of Higher Education on issues such as:
- 88 (i) soliciting families to participate in the program;
- 89 (ii) providing training to families; and

90 (iii) motivating families to regularly use the instructional software.

91 (5) The contract shall provide funding for a home-based educational technology  
92 program for preschool children for one year with an option to extend the contract for additional  
93 years or to expand the program to a greater number of preschool children, subject to the  
94 appropriation of money by the Legislature for UPSTART.

95 Section 3. Section **53A-1a-1003** is amended to read:

96 **53A-1a-1003. School district participation in UPSTART.**

97 (1) A school district may participate in UPSTART if the local school board agrees to  
98 work in cooperation with the contractor to provide administrative and technical support for [~~the~~  
99 ~~pilot project~~] UPSTART.

100 (2) Family participants in UPSTART shall be solicited from school districts that  
101 participate in UPSTART.

102 (3) A school district that participates in UPSTART shall:

103 (a) receive funding for:

104 (i) paraprofessional and technical support staff; and

105 (ii) travel, materials, and meeting costs of the program;

106 (b) participate in program training by the contractor; and

107 (c) agree to adopt standardized policies and procedures in implementing [~~the pilot~~  
108 ~~project~~] UPSTART.

109 Section 4. Section **53A-1a-1004** is amended to read:

110 **53A-1a-1004. Family participation in UPSTART.**

111 (1) The contractor shall solicit families to participate in UPSTART through a public  
112 information campaign and referrals from participating school districts.

113 (2) (a) Preschool children who participate in UPSTART shall:

114 (i) be from families with diverse socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds; and

115 (ii) reside in different regions of the state in both urban and rural areas.

116 (b) At least 30% of the preschool children who participate in UPSTART shall be from  
117 low income families.

118 (3) A low income family that cannot afford a computer and Internet service to operate  
119 the instructional software may obtain a computer and peripheral equipment on loan and receive  
120 free Internet service for the duration of the family's participation in [~~the pilot project~~]

121 UPSTART.

122 (4) The contractor shall make the home-based educational technology program  
123 available to families at an agreed upon cost if the number of families who would like to  
124 participate in UPSTART exceeds the number of participants funded by the legislative  
125 appropriation.

126 Section 5. Section **63I-2-253** is amended to read:

127 **63I-2-253. Repeal dates -- Titles 53, 53A, and 53B.**

128 (1) Section [53A-1-402.7](#) is repealed July 1, 2014.

129 (2) Section [53A-1-403.5](#) is repealed July 1, 2017.

130 (3) Section [53A-1-411](#) is repealed July 1, 2016.

131 (4) Section [53A-1-412](#) is repealed July 1, 2013.

132 (5) Section [53A-1a-513.5](#) is repealed July 1, 2017.

133 [~~(6) Title 53A, Chapter 1a, Part 10, UPSTART, is repealed July 1, 2014.~~]

134 [~~(7)~~] (6) Title 53A, Chapter 8a, Part 8, Peer Assistance and Review Pilot Program, is  
135 repealed July 1, 2017.

136 [~~(8)~~] (7) Subsection [53A-13-110](#)(4) is repealed July 1, 2013.

137 [~~(9)~~] (8) Section [53A-17a-169](#) is repealed July 1, 2016.

---

---

**Legislative Review Note**  
as of 12-16-13 1:54 PM

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**