

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.

12 (2) The purpose of this rule is to provide:

13 (a) the required elements for the Early Learning Professional Learning Grant  
14 program including eligibility criteria; and

15 (b) a formula for the grant distribution.

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17 **R277-326-2. Definitions.**

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

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

22 (3) "Job-embedded" means learning that is during the workday and designed to  
23 enhance instructional practices with the intent of improving student learning outcomes.

24 (4) "Professional learning" means the same as the term is defined in Subsection  
25 [53G-11-303\(1\)](#).

26 (5) "Sustained" means multiple professional learning sessions with ongoing  
27 support for implementation of professional learning for long-term change.

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

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

32 (2) To receive grant funds, an LEA shall submit an application as part of the  
33 LEAs Early Learning Plan as described in Section R277-406-4.

34 (3) An LEA shall include in the application to the Superintendent the LEA's plan:

35 (a) for the types of professional learning opportunities the LEA plans to utilize  
36 including:

37 (i) comprehensive professional learning opportunities as described in Section  
38 53G-11-303(2); and

39 (ii) job-embedded coaching.

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

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

44 (4) An LEA shall only use sustained professional learning opportunities that are  
45 evidence-based and focused.

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

48 (1) The Superintendent shall distribute the Early Learning Professional Learning  
49 Grant funds as follows:

50 (a) a per teacher allotment shall be calculated by dividing the total amount of  
51 grant funds by the total number of ~~pre-kindergarten~~preschool through grade 3 teachers  
52 of all applicants;

53 (b) an LEA shall receive a grant amount equal to the product of the per teacher  
54 allotment described in Subsection (a) and the total number of  
55 ~~pre-kindergarten~~preschool through grade 3 teachers in the LEA; and

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

59 (2) For purposes of calculating a grant amount in Subsection (1), an LEA shall  
60 determine the LEA's total number of ~~pre-kindergarten~~preschool through grade 3  
61 teachers by using employee data from the previous school year of the application  
62 school year.

63 (3) An LEA may use the grant funds for the following purposes:

64 (a) teacher stipends to attend trainings;

65 (b) presenter fees;

66 (c) coaching supports;

67 (d) substitute teachers;

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

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

70 (4) An LEA may not use grant funds for:

71 (a) the purchase of:

72 (i) property;

73 (ii) equipment;

74 (iii) other services; or

75 (iv) student materials and supplies; or

76 (b) travel related expenses.

77 (5) An LEA shall use the grant funds by the end of the fiscal year in which the  
78 funds are received.

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

81 **Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: 2020**

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

83 **53F-5-214.**