



## Executive Summary

This memorandum outlines the progression of Utah’s social media regulation framework from 2023 through 2026, including enactment of the SAFE Act, subsequent statutory revisions, and related litigation. It also reviews the proposed Balance Act, which would set statewide limits on classroom screen time and establish grade-specific parameters for student technology use in public schools.

## Research Methods

Review of Utah state statutes related to the timeline progression of the SAFE Act and Balance Act; Review of legal documents related to litigation contesting the statutes

## Findings and Analysis

### 2023

#### Utah Social Media Regulation Act (SAFE Act)

The Utah Social Media Regulation Act (SAFE ACT) requires social media platforms to establish age verification requirements for individuals to engage with their content.<sup>1</sup> This act additionally requires that parents must consent prior to their child opening a social media account.<sup>2</sup> To ensure user privacy, the act establishes that social media companies must set default privacy settings and access restrictions on the social media accounts of minors.<sup>3</sup> Following the enactment of the act, a federal court [issued a preliminary injunction](#) that blocks the enforcement of key SAFE act provisions.

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### 2024

#### Utah Minor Protection in Social Media Act

The Utah Minor Protection in Social Media Act is the new chapter the Utah Legislature established to replace the 2023 SAFE Act.<sup>4</sup> This act modifies the existing age verification requirements and strengthens the guardrail for parents to consent to their children creating social media accounts.<sup>5</sup> [A lawsuit in late 2024](#) blocked certain provisions in the Code.

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<sup>1</sup> [Utah Code § 13-63-102\(3\)\(a\)](#)  
<sup>2</sup> [Utah Code § 13-63-102\(1\)](#)  
<sup>3</sup> [Utah Code § 13-63-103](#)  
<sup>4</sup> [Utah Code § 13-71-101](#)  
<sup>5</sup> [Utah Code § 13-71-101\(18\)](#)



## 2025

### Utah App Store Accountability Act

The Utah App Store Accountability Act shifts the responsibility to verify the age of individuals downloading social media apps from the social media companies to the organizations that operate app stores.<sup>6</sup> This act continues to strengthen the requirements for parental consent, ensuring that parents must grant approval prior to their children downloading specific apps.<sup>7</sup> As of early 2026, the act had been enacted, and industry groups had [filed a federal lawsuit](#) challenging its enforcement.

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## 2026

### Online Verification Amendments<sup>8</sup>

The Utah Senate introduced the Online Verification Amendments during the 2026 legislative session. As of February 2026, the bill remains active. This legislation would require entities that publish material that is harmful to minors to establish age verification processes. If an organization fails to meet the requirements, this legislation will establish a civil basis for which the company may be liable for damages.

### Balance Act<sup>9</sup>

The Balance Act was introduced during the 2026 Utah legislative session as part of a comprehensive education policy package. This legislation would establish statewide limits on classroom screentime, with screen exposure increasing gradually as students advance in grade level. The following are the parameters for each age range:

- Kindergarten – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
  - Prohibits classroom screen time except for assessments and limited computer science instruction
  - Prohibits homework requiring internet or instructional technology access
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - Prohibits take-home devices and limits technology use to under teacher supervision
  - Prohibits homework requiring internet access
- Middle School
  - Permits limited, supervised classroom device use
  - Take-home devices allowed only with written parental permission
- High School
  - Allows take-home devices unless a parent opts out
  - Requires instructional balance between technology use and teacher-lead methods

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<sup>6</sup> [Utah Code § 13-76-201\(1\)\(a\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Utah Code § 13-76-201\(1\)\(b\)](#)

<sup>8</sup> [UT S.B. 73 \(2026\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> [UT H.B 273 \(2026\)](#)