

R277. Education, Administration.

R277-489. Kindergarten Programs and Assessment.

R277-489-1. Authority and Purpose.

(1) This rule is authorized by:

(a) Utah Constitution Article X, Section 3, which vests general control and supervision over public education in the Board;

(b) Subsection 53E-3-401(4), which permits the Board to make rules to execute the Board's duties and responsibilities under the Utah constitution and state law; and

(c) Section 53G-7-203, which requires the Board to establish rules regarding the administration of and reporting regarding the kindergarten assessment.

(2) The purpose of this rule is to designate the kindergarten assessment and establish timelines and requirements for administration and reporting assessment results and enrollment.

R277-489-2. Definitions.

"Utah eTranscript and Record Exchange" or "UTREx" means a system that allows individual detailed student records to be exchanged electronically between public education LEAs and the Board, and allows electronic transcripts to be sent to any post-secondary institution, private or public, in-state or out-of-state, that participates in the e-transcript service.

R277-489-3. Administration of Kindergarten Entry and Exit Assessments.

(1) For purposes of Subsection 53G-7-203(4), for the 2023-24 school year, the Board selected kindergarten assessment is the kindergarten entry and exit profile or KEEP, which includes the kindergarten entry and exit assessments, required to be administered by LEAs as described in Section 53G-7-203.

(2) An LEA shall administer:

(a) the kindergarten entry assessment to each kindergarten student sometime during the three weeks before through the three weeks after the first day of kindergarten; and

(b) the kindergarten exit assessment to each kindergarten student sometime during the four weeks before the last day of school.

(3) The days used for the assessment shall be consistent with Subsection R277-419-4(6)(d).

(4) An LEA shall submit to the Data Gateway:

(a) kindergarten entry assessment data by September 30; and

(b) kindergarten exit assessment data by June 15.

(5) In accordance with Rule R277-114, the Superintendent may recommend action to the Board, including withholding of funds, if an LEA fails to provide complete, accurate, and timely reporting under Subsection (4).

R277-489-4. Use of Kindergarten Entry and Exit Assessment Data.

(1) The Superintendent or an LEA may use entry and exit assessment data obtained in accordance with Section R277-489-3 to:

(a) provide insights into current levels of academic performance upon entry and exit of kindergarten;

(b) identify students in need of early intervention instruction and promote differentiated instruction for all students;

(c) understand the effectiveness of programs, such as full-day kindergarten and preschool;

(d) provide opportunities for data-informed decision making and cost-benefit analysis of early learning initiatives;

(e) identify effective instructional practices or strategies for improving student achievement outcomes in a targeted manner; and

(f) understand the influence and impact of full-day kindergarten on at-risk students in both the short- and long-term.

(2) An LEA may not use entry and exit assessment data obtained in accordance with Section R277-489-3 to:

(a) justify early enrollment of a student who is not currently eligible to enroll in kindergarten, such as a student with a birthday falling after September 1;

(b) evaluate an educator's teaching performance; or

(c) determine whether a student should be retained or promoted between grades.

R277-489-5. Kindergarten Enrollment Reporting.

(1) An LEA shall submit student membership information daily to the Superintendent using the appropriate kindergarten code through UTREx.

(2) The Superintendent shall review October 1 and June 15 kindergarten membership information annually to inform LEA funding allocations and to inform potential Board action.

R277-489-6. Sunset Clause.

This rule will sunset on June 30, 2024.

KEY: enhanced kindergarten

Date of Last Change: November 7, 2023

Notice of Continuation: January 13, 2022

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X Sec 3; 53E-3-401(4); 53G-7-203