

USBE Legislative Request Form

(Policy, Funding, & Efficiency / Reductions)

2027 General Session

Instructions: Use this form to submit requests for statutory changes, new financial resources, or proposed efficiencies (program cuts/reductions). Please complete **Section 1 and 2**, and then complete **Section 3 and/or 4** depending on the nature of your request.

SECTION 1: THE BOTTOM LINE

Request Title: Clarification of Fine Arts Graduation Credit Standards and Approval for CTE/Trade-Based Courses

USBE Lead Point of Contact:

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- **USBE Section:** Teaching and Learning (Fine Arts & Wellness)

Director Reviewer: Meghan Everette

(Note: You must review this request with your Director prior to submission).

Nature of Request (Select all that apply):

☒ **Policy Change:** Creating, amending, or repealing Utah State Code.

(Complete Section 4)

☐ **New/Increased Funding:** Seeking new financial resources.

(Complete Section 3)

[] **Efficiency / Reduction:** Proposing the elimination or reduction of a program, mandate, or funding stream. *(Complete Section 3 and/or 4)*

Purpose Statement (BLUF - Bottom Line Up Front):

We are requesting a statutory amendment to state code clarifying that local education agencies (LEAs) seeking to award Fine Arts graduation credit for Career and Technical Education (CTE) or trade-based courses must obtain state approval demonstrating course alignment with Utah Fine Arts Core Standards and receive a designated Fine Arts CACTUS course code.

SECTION 2: THE BUSINESS CASE

(Required for all requests)

The Problem:

State code explicitly charges USBE with establishing core educational standards and course requirements across all Utah LEAs. However, current interpretations surrounding HB312 allow trade-based courses to grant Fine Arts graduation credit without demonstrating alignment to state Fine Arts core standards. Allowing LEA courses to satisfy core graduation requirements outside of USBE-established standards abdicates the Board's statutory responsibility for educational quality. Furthermore, granting credit outside of state alignment prevents the assignment of designated Fine Arts CACTUS course codes, making statewide data collection, accurate course tracking, and public transparency impossible.

The Source:

This request originated from agency staff as a result of joint discussions between USBE Fine Arts staff and LEA curriculum directors. Implementation challenges and varying interpretations of legislative intent following HB312 highlighted the necessity for explicit statutory guardrails.

Projected Results:

Metric 1: 100% of trade-based or CTE courses receiving Fine Arts graduation credit will have documented, USBE-verified alignment to state Fine Arts core standards.

Metric 2: 100% of approved cross-credited courses will be assigned a distinct USBE Fine Arts CACTUS course code to ensure accurate statewide data tracking.

Consequence of Inaction:

If unaddressed, USBE effectively surrenders its statutory obligation to govern core course standards in this area. Statewide data integrity will be compromised, as the agency will be unable to track cross-credited trade courses in CACTUS, preventing transparent reporting to the Board, Legislature, and public regarding student fulfillment of graduation requirements.

Evidence & Data:

Direct feedback and policy inquiries from LEA curriculum leaders struggling to operationalize HB312 for the 2025–2026 and 2026–2027 school years.

Preliminary LEA pilot frameworks demonstrating the necessity of formal course reviews and standard alignment checks prior to credit authorization.

SECTION 4: POLICY & STATUTE

Code Sections Affected:

Utah Code § 53G-10-307(2)

Suggested Legislative Solution:

Amend relevant provisions of Utah Code to specify that:

1. An LEA may only award Fine Arts graduation credit for a CTE or trade-based course if the course has been formally submitted to and approved by the Utah State Board of Education.
2. Approval requires a demonstration that the course curriculum directly incorporates and aligns with Utah Fine Arts Core Standards.
3. Approved courses must be registered under a unique Fine Arts CACTUS course code designated by USBE.

Safeguards:

Unintended Consequence: LEAs may worry that approval requirements create administrative delays or restrict local flexibility for trade-based offerings.

Mitigation: USBE could establish an expedited annual course review window in rule or internal process and provide clear alignment rubrics based on existing district models, ensuring a predictable process for LEAs without delaying student scheduling.