

1 **R277. Education, Administration.**

2 **R277-303. Educator Preparation Programs.**

3 **R277-303-1. 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) Subsection 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; and

9 (c) Subsection 53E-6-201(3)(a), which allows the Board to establish the criteria for
10 obtaining licenses.

11 (2) The purpose of this rule is to establish criteria for educator preparation programs
12 in the State of Utah.

13 **R277-303-2. Definitions.**

14 (1)(a) "Educator preparation program" means a comprehensive program
15 administered by an entity that is intended to prepare individuals to meet the requirements
16 for a Utah professional license or license area of concentration.

17 (b) "Educator preparation program" may include a program developed by or
18 associated with an institution of higher education, individual LEA, or the Board.

19 (2) "LEA" includes, for purposes of this rule, the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the
20 Blind

21 (3) "License area" has the same meaning as set forth in Subsection R277-301-
22 2(5)(a).

23 (4) "Professional license" means the educator license described in Section R277-
24 301-6.

25 **R277-303-3. Educator Preparation Program Review and Approval.**

26 (1) The Superintendent shall establish uniform procedures for initial approval and
27 review of educator preparation programs to ensure compliance with this R277-303.

28 (2) The Superintendent shall approve an educator preparation program that meets
29 the requirements of this rule and the standards for program approval established in:

30 (a) Rule R277-304;

31 (b) Rule R277-305;

32 (c) Rule R277-306; and

33 (d) all other applicable Board rules.

34 (3) The Superintendent shall conduct an on-going review of approved educator
35 preparation programs and shall renew or deny approval for a program at least every seven
36 years.

37 (4) The Superintendent may grant preliminary approval to a new educator
38 preparation program within a Utah public college or university pending approval by the Utah
39 State Board of Regents.

40 (5) The Superintendent shall make a report to the Board when an educator
41 preparation program's initial application for approval is granted or denied.

42 (6) The Superintendent may place an approved educator preparation program on
43 probation for:

44 (a) failure to meet program requirements detailed in applicable Board rules; or

45 (b) failure to submit complete and accurate information in a report required under
46 this rule.

47 (7) The Board may revoke the approval of a probationary program that fails to meet
48 probationary requirements with at least one year's notice.

49 (8) The Superintendent may require a program or subset of programs to submit
50 reports to inform the annual report to the Board required in Section R277-301-10.

51 (9) The Superintendent shall accept an approved educator preparation program's
52 recommendations for a professional license or license area if the prospective licensee has
53 met all other requirements of Board rule.

54 **R277-303-4. Educator Preparation Programs.**

55 (1) An educator preparation program that applies for approval by the Superintendent

56 shall demonstrate how it will ensure that participants:

57 (a) are prepared to meet the Utah Effective Educator Standards established in
58 R277-530;

59 (b) successfully complete or are prepared to complete the pedagogical performance
60 assessment required in R277-301;

61 (c) have met the competencies required in R277-301; and

62 (d) have sufficiently demonstrated the ability to work in the applicable license area
63 and subject area.

64 (2) In addition to the requirements of Subsection (1), an educator preparation
65 program that is not also a Utah LEA shall:

66 (a) have a physical location in the state of Utah where participants attend classes;
67 or

68 (b) if the program provides only online instruction:

69 (i) have the program's primary headquarters located in Utah; and

70 (ii) be licensed to do business through the Utah Department of Commerce; and

71 (c) establish entry requirements that are designed to ensure that only high quality
72 individuals enter the preparation program, which include measures of:

73 (i) previous academic success;

74 (ii) disposition for employment in an educational setting; and

75 (iii) basic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics; and

76 (d) include a student teaching or intern experience that meets the requirements
77 detailed in:

78 (i) Rule R277-304;

79 (ii) Rule R277-305; and

80 (iii) Rule R277-306; and

81 (e) include a pedagogical performance assessment meeting standards established
82 by the Superintendent and approved by the Board for all new students enrolled in the
83 program after January 1, 2020 in all license areas for which such an assessment is
84 available.

85 (3)(a) If the Superintendent does not approve an application from an educator
86 preparation program, the proposed program may appeal the Superintendent’s decision to
87 the Board by submitting a written appeal to the Board Secretary.

88 (b) The Board shall assign an appeal under Subsection (3)(a) to a standing
89 committee to make a recommendation to the full Board for final action.

90 ([3]4) An approved educator preparation program may recommend an individual that
91 completed the program for a professional license or license area for up to five years after
92 the individual completed the program, as long as all current license requirements have
93 been met.

94 ([4]5) If five years have passed since an individual completed an approved educator
95 preparation program, the program may recommend the individual for a professional license
96 or license area if the program:

97 (a) reviews the individual’s program; and

98 (b) requires the individual to complete any additional necessary requirements to
99 meet current programs standards prior to making a licensing recommendation.

100 ([5]6) Notwithstanding Subsections ([3]4) and ([4]5), an approved educator
101 preparation program may recommend an individual who began the program before January
102 1, 2020 for a professional license or license area without meeting the pedagogical
103 performance assessment requirement in R277-301, but must present documentation
104 showing that the individual met the appropriate license requirements in effect prior to that
105 date.

106 **R277-303-5. Superintendent Responsibilities.**

107 (1) The Superintendent shall provide support to educator preparation programs and
108 potential licensees to the extent that funding allows by:

109 (a) maintaining a website to:

110 (i) facilitate collaboration between educator preparation programs;

111 (ii) facilitate communication between potential educators and approved programs;

112 and

113 (iii) provide access to up-to-date research on educator preparation and education
114 practices;

115 (b) reviewing third-party preparation materials for alignment with the Utah Effective
116 Educator Standards in R277-530; and

117 (c) working with potential licensed educators to help them become licensed
118 educators.

119 (2) The Superintendent shall design and maintain a model educator preparation
120 program that:

121 (a) meets all requirements of this rule;

122 (b) may be adopted by an LEA or an accredited private school; and

123 (c) is overseen by staff distinct from the staff responsible for ensuring educator
124 preparation program compliance with this Rule R277-303.

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126 **R277-303-6. Effective Date.**

127 This rule will be effective beginning January 1, 2020.

