

WHAT ARE RTCs?

Residential treatment center (RTC) programs offer room and board and specialized treatment or rehabilitation services for people with emotional, psychological, developmental, or behavioral dysfunctions, impairments, or chemical dependencies. RTC programs assist in the development of social and behavioral skills necessary for living independently. Children and youth may be placed in these residential, community-based programs by parents, guardians, the Utah Department of Human Services, or other state agencies outside of Utah.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE TO PROVIDE EDUCATION SERVICES?

A child's district of residence is the district in which the child lives while receiving services from a health care facility if the custodial parent or guardian lives in Utah or if the child is in the custody of or supervised by a Utah state agency. In other words, if the parent or guardian of the student lives in Utah, or the child is in the custody of the Utah Department of Human Services, then the local school district of the RTC is responsible for providing educational services for the child.

A district may also choose to enroll children placed by out-of-state parents, guardians, or agencies. In doing so, the local school board shall charge the nonresident child tuition at least equal to the per capita cost of the program in which the child enrolls unless the board, in open meeting determines to waive the charge for that child in whole or in part.

HOW ARE EDUCATION SERVICES PROVIDED?

Students in RTCs may be provided education services through the same continuum of options available to other students in the district. This may include traditional elementary and secondary schools, alternative schools, specials schools, and more.

If existing options in the district are insufficient, districts may also choose to create special classrooms or special schools to serve these students.

RTCs licensed to serve education-entitled children must provide evidence to the local school board in which the program will operate to ensure that children served by that program will receive appropriate educational services as required by law. **This evidence is provided to the office of licensing annually through the "Youth Education Coordinating Form."**

Youth Education Coordinating Form I

This form is intended for programs that provide education services without the use of any state or local funds or educational services. This would include programs that utilize private schools, online schools, packets, etc. This form is not necessary for programs that are themselves accredited private schools.

Local school districts are responsible for the approval of education service plans for human services programs within their area boundaries even though they may not be directly responsible for the education of these students.

Youth Education Coordinating Form II

Form II is intended for programs that utilize services from local school districts or any state or local funds including Utah State Youth in Custody education funds.

This form is an opportunity for school districts to work directly with human services providers to create an education plan that most effectively serves the needs of this special population of students. Nothing in this form absolves a school district of its responsibility to enroll students.

School districts may make specific requests of RTCs in order to provide more effective options for students. Specific requests may include arrangements for education space at the RTC, transportation to specific education sites, oversight from RTC care staff, YIC intake processes, and more.

Section II of Form II should be completed cooperatively in a meeting between the RTC and the school district. Any educational services or requirements beyond those for traditional students may require a written MOU between the RTC and the school district.

Any education plan for children or youth placed by out-of-state parents, guardians, or agencies will require an education funding plan as part of their MOU.

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Youth Education Coordinating Form III

If a school district disapproves of the education service plan or education funding plan, they may give reasons and requirements for approval on Form III. Signing of form III does not absolve a school district of its existing responsibility to enroll students.

Examples of EDUCATION SERVICE PLANS

DISTRICT A

District A serves five separate, 16-bed RTCs with a total of up to 80 students. Because of the large number of RTC students and the necessity to maintain separation between these students and the district's general population, the district has created a special school specifically for these students. This school is individually accredited and employs administration, counselors, teachers, and aides specific for this location.

Additionally, students from each RTC are grouped in special classes to maintain separation as required by the treatment providers.

DISTRICT B

District B serves two separate, 16-bed RTCs with a total of up to 32 students. Arrangements have been made with each of the RTCs for them to provide education space. District B provides an instructional aide at each location and two teachers who rotate between the two locations.

These classrooms are accredited as part of the district alternative school and receive shared administrative, counseling, and special ed services from that alternative school.

DISTRICT C

District C serves one RTC with a total of up to 16 students. Students are served in a variety of settings at the district including regular classes and special transition classes. Because these students are receiving treatment for mild to moderate behavior issues, District C holds an intake meeting with each of the students from this RTC to determine appropriate placements in least restrictive environments.

RESOURCES

- Utah Administrative Code R501-19, Residential Treatment Programs
- Utah Code 62A-2-108.1, Coordination of human services and educational services
- Utah Code 53G-6-302, Child's school district of residence
- Utah Code 53G-6-306, Permitting attendance by nonresident of the state

For further information, please contact:

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