

1 **R277. Education, Administration.**

2 **R277-728. Honors Courses.**

3 **R277-728-1. Authority and Purpose.**

4 (1) This rule is authorized by:

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

7 (b) Section [53E-3-401\(4\)](#), which allows the Board to make rules to execute the
8 Board's duties and responsibilities under the Utah Constitution and state law.

9 (2) The purpose of this rule is to establish standards for honors courses in k-12
10 schools.

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12 **R277-728-2. Definitions.**

13 "Honors course" means a course that focuses on extension and purposeful
14 differentiation while facilitating more depth within course standards.

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16 **R277-728-3. Honors Course Objectives.**

17 (1) An honors course shall:

18 (a) offer students opportunities to learn from the perspectives of others;

19 (b) [encourage students to find ~~\[create\]~~ multiple possible solution pathways, where](#)
20 [appropriate](#);

21 (c) use data to reason;

22 (d) encourage students to take risks and persevere in problem solving;

23 (e) personalize student learning experiences; and

24 (f) [emphasize deep understanding of grade level content and above-level content,](#)
25 [if appropriate.](#)

26 (2) An honors course may not:

27 (a) ~~[emphasize teacher lecture]~~ [utilize only direct instruction](#);

28 (b) ~~[primarily follow]~~ [emphasize rote memorization of rules and procedures or basic](#)
29 [recall of facts](#);

- 30 ~~[(c) include compacted or above grade level content;]~~
31 (c) equate an honors distinction with an increased workload, such as requiring
32 more assignments or reading additional texts without clear intent; or
33 (d) include little to no collaborative work.
34 (3)(a) An honors course shall be open and available to any interested student.
35 (b) A school may not prohibit ~~[or discourage]~~ enrollment in an honors course based
36 on a student's past performance, experience or other measures.
37 (4) School staff shall uniformly promote honors courses to all students and families.
38 (5) To the extent possible, a school shall provide enough sections for honors
39 courses to meet student demand.
40 ~~[(6) A school shall aspire to have the makeup of honors courses be representative~~
41 ~~of student demographics with similar levels of success across student groups.]~~
42 (6) A school shall remove barriers and provide opportunities to students from all
43 representative demographics to reach their academic potential.

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46 **KEY: honors**

47 **Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment:**

48 **Authorizing, and Implemented, or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3; 53E-3-401\(4\)](#)**