

R277. Education, Administration.

R277-410. Accreditation of Schools.

R277-410-1. 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 allows the Board to make rules to execute the Board's duties and responsibilities under the Utah Constitution and state law; and

(c) Section 53E-3-501, which directs the Board to establish rules governing school accreditation.

(2) The purpose of this rule is to require qualifying secondary schools to be accredited.

R277-410-2. Definitions.

For the purposes of this rule:

"Qualifying secondary school" means a public school that:

(1) includes any of grades 9-12; or

(2) offers credits toward high school graduation.

R277-410-3. Accreditation of Public Schools.

(1) A qualifying secondary school shall obtain accreditation from a regional accrediting body.

(2) If a qualifying secondary school does not obtain accreditation before the beginning of the school's second year of operation, the credit awarded by the qualifying secondary school is considered earned from a non-accredited source as described in Section R277-705-3:

(a) for the school's first year of operation; and

(b) until the school becomes accredited.

(3)(a) The Superintendent shall establish Utah-specific assurances demonstrating compliance with state law and Board rule to be followed by the accrediting body.

(b) The Superintendent shall ensure that qualified secondary schools meet the Utah-specific assurances described in Subsection (3)(a).

(4) The Superintendent may require on-site visits as part of the accreditation process.

R277-410-4. Transfer or Acceptance of Credit.

(1) A qualifying secondary school shall accept transfer credits from an accredited qualifying secondary school consistent with Section 53G-7-206 and Section R277-705-3.

(2) A qualifying secondary school may accept transfer credits from other credit sources consistent with Section R277-705-3.

KEY: accreditation, public schools, nonpublic schools

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Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X Sec 3; 53E-3-501(1)(c); 53E-3-401(4)