

1 **R277. Education, Administration.**

2 **R277-326. Early Learning [~~Professional Learning Grant Program~~].**

3 **R277-326-1. 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 (c) Section [53F-5-214](#), which directs the Board to make rules regarding the
10 required elements of the Early Learning Professional Learning Grant and a formula to
11 determine an LEA's grant amount~~[-]; and~~

12 (d) Subsection [53E-3-1002\(2\)](#), which directs the Board to make rules to allocate
13 funding for early literacy coaches.

14 (2) The purpose of this rule is to [~~provide~~]:

15 (a)(i) provide the required elements for the Early Learning Professional Learning
16 Grant program including eligibility criteria; and

17 (~~b~~)ii) establish a formula for the grant distribution~~[-]; and~~

18 (b) establish criteria for assignment of early literacy coaches in accordance with
19 Section [53E-3-1002](#).

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21 **R277-326-2. Definitions.**

22 (1) "Early literacy coach" means a coach provided by the Board to assist LEAs
23 with early literacy in accordance with Section [53E-3-1002](#).

24 ([1]2) "Evidence-based" means the same as the term is defined in Subsection
25 [R277-406-2\(3\)](#).

26 ([2]3) "Focused" means professional learning that is targeted to strategies that
27 align with an LEA's plan and goals that would best support improving outcomes.

28 ([3]4) "Job-embedded" means learning that is during the workday and designed

29 to enhance instructional practices with the intent of improving student learning
30 outcomes.

31 ([4]5) "Professional learning" means the same as the term is defined in
32 Subsection [53G-11-303\(1\)](#).

33 ([5]6) "Sustained" means multiple professional learning sessions with ongoing
34 support for implementation of professional learning for long-term change.

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36 **R277-326-3. Eligibility and Application.**

37 (1) All LEAs are eligible to apply for the Early Learning Professional Learning
38 Grant.

39 [~~2~~] ~~To receive grant funds, an LEA shall submit an application as part of the~~
40 ~~LEAs Early Learning Plan as described in Section R277-406-4.]~~

41 ([3]2) [An] To receive grants funds, an LEA shall [include in the] submit an
42 application to the Superintendent, including the LEA's plan:

43 (a) for the types of professional learning opportunities, the LEA plans to utilize
44 including:

45 (i) comprehensive professional learning opportunities as described in Section
46 [53G-11-303\(2\)](#); and

47 (ii) job-embedded coaching.

48 (b) how the LEA intends to connect professional learning to the LEA's Early
49 Learning Plan goals; and

50 (c) how the LEA intends to increase benchmark assessment scores and related
51 outcomes through professional learning opportunities.

52 ([4]3) An LEA shall only use sustained professional learning opportunities that
53 are evidence-based and focused.

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55 **R277-326-4. Distribution and Use of Funds.**

56 (1) The Superintendent may allocate funds annually to one or more Regional

57 Education Service Agencies to provide job-embedded-coaching.

58 (2) Subject to legislative appropriations, the Superintendent shall distribute the
59 balance of Early Learning Professional Learning Grant funds as follows:

60 (a) a per teacher allotment shall be calculated by dividing the total amount of
61 grant funds by the total number of preschool through grade 3 teachers of all applicants;

62 (b) an LEA shall receive a grant amount equal to the product of the per teacher
63 allotment described in Subsection (a) and the total number of preschool through grade 3
64 teachers in the LEA; and

65 (c) if an LEA's Early Learning Plan is denied or an LEA chooses to forego any
66 grant funds, the grant funds may be reallocated to all other eligible LEAs receiving grant
67 funds as described in Subsections (1)(a) and (b).

68 ([2]3) For purposes of calculating a grant amount in Subsection (1), an LEA shall
69 determine the LEA's total number of preschool through grade 3 teachers by using
70 employee data from the previous school year of the application school year.

71 ([3]4) An LEA may use the grant funds for the following purposes:

72 (a) teacher stipends to attend trainings;

73 (b) presenter fees;

74 (c) coaching supports;

75 (d) substitute teachers;

76 (e) to hire a coach or specialist; and

77 (f) supplies and materials for teacher professional learning.

78 ([4]5) An LEA may not use grant funds for:

79 (a) the purchase of:

80 (i) property;

81 (ii) equipment;

82 (iii) other services; or

83 (iv) student materials and supplies; or

84 (b) travel related expenses.

85 ([5]6) An LEA shall use the grant funds by the end of the fiscal year in which the
86 funds are received.

87 (7) The Superintendent may reduce grant funds to an LEA in an amount equal
88 to the LEA's unused prior year program funds.

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90 **R277-326-5. Early Literacy Coaches.**

91 (1)(a) The Superintendent shall provide, train, and assign early literacy coaches
92 in accordance with Section [53E-3-1002](#).

93 (b) An early literacy coach shall meet minimum qualifications established by the
94 Superintendent.

95 (c) An early literacy coach may perform responsibilities as directed by the
96 Superintendent, including those identified in Subsections [53E-3-1002\(2\)\(c\)\(i\)](#) through
97 (viii).

98 (d) An early literacy coach may not undertake duties unrelated to literacy
99 coaches, as outlined in Subsection [53E-3-1002\(2\)\(d\)](#).

100 (2) An LEA receiving funds for early literacy coaches may not charge indirect
101 costs.

102 (3)(a) The Superintendent will determine which schools qualify for assistance
103 from early literacy coaches taking into account the previous year's end-of year
104 assessment data from:

105 (i) KEEP Exit: Literacy;

106 (ii) Acadience Reading (benchmark and growth); and

107 (iii) RISE (English Language Arts proficiency).

108 (b) The Superintendent shall exclude data:

109 (i) for students who were not enrolled a full academic year; and

110 (ii) for schools scheduled to close the following year.

111 (4)(a) The Superintendent shall prioritize services under this program for schools
112 identified in Subsections [53E-3-1002\(a\)\(i\)](#) and [\(ii\)](#).

113 (b) The Superintendent may prioritize services under this program to schools
114 who do not receive support from other academic support programs.

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117 **KEY: professional learning; prek-3, early learning, teacher development**

118 **Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: January 5, 2021**

119 **Authorizing, and Implemented, or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#); [53F-](#)**
120 **[5-214](#)**

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