

Statewide Online Education Program Modifications

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: John D. Johnson

LONG TITLE**Committee Note:**

The Education Interim Committee recommended this bill.

Legislative Vote: 12 voting for 0 voting against 8 absent

General Description:

This bill amends the small school portion of the Statewide Online Education Program.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- requires the state board to establish funding priorities;
- creates an annual assessment process for school needs;
- provides for a report to the Education Interim Committee; and
- makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill contains a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53F-4-518, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 24

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

Section 1. Section **53F-4-518** is amended to read:

53F-4-518 . Small school student access to courses.

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

- (1) use funds from an appropriation for the Statewide Online Education Program to pay for an online course fee described in Section 53F-4-505 for a student who is enrolled in a public high school that enrolls fewer than 1,000 students;[~~and~~]
- (2) after the funds described in Subsection (1) have been expended, make a deduction as

- 32 described in Subsection 53F-4-507(3)[-] ;
- 33 (3) establish a prioritized funding distribution system that evaluates and ranks schools
- 34 based on:
- 35 (a) the school's demonstrated inability to provide courses, including Advanced
- 36 Placement, International Baccalaureate, or Concurrent Enrollment due to:
- 37 (i) insufficient student enrollment to justify full course sections;
- 38 (ii) geographic isolation from qualified instructors;
- 39 (iii) limited staff capacity to teach courses; or
- 40 (iv) financial constraints in hiring qualified instructors; and
- 41 (b) the school's current access to college and career readiness programming;
- 42 (4) develop an annual assessment process to:
- 43 (a) identify schools with the highest demonstrated need based on the criteria in
- 44 Subsection (3); and
- 45 (b) adjust funding priorities based on program outcomes;
- 46 (5) establish reporting requirements for recipient schools to:
- 47 (a) document the use of allocated funds;
- 48 (b) track student participation in online courses;
- 49 (c) measure student achievement in funded courses; and
- 50 (d) demonstrate ongoing need for continued funding; and
- 51 (6) at the request of the Education Interim Committee, submit a report that includes:
- 52 (a) a list of schools receiving prioritized funding;
- 53 (b) the basis for funding prioritization;
- 54 (c) student participation and achievement data; and
- 55 (d) recommendations for program improvement.

56 Section 2. **Effective Date.**

57 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.