

Utah State Profile

Updated September 2023

Utah has multi-district fully online schools, numerous districts offering online courses, and the [Statewide Online Education Program](#) (SOEP) of approved providers.

Fully online schools enrolled 30,277 students during the 2022-23 SY, up 27% from the 2021-22 SY. Utah is one of the few states where full-time enrollments increased during the 2022-23 SY compared to enrollments during the peak pandemic years.

- 6,660 students in SY 2019-20
- 13,941 students in SY 2020-21
- 23,984 students in SY 2021-22
- 30,277 students in SY 2022-23

SOEP is among the first and best-known course choice programs in the country offering publicly funded online course options for middle and high school students. There are currently six [approved SOEP providers](#) for fall 2023. Any LEA—charter or district—can apply to be an online provider. Additional entities can apply as “Certified Online Providers, and programs serving secondary students originated by Utah’s public Universities may also apply to become Providers. All “Authorized Online Course Providers” must utilize licensed Utah teachers and must maintain an 80% rate of timely completion. During the 2022-23 SY SOEP served 10,462 students in grades 7-12 generating with 41,326 course enrollments. Students are limited to 6 online courses a year.

ASU Prep Global is Utah’s first “direct-to-state” non-LEA provider as of SY 2022-23. Direct-to-state providers guarantee open-entry, open-exit online courses, Cognia accreditation, and NCAA course approval. All direct-to-state providers administer special education and other services similar to providers overseen by LEAs. ASU Prep Global also works with private schools in a hybrid environment serving students in private schools across the state.

State virtual school?	NO
Multi-district fully online schools?	YES
State approval process for online providers?	YES
State approval process for online courses?	YES

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) provides an [Annual Report on Program Providers](#) on all providers outlining state assessment results and completion rates. Providers accommodate students with disabilities under the direction of a student's primary LEA. Non-LEA providers must demonstrate similar capacities, and all providers utilize appropriately licensed Utah educators.

There are a variety of online programs in Utah including:

- [Mountain Heights Academy](#) offers online courses for grades 7-12, allowing students to customize their education, get the attention and flexibility they need, and find success.
- [Canyons Online](#) is a multi-district online learning program that serves thousands of students from across Utah in grades 9-12.
- [Davis Connect Online](#) provides online options for students in grades 7-12 using a Personalized Competency-Based Learning (PCBL) learning approach.
- [Utah Online School](#) (UOS) is open to all K-12 Utah students with over 5,000 student enrollments in SY 2021-22.
- [Utah Virtual Academy](#) is an online charter school open to Utah students in grades K-12.
- [Innovations Early High School](#) is a competency-based hybrid school.

Brigham Young University (BYU) runs the [BYU Independent Study](#) program, in which high school students may enroll on a private basis.

For details of online learning funding in this state see the DLC's report [A Review of Online Learning Funding](#).

State Policies

Historically, [SB 226](#) (2021) expanded the array of SOEP online providers and defined authorized online course providers. In 2023, [SB 167](#) equalized licensing and course approval structures between provider types to ensure "direct to state" providers can function similarly to providers overseen by LEAs.

In 2022, the Legislature passed [HB 417](#), the "Online Course Access Amendments," establishing a funding source to subsidize SOEP course access for "Small Schools," or K-12 schools with enrollment below 1,000 students serving grades 9 and above. In 2023, [HB 002](#) significantly increased "Small School" funding to further incentivize use of SOEP.

In 2021, SB 234 allowed the Statewide Online Education Program to offer courses for middle school credit. In 2023, SB 45 made the number of courses middle school students may take equivalent to students participating in high school coursework. All students may now take up to 6 credits online each year, replacing courses taken at a primary school of enrollment.

[SB65](#) created SOEP (2011) to expand Utah's capacity to serve students online by allowing schools to out-source educational services under contract with experienced online course providers overseen by LEAs and the Utah State Board of Education. Authorized online course providers are required to use Utah-licensed teachers and offer courses aligned with Utah Core standards. Subject mastery replaces seat time, allowing students to advance based on competency.

Provision of online coursework under SOEP is highly regulated and providers must meet mandatory minimums for student outcomes. Educator contact, consistency with Utah core standards, adequate support, documentation of activity, adherence to Special Education Law and Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, identification of ML students and provision of materials for fee waiver eligible students are all mandated and monitored, in contrast to programs under LEA control which are currently not similarly regulated.

[*DLC State Profile Key Terms*](#)