

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

described in Subsection 53F-4-507(3)[-] ;

(3) establish a prioritized funding distribution system that evaluates and ranks schools based on:

(a) the school's demonstrated inability to provide courses, including Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or Concurrent Enrollment due to:

(i) insufficient student enrollment to justify full course sections;

(ii) geographic isolation from qualified instructors;

(iii) limited staff capacity to teach courses; or

(iv) financial constraints in hiring qualified instructors; and

(b) the school's current access to college and career readiness programming;

(4) develop an annual assessment process to:

(a) identify schools with the highest demonstrated need based on the criteria in Subsection (3); and

(b) adjust funding priorities based on program outcomes;

(5) establish reporting requirements for recipient schools to:

(a) document the use of allocated funds;

(b) track student participation in online courses;

(c) measure student achievement in funded courses; and

(d) demonstrate ongoing need for continued funding; and

(6) at the request of the Education Interim Committee, submit a report that includes:

(a) a list of schools receiving prioritized funding;

(b) the basis for funding prioritization;

(c) student participation and achievement data; and

(d) recommendations for program improvement.

Section 2. **Effective Date.**

This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.