

Agency: UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Request Title: *School Community Councils Requirements
Amendment 2026*

Purpose Statement:

The Trust Lands Advisory Committee is recommending amendments to code to:

- Clarify the role of school community councils in relation to the digital citizenship requirements.
- Removes language that limits parental involvement on school community councils
- Requires documentation when a council votes to change the council membership.

What is the nature of your request?

Select one:

POLICY REQUEST – You are seeking changes to Utah State Code to improve your program/services.

FUNDING REQUEST – You are seeking new or additional financial resources to support a program/service for education.

BOTH POLICY and FUNDING – You are proposing a new program or expansion of an existing program that will require new/amended state code and financial resources.

Questions? Please contact:

Greg Connell (Greg.Connell@schools.utah.gov) for questions related to a policy request.

Current Funding for FY 2026: *(Provide current year funding differentiating one-time and ongoing funding for the program.)*

N/A

Projected Results:

- **Provides clarification to councils about their responsibilities.**
- **Removes limitations to seat a council consistent with the parent member requirement and requires councils to document a change to the council membership in their Rules of Order and Procedure.**

Rationale:

Consistent with direction from the Board, TLAC is recommending the changes to provide clarity and simplification in the code.

If not funded/approved:

Schools will continue to request exemptions from the requirements of seating a council and councils will continue to misunderstand the effective role a council may play in creating digitally safe schools.

USBE Lead Point of Contact:

Name: Paula Plant

Email Address: paula.plant@schools.utah.gov

Phone Number: 801-538-7555 - 801-201-6681 cell

USBE Section:

Additional USBE points of contact (as needed):

Deputy Superintendent Name: Scott Jones

Email Address: scott.jones@schools.utah.gov

Phone Number: 801-538-7615

USBE Section: School Children's Trust

POLICY REQUEST

This section only needs to be completed if you are making a policy request (creating or changing existing Utah Code language).

1. Section(s) of State Code to be addressed (if none, insert "N/A"):

Utah State Code Section 53G-7-1202

2. Summarize the request, the specific problem it will solve, and how it will solve the problem. (Describe the issues or concerns the legislation will address:)

Consistent with direction from the Board, TLAC is recommending the changes to provide clarity and simplification in the code, specifically removing limitations to seating a council consistent with the law and clarifying the role councils appropriately play in maintaining safe digital spaces in schools.

3. Describe the history of the issues or concerns including relevant context and timelines:

As digital instruction has increased in schools, the most effective role councils play is in advising as informed parents instead of being involved in determining internet filtering, eliminating a possible need to partner with an outside entity.

4. What are the suggested legislative solutions? Include code references and suggested language where possible:

53G-7-1202(3)

(3)

- (a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), a school community council shall:
 - (i) create the School ~~LAND Trust Program and~~ LAND Trust plan in accordance with Section 53G-7-1206;
 - (ii) advise and make recommendations to school and school district administrators and the local school board regarding:
 - (A) the school and its programs;
 - (B) school district programs;

- (C) a child access routing plan in accordance with Section 53G-4-402;
- (D) safe technology utilization and digital citizenship; and
- (E) other issues relating to the community environment for students;
- (iii) provide for education and awareness on safe technology utilization and digital citizenship that empowers:
 - (A) a student to make smart media and online choices; and
 - (B) a parent to know how to discuss safe technology use with the parent's child;
 - (iv) ~~partner with the school's principal and other administrators to ensure that adequate on and off campus Internet filtering is installed and consistently configured to prevent viewing of harmful content by students and school personnel, in accordance with local school board policy and Subsection 53G-7-216(3);~~
 - (v) in accordance with state board rule regarding school community council expenditures and funding limits:
 - (A) work with students, families, and educators to develop and incorporate safety principles at the school; and
 - (B) hold at least an annual discussion with the school's principal and district administrators regarding safety principles at the school and district level in order to coordinate the school community council's effort to develop and incorporate safety principles at the school; and
 - (vi) provide input to the school's principal on a positive behaviors plan in accordance with Section 53G-10-407.
- (b) ~~To fulfill the school community council's duties described in Subsections (3)(a)(iii) and (iv), a school community council may:~~
 - (i) ~~partner with one or more non profit organizations; or~~
 - (ii) ~~create a subcommittee.~~
- (c) A school or school district administrator may not prohibit or discourage a school community council from discussing issues, or offering advice or recommendations, regarding the school and its programs, school district programs, the curriculum, or the community environment for students.

53G-7-1202(4)

- (4)
- (a) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(e), each school community council shall consist of school employee members and parent members in accordance with this section.
- (b) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(c) ~~or (d):~~
 - (i) each school community council for a high school shall have six parent members and four school employee members, including the principal; and
 - (ii) each school community council for a school other than a high school shall have four parent members and two school employee members, including the principal.
- (c) A school community council may determine the size of the school community council by a majority vote of a quorum of the school community council and documented in the council's Rules of Order & Procedure provided that:
 - (i) the membership includes two or more parent members than the number of school employee members; and
 - (ii) there are at least two school employee members on the school community council.

(d)

(i) ~~The number of parent members of a school community council who are not educators employed by the school district shall exceed the number of parent members who are educators employed by the school district.~~

(ii) ~~If, after an election, the number of parent members who are not educators employed by the school district does not exceed the number of parent members who are educators employed by the school district, the parent members of the school community council shall appoint one or more parent members to the school community council so that the number of parent members who are not educators employed by the school district exceeds the number of parent members who are educators employed by the school district.~~

(e) The state board may make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, governing a school community council when, under unique circumstances that the state board identifies, there are insufficient members to fill the positions described in this Subsection (4).

For policy only requests, please address these questions as well. If you are also making a funding request, these questions will be addressed in the next section below:

5. Provide details, sources, research, and analysis to which forms evidence-basis for this request or the associated program (e.g, cost benefit analysis, program evaluation, results from pilot program, etc). Include whether this data is currently collected and available or whether new data will be collected:

If you are making a **Policy Request, STOP here** and email Greg Connell (Greg.Connell@schools.utah.gov) to inform him the request is complete and has been reviewed by your Deputy Superintendent.