



Utah PTA White Paper

S.B. 114 -- Public School Curriculum Requirements (Sen. Fillmore)

Increases openness to curriculum selection to parents

Utah PTA SB 114

Unnecessary

- Status: “circled” (i.e. “parked”)

Background:

- S.B. 114 requests that local school boards hold public meetings for curriculum adoption so that parents can voice their opinion.

What the bill does:

- Establishes an open process, involving educators and parents of students enrolled in the LEA, to review and recommend instructional materials for board approval;
- The bill distinguishes between “instructional materials” and “supplemental materials”:
 - Local school boards adopts and approves “Instructional materials”
 - Educators select “Supplemental materials” for classroom use.
- A local school board shall adopt a supplemental materials policy that provides flexible guidance to educators on the selection of supplemental materials or resources that an educator reviews and selects for classroom use using the educator's professional judgment, including whether any process or permission is required before classroom use of the materials or resources.
- adopts or approves the recommended instructional materials in an open and regular board meeting.

What the bill doesn't do:

- The bill does not provide any oversight over supplemental materials: teachers are still fully in charge of their lesson plans.

Where does the PTA stand on this bill?

- Utah PTA is a long-time supporter of transparency in curriculum as well as family engagement and involvement. Our parents are involved in the schools, help the teachers in the classroom, and this involvement gives them a front row seat into what's happening.

- Utah PTA supports Utah Core standards.
- The establishment, review and public input on Utah code standards, the obligation for school districts to proactively share curriculum, and the qualifications and certifications of educators and parental rights are well established in Utah Code in the following sections. We will list them below for reference:
 - State School Board obligations regarding Utah core standards, under [53E-4-202](#). Core standards for Utah public schools,
 - Local School Boards obligations, under [53G-4-402](#).
 - State board to establish miscellaneous minimum standards for public schools, with regards to qualifications and certifications of educators. [53E-3-501](#).
 - Parental Rights. [53G-6-8](#), including Parent access to learning management system for online courses -- Training ([53G-6-804](#)).
- It seems that there is a knowledge gap in the currently available tools to parents to stay abreast of what's happening in the classroom: therefore, Utah PTA supports additional training for parents on the current available online systems (Canvas).

Questions to ask your legislator?

- What will happen if people question that a material is not a "supplemental materials" but rather "instructional materials".

Share your story:

Utah PTA conducted an informal survey of its members: we collected 850 answers, with over 800 parents and 20 school districts represented.

- Are you satisfied with the way your children's teachers have been teaching them? Overall Yes 98% (69%: yes, most of the time yes: 29%)
- Do you know how to access and review Utah code standards? Yes: 85%.
- Have you tried to consult the curriculum that your children are learning? 60%
- Have you had difficulty reviewing the curriculum that your children are learning? No: 93%

What can you do?

Read the existing code and see whether it is sufficient to your own standard as a parent. The bill is [currently "parked" \(circled\) in the senate](#), after having been passed out of the Senate Ed Committee.

