

Statewide Online Education Program Modifications

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: John D. Johnson

House Sponsor: Tiara Auxier

LONG TITLE

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.