

**CIVICS EDUCATION AMENDMENTS**

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Dan N. Johnson**

Senate Sponsor: Chris H. Wilson

---

---

**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill makes technical changes to provisions related to civics education graduation requirements.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ makes a technical change to the definition of basic civics test to reflect changes to the test form used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**53E-4-205**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 408

---

---

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

Section 1. Section **53E-4-205** is amended to read:

**53E-4-205. American civics education initiative.**

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Adult education program" means an organized educational program below the postsecondary level, other than a regular full-time K-12 secondary education program,

29 provided by an LEA or nonprofit organization that provides the opportunity for an adult to  
30 further the adult's high school level education.

31 (b) "Basic civics test" means a test that includes 50 of the [100] questions on the civics  
32 test form used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services:

33 (i) to determine that an individual applying for United States citizenship meets the  
34 basic citizenship skills specified in 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1423; and

35 (ii) in accordance with 8 C.F.R. Sec. 312.2.

36 (2) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), the state board shall require:

37 (i) a public school student who graduates on or after January 1, 2016, to pass a basic  
38 civics test as a condition for receiving a high school diploma; and

39 (ii) a student enrolled in an adult education program to pass a basic civics test as a  
40 condition for receiving an adult education secondary diploma.

41 (b) The state board may require a public school student to pass an alternate assessment  
42 instead of a basic civics test if the student qualifies for an alternate assessment, as defined in  
43 state board rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative  
44 Rulemaking Act.

45 (3) An individual who correctly answers a minimum of 35 out of the 50 questions on a  
46 basic civics test passes the test and an individual who correctly answers fewer than 35 out of 50  
47 questions on a basic civics test does not pass the test.

48 (4) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the  
49 state board shall make rules that:

50 (a) require an LEA that serves secondary students to administer a basic civics test or  
51 alternate assessment to a public school student enrolled in the LEA;

52 (b) require an adult education program provider to administer a basic civics test to an  
53 individual who intends to receive an adult education secondary diploma;

54 (c) allow an individual to take a basic civics test as many times as needed in order to  
55 pass the test; and

- 56 (d) for the alternate assessment described in Subsection (2)(b), describe:
- 57 (i) the content of an alternate assessment;
- 58 (ii) how a public school student qualifies for an alternate assessment; and
- 59 (iii) how an LEA determines if a student passes an alternate assessment.