

CIVICS EDUCATION AMENDMENTS

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Dan N. Johnson

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill creates a civics engagement pilot program to assess the benefits of, and methods for, implementing a requirement to complete a civics engagement project as a condition for receiving a high school diploma.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- creates a civics engagement pilot program to assess the benefits of, and methods for, implementing a requirement to complete a civics engagement project as a condition for receiving a high school diploma;
- provides for training for teachers in schools participating in the pilot program;
- requires schools participating in the pilot program to submit a report to the State Board of Education; and
- repeals the requirement to pass a basic civics test as a condition for receiving a high school diploma.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53G-10-204, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapters 48, 246, 293, 324 and last amended by Coordination Clause, Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 246

63I-2-253, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapters 41, 129, 136, 223, 324, 325, and 444

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

Section 1. Section **53G-10-204** is amended to read:

53G-10-204. Civic and character education -- Definitions -- Legislative finding -- Elements -- Reporting requirements.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Character education" means reaffirming values and qualities of character which promote an upright and desirable citizenry.

(b) "Civic education" means the cultivation of informed, responsible participation in political life by competent citizens committed to the fundamental values and principles of representative democracy in Utah and the United States.

(c) "Civics engagement pilot program" means the pilot program described in Subsection (7).

(d) "Civics engagement project" means the civics engagement project described in Subsection (7), which a student enrolled in a participating LEA may complete.

(e) "Participating LEA" means an LEA that meets the eligibility criteria, and is selected by the state board, to participate in the civics engagement pilot program.

~~(c)~~ (f) "Values" means time-established principles or standards of worth.

(2) The Legislature recognizes that:

(a) Civic and character education are fundamental elements of the public education system's core mission as originally intended and established under Article X of the Utah Constitution;

(b) Civic and character education are fundamental elements of the constitutional responsibility of public education and shall be a continuing emphasis and focus in public schools;

(c) the cultivation of a continuing understanding and appreciation of a constitutional

republic and principles of representative democracy in Utah and the United States among succeeding generations of educated and responsible citizens is important to the nation and state;

(d) the primary responsibility for the education of children within the state resides with their parents and that the role of state and local governments is to support and assist parents in fulfilling that responsibility;

(e) public schools fulfill a vital purpose in the preparation of succeeding generations of informed and responsible citizens who are deeply attached to essential democratic values and institutions; and

(f) the happiness and security of American society relies upon the public virtue of its citizens which requires a united commitment to a moral social order where self-interests are willingly subordinated to the greater common good.

(3) Through an integrated curriculum, students shall be taught in connection with regular school work:

(a) honesty, integrity, morality, civility, duty, honor, service, and obedience to law;

(b) respect for and an understanding of the Declaration of Independence and the constitutions of the United States and of the state of Utah;

(c) Utah history, including territorial and preterritorial development to the present;

(d) the essentials and benefits of the free enterprise system;

(e) respect for parents, home, and family;

(f) the dignity and necessity of honest labor; and

(g) other skills, habits, and qualities of character which will promote an upright and desirable citizenry and better prepare students to recognize and accept responsibility for preserving and defending the blessings of liberty inherited from prior generations and secured by the constitution.

(4) Local school boards and school administrators may provide training, direction, and encouragement, as needed, to accomplish the intent and requirements of this section and to effectively emphasize civic and character education in the course of regular instruction in the public schools.

(5) Civic and character education in public schools are:

(a) not intended to be separate programs in need of special funding or added specialists

to be accomplished; and

(b) core principles which reflect the shared values of the citizens of Utah and the founding principles upon which representative democracy in the United States and the state of Utah are based.

(6) In accordance with Section 53E-1-203, the state board shall report to the Education Interim Committee the methods used, and the results being achieved, to instruct and prepare students to become informed and responsible citizens through an integrated curriculum taught in connection with regular school work as required in this section.

(7) (a) In accordance with this section, subject to appropriations by the Legislature for this purpose, beginning with the 2020-21 school year, the state board shall administer a three-year civics engagement pilot program to assess the benefits of, and methods for, implementing a requirement to complete a civics engagement project as a condition for receiving a high school diploma.

(b) The state board shall:

(i) make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act:

(A) to create a civics engagement project that complies with core standards for Utah public education for social studies and prepares students for lifelong civic motivation and participation through applied learning of civics content;

(B) to establish eligibility requirements for participating LEAs;

(C) to create an application process for LEAs to apply to participate in the pilot program; and

(D) for a report that a participating LEA is required to submit to the state board at the end of the pilot program;

(ii) select participating LEAs:

(A) from diverse geographic areas within the state; and

(B) with a range of student population sizes; and

(iii) subject to appropriations by the Legislature for this purpose, in cooperation with school districts, charter schools, and interested private and nonprofit entities, provide training that prepares teachers in a participating LEA to assist students to successfully complete the civics engagement project.

121 (c) A participating LEA shall submit a report to the state board in accordance with the
122 rules described in Subsection (7)(b)(i)(D).

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

124 **63I-2-253. Repeal dates -- Titles 53 through 53G.**

125 (1) (a) Subsections **53B-2a-103**(2) and (4), regarding the composition of the UTech
126 Board of Trustees and the transition to that composition, are repealed July 1, 2019.

127 (b) When repealing Subsections **53B-2a-103**(2) and (4), the Office of Legislative
128 Research and General Counsel shall, in addition to its authority under Subsection **36-12-12**(3),
129 make necessary changes to subsection numbering and cross references.

130 (2) (a) Subsection **53B-2a-108**(5), regarding exceptions to the composition of a
131 technical college board of directors, is repealed July 1, 2022.

132 (b) When repealing Subsection **53B-2a-108**(5), the Office of Legislative Research and
133 General Counsel shall, in addition to its authority under Subsection **36-12-12**(3), make
134 necessary changes to subsection numbering and cross references.

135 (3) Section **53B-6-105.7** is repealed July 1, 2024.

136 (4) (a) Subsection **53B-7-705**(6)(b)(ii)(A), the language that states "Except as provided
137 in Subsection (6)(b)(ii)(B)," is repealed July 1, 2021.

138 (b) Subsection **53B-7-705**(6)(b)(ii)(B), regarding comparing a technical college's
139 change in performance with the technical college's average performance, is repealed July 1,
140 2021.

141 (5) (a) Subsection **53B-7-707**(3)(a)(ii), the language that states "Except as provided in
142 Subsection (3)(b)," is repealed July 1, 2021.

143 (b) Subsection **53B-7-707**(3)(b), regarding performance data of a technical college
144 during a fiscal year before fiscal year 2020, is repealed July 1, 2021.

145 (6) Section **53B-8-112** is repealed July 1, 2024.

146 (7) Section **53B-8-114** is repealed July 1, 2024.

147 (8) (a) The following sections, regarding the Regents' scholarship program, are
148 repealed on July 1, 2023:

149 (i) Section **53B-8-202**;

150 (ii) Section **53B-8-203**;

151 (iii) Section **53B-8-204**; and

(iv) Section 53B-8-205.

(b) (i) Subsection 53B-8-201(2), regarding the Regents' scholarship program for students who graduate from high school before fiscal year 2019, is repealed on July 1, 2023.

(ii) When repealing Subsection 53B-8-201(2), the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall, in addition to its authority under Subsection 36-12-12(3), make necessary changes to subsection numbering and cross references.

(9) Section 53B-10-101 is repealed on July 1, 2027.

(10) Title 53B, Chapter 18, Part 14, Uintah Basin Air Quality Research Project, is repealed July 1, 2023.

(11) Section 53E-3-519 regarding school counselor services is repealed July 1, 2020.

(12) Section 53E-3-520 is repealed July 1, 2021.

(13) Subsection 53E-5-306(3)(b)(ii)(B), related to improving school performance and continued funding relating to the School Recognition and Reward Program, is repealed July 1, 2020.

(14) Section 53E-5-307 is repealed July 1, 2020.

(15) In Subsections 53F-2-205(4) and (5), regarding the State Board of Education's duties if contributions from the minimum basic tax rate are overestimated or underestimated, the language that states "or 53F-2-301.5, as applicable" is repealed July 1, 2023.

(16) Subsection 53F-2-301(1), relating to the years the section is not in effect, is repealed July 1, 2023.

(17) In Subsection 53F-2-515(1), the language that states "or 53F-2-301.5, as applicable" is repealed July 1, 2023.

~~[(18) Section 53F-4-204 is repealed July 1, 2019.]~~

~~[(19)]~~ (18) In Subsection 53F-9-302(3), the language that states "or 53F-2-301.5, as applicable" is repealed July 1, 2023.

~~[(20)]~~ (19) In Subsection 53F-9-305(3)(a), the language that states "or 53F-2-301.5, as applicable" is repealed July 1, 2023.

~~[(21)]~~ (20) In Subsection 53F-9-306(3)(a), the language that states "or 53F-2-301.5, as applicable" is repealed July 1, 2023.

~~[(22)]~~ (21) In Subsection 53G-3-304(1)(c)(i), the language that states "or 53F-2-301.5, as applicable" is repealed July 1, 2023.

183 (22) Subsections 53G-10-204(1)(c) through (e), and Subsection 53G-10-204(7), related
184 to the civics engagement pilot program, are repealed on July 1, 2023.

185 (23) On July 1, 2023, when making changes in this section, the Office of Legislative
186 Research and General Counsel shall, in addition to the office's authority under Subsection
187 36-12-12(3), make corrections necessary to ensure that sections and subsections identified in
188 this section are complete sentences and accurately reflect the office's perception of the
189 Legislature's intent.