



# House of Representatives *State of Utah*

UTAH STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX • 350 STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 145030 • SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84114-5030 • (801)538-1029

February 20, 2026

Mr. Speaker:

The Education Committee reports a favorable recommendation on **S.B. 131**, CHARTER SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY, by Senator H. Balderree, with the following amendments:

## Amendment 1

### 1 Line 21 through 33:

21 **53G-6-502** Eligible students.

22 (1) As used in this section:

23 (a) "At capacity" means operating above the school's open enrollment threshold.

24 {~~(b) "COVID-19 emergency" means the spread of COVID-19 that the World Health~~  
25 ~~Organization declared a pandemic on March 11, 2020.~~}

26 {(e)} (b) "Open enrollment threshold" means the same as that term is defined in Section  
27 53G-6-401.

28 {(d)} (c) "Refugee" means a person who is eligible to receive benefits and services from  
the

29 federal Office of Refugee Resettlement.

30 {(e)} (d) "School of residence" means the same as that term is defined in Section  
31 53G-6-401.

32 (2) All resident students of the state qualify for admission to a charter school, subject to the  
33 limitations set forth in this section and Section 53G-6-503.

33 (3) (a) A charter school shall enroll:

### 2 Line 60 through 70:

*Bill Number*  
SB0131

*Action Class*  
H

*Action Code*  
HCRAMD

60 school of residence is at capacity;

61 (i) a student who resides within the boundaries of a political subdivision containing the  
62 charter school and whose school of residence is at capacity;

63 ~~[(i)]~~ (j) a child of a military service member; or

64 ~~[(j)]~~ (k) a child of a DOD civilian {~~;~~or} .

65 ~~[(k)]~~ {(l) for the 2022-2023 school year, a student who withdraws from the charter  
school

66 to attend an online school or home school for the 2020-2021 or 2021-2022 school  
67 years due to the COVID-19 emergency.}

68 (5) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (5)(b), and notwithstanding Subsection (4)(h), a  
69 charter school that is approved by the state board after May 13, 2014, and is located  
70 in a high growth area as defined in Section 53G-6-504 shall give an enrollment

Respectfully,

R. Neil Walter  
Chair

Voting: 10-1-4