

1 **R277. Education, Administration.**

2 **R277-800. Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.**

3 **R277-800-1. 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-8-204](#) which authorizes the Board to make rules regarding the
8 administration of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind;

9 ~~[(c) Subsection 53E-8-204(3), which directs the Board to appoint Advisory Council~~
10 ~~members;]~~

11 ~~[(d)]~~ Section [53E-8-402](#), which directs the Board to establish entrance policies and
12 procedures to be considered, consistent with the IDEA, for student placement
13 recommendations at the USDB;

14 ~~[(e)]~~ Section [53E-8-409](#), which directs the Board to establish the USIMAC and
15 outline collaboration and operating procedures for USIMAC and USDB resources; and

16 ~~[(f)]~~ Subsection [53E-3-401](#)(4), which allows the Board to make rules to execute the
17 Board's duties and responsibilities under the Utah Constitution and state law .

18 (2) The purpose of this rule is to provide standards and procedures for the
19 operation of the USDB and the USDB outreach programs and services.

20 **R277-800-2. Definitions.**

21 (1) "Accessible media producer" means a company or agency that creates fully-
22 accessible, specialized, student-ready formats for curriculum materials, such as:

23 (a) Braille;

24 (b) large print;

25 (c) audio books; or

26 (d) digital books.

27 ~~[(2) "Advisory Council" means the Advisory Council for the Utah Schools for the~~
28 ~~Deaf and the Blind appointed by the Board in accordance with Subsection 53E-8-204(3)~~
29 ~~and Section R277-800-4.]~~

30 ([3]2)(a) "Assessment" means the process of documenting, usually in measurable
31 terms, knowledge, skills, attitudes and abilities pertaining to the fields of vision and hearing.

32 (b) An assessment may include the following areas of focus:

33 (i) a valid, reliable and appropriate assessment given to determine eligibility for
34 placement and services by a team of qualified professionals and a student's parent or
35 guardian;

36 (ii) a functional assessment accomplished by observation and measurement of daily
37 living skills and functional use of vision or hearing, or both; and

38 (iii) academic evaluations as part of the Statewide School Accountability System,
39 including an alternate assessment with appropriate accommodations as indicated on a
40 student's IEP.

41 ([4]3)(a) "Campus-based program" means a program provided by USDB that offers
42 an alternative to an outreach program for students, ages three to 22, who are blind or
43 visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing, or deafblind.

44 (b) Under a campus-based program, services are provided by qualified USDB staff
45 at a USDB site.

46 ([5]4)(a) "The Chafee Amendment to the Copyright Act" or the "Chafee Amendment"
47 is a federal law, 17 U.S.C. 121, that allows an authorized entity to reproduce or distribute
48 copyrighted materials in specialized formats for students who are blind or have other print
49 disabilities without the need to obtain permission of the copyright owner.

50 (b) Authorized entities under the Chafee Amendment include governmental or
51 nonprofit organizations that have a primary mission to provide copyrighted works in
52 specialized formats for students who are blind or have other print disabilities.

53 ([6]5) "Child Find" means activities and strategies designed to locate, evaluate, and
54 identify individuals eligible for services under the IDEA.

55 ([7]6) "Consultation" means a meeting for discussion or seeking advice.

56 ([8]7) "Designated LEA" means the local education agency assigned by a student's
57 IEP or Section 504 team to have primary responsibility for ensuring that all rights and
58 requirements regarding individual student assessment, eligibility services and procedural
59 safeguards are satisfied consistent with the IDEA.

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60 ([9]8) "Deafblindness" or "deafblind" means written verification provided by a
61 medical professional stating that an individual has concomitant hearing and visual
62 impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other
63 developmental and educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special
64 education programs solely for students with deafness or students with blindness.

65 ([10]9) "Deafness" is a hearing impairment that is so severe that the student is
66 impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification,
67 and that adversely affects a student's educational performance.

68 ([11]10) "Educational Resource Center" or "ERC" is a center under the direction of
69 the USDB that:

70 (a) provides information, technology, and instructional materials to assist children
71 who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, and deafblind in progressing in the
72 curriculum; and

73 (b) facilitates access to materials, information, and training for teachers and parents
74 of children who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, and deafblind.

75 ([12]11) "Extension classroom" means a classroom provided by an LEA where
76 USDB provides a full-time classroom teacher and related services to students who remain
77 enrolled in the LEA's general education programs.

78 ([13]12) "Hearing loss" is an impairment in hearing, whether permanent or
79 fluctuating, that adversely affects a student's educational performance, but that is not
80 included under the definition of deafness.

81 ([14]13) "National Instructional Materials Access Center" or "NIMAC" is a central
82 national repository that receives file sets in the NIMAS from publishers to maintain,
83 catalogue, and house for future reference file sets for states to use with students who have
84 print disabilities and require accessible alternate formats.

85 ([15]14) "National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard" or "NIMAS" means
86 the electronic standard that enables all producers of alternate formats for students with
87 print disabilities to work from one standard format available from publishers for this
88 purpose.

89 ([16]15)(a) "Outreach program" is a program provided by the USDB that offers an
90 alternative to a campus-based program for students ages three to 22 who are blind or
91 visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing, or deafblind.

92 (b) In an outreach program, services are provided at a student's resident school or
93 at a designated school by a qualified teacher of the blind or visually impaired, deaf or hard
94 of hearing, or deafblind.

95 ([17]16)(a) "Related services" means transportation and such developmental,
96 corrective, and other supportive services as are required to assist a student with disability
97 to benefit from special education.

98 (b) Related services may include:

99 (i) speech-language pathology services;

100 (ii) audiology services;

101 (iii) interpreting services;

102 (iv) psychological services;

103 (v) physical and occupational therapy;

104 (vi) recreation, including therapeutic recreation;

105 (vii) early identification and assessment of disabilities in students;

106 (viii) counseling services, including rehabilitation counseling;

107 (ix) orientation and mobility services;

108 (x) health services and school nursing services;

109 (xi) social work services in schools;

110 (xii) parent counseling and training; or

111 (xi) low vision services.

112 ([18]17) "Section 504 accommodation plan" means a plan required by Section 504
113 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which is designed to accommodate an individual who has
114 been determined, as a result of an evaluation, to have a physical or mental impairment that
115 substantially limits one or more major life activities.

116 ([19]18) "Technical assistance" means assistance to public education employees,
117 licensed educators, parents, and families in significant areas of need by someone who has
118 the expertise necessary to give council and training in designated areas.

119 [~~(20)~~ "USDB" means the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.]

120 (~~(24)~~19) "Utah State Instructional Materials Access Center" or "USIMAC" means a
121 center that receives NIMAS electronic file sets and produces them in the accessible
122 alternate format required by students with print disabilities.

123 (~~(22)~~20)(a) "Visual impairment," is an impairment in vision that, even with correction,
124 adversely affects a student's educational performance.

125 (b) "Visual impairment" includes both partial sight and blindness that adversely
126 affect a student's educational performance.

127 (~~(23)~~21) "Weighted pupil unit" or "WPU" means the basic unit used to calculate the
128 amount of state funds for which a school district or charter school is eligible.

129 **R277-800-3. Operation of USDB.**

130 (1) Consistent with Section [53E-8-204](#), the Board is the governing board of the
131 USDB.

132 (2) The USDB superintendent, appointed consistent with Subsection [53E-8-204](#)(2),
133 is subject to the direction of the Board and the Superintendent.

134 (3) The USDB superintendent shall serve subject to the following:

135 (a) the USDB superintendent's term of office is for two years and until a successor
136 is appointed;

137 (b) the Board shall set the USDB superintendent's compensation for services;

138 (c) the USDB superintendent shall have, at a minimum, an annual evaluation, as
139 directed by the Board;

140 (d) the USDB superintendent qualifications shall be established by the Board; and

141 (e) the duties of the USDB superintendent shall be established by the Board.

142 (4) The Superintendent shall support, provide assistance, and work cooperatively
143 with the USDB in providing services to designated Utah students.

144 (5) The Superintendent shall assign a liaison to provide appropriate supervision to
145 the USDB to ensure compliance with the law.

146 (6) The Superintendent shall assist the USDB, its superintendent, and associate
147 superintendents in adopting policies and preparing an annual budget that are consistent
148 with the law.

149 (7) The Board shall approve the annual budget and expenditures of USDB.

150 (8)(a) The USDB superintendent shall, subject to the approval of the Board, appoint
151 an associate superintendent to administer the Utah School for the Deaf and an associate
152 superintendent to administer the Utah School for the Blind.

153 (b) Qualifications of a USDB associate superintendent shall be aligned with the
154 requirements of Section [53E-8-204](#).

155 (9)(a) The USDB superintendent and associate superintendents may hire staff and
156 teachers as needed for the USDB.

157 (b) Educators and related service providers shall be appropriately licensed and
158 credentialed for their specific assignments.

159 (10) In employment practices and decisions, the USDB superintendent shall
160 maintain the accreditation of the USDB school and programs.

161 (11) The USDB superintendent and associate superintendents shall communicate
162 regularly and effectively with the Board and provide a written report to the Board at least
163 annually in adequate time prior to the November legislative interim meeting, or at such
164 other time as requested by the Board.

165 (12) The USDB report shall
166 include the data required by Subsection [53E-8-204](#)(6).

167 (13) USDB shall ensure that each child or student served by USDB is assigned a
168 unique student identifier (SSID) to allow for annual data collection and reporting of
169 achievement of current and past students.

170 (14) USDB shall provide the Superintendent with a listing of past and current
171 children or students, including the assigned unique student identifier, served by USDB by
172 September 1 of each year to facilitate the required data collection.

173 **R277-800-4. USDB [~~Advisory Council and~~] Community Council.**

174 [~~(1) The Board shall establish the Advisory Council for USDB and appoint Advisory~~]

175 Council members as directed in Section 53E-8-204.
176 ~~—— (2) The Advisory Council shall have not more than 11 Board-appointed voting~~
177 ~~members and shall include members as qualified under Section 53E-8-204.~~
178 ~~—— (3)(a) Advisory Council members shall serve two year terms and members may~~
179 ~~serve no more than three consecutive terms.—~~
180 ~~—— (b) Notwithstanding, Subsection (3)(a), advisory Council members serve at the~~
181 ~~pleasure of the Board.~~
182 ~~—— (4) If an Advisory Council member resigns or is asked to resign, the Board shall~~
183 ~~appoint another member in a timely manner after seeking nominations.~~
184 ~~—— (5) The Board shall assist the Advisory Council in developing and passing by-laws~~
185 ~~establishing procedures for:~~
186 ~~—— (a) nominating Advisory Council members;~~
187 ~~—— (b) recommending dismissal of Advisory Council members;~~
188 ~~—— (c) ethical standards for Advisory Council members; and~~
189 ~~—— (d) operation of the Advisory Council.~~
190 ~~—— (6) Advisory Council bylaws may allow for representation on the Advisory Council~~
191 ~~of constituencies within the USDB community.]~~

192 ([7]1) The USDB shall establish a community council to operate in a comparable
193 manner to a school community council under Section 53G-7-1202 through 53G-7-1203 and
194 Rule R277-491.

195 [~~8) Members of the Advisory Council may serve as school community council~~
196 ~~members.]~~

197 ([9]2) The USDB school community council and election process shall be the same
198 as for a district school in Section 53G-7-1202 and Rule R277-491.

199 ([10]3) The USDB may implement electronic voting and consider encouraging
200 school community council participation through electronic meetings and technology that
201 facilitate participation of parents of USDB students.

202 **R277-800-5. USDB or Student's District of Residence/Charter School as Designated**
203 **LEA.**

204 (1) To be eligible to receive free services from the USDB, a student must meet the
205 requirements of Section [53E-8-401](#).

206 (2)(a) A student's IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan shall determine a
207 student's placement at the USDB, in a district school or charter school.

208 (b) USDB shall limit its services for students who are school-age to those on an IEP
209 or Section 504 accommodation plan.

210 (3) Consistent with Subsection [53E-8-401](#)(3), an IEP team or Section 504 team
211 shall determine the appropriate placement for each blind, deaf or deafblind student
212 consistent with Board Special Education Rules incorporated by reference in Section
213 R277-750-2.

214 (4)(a) It is the responsibility of the student's district of residence or charter school
215 to conduct Child Find, and to convene the initial IEP or Section 504 team meeting in
216 order to determine a student's placement.

217 (b) A student's initial IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan meeting shall
218 include a representative from the student's district of residence or charter school and a
219 representative from the USDB.

220 (5)(a) If USDB is the designated LEA for a student, USDB has full responsibility
221 for all services defined in the student's IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan.

222 (b) Notwithstanding USDB's designation as LEA for a student, a representative
223 from the district of residence or charter school remains a required member of the IEP or
224 Section 504 accommodation plan team.

225 (6) If a district of residence or charter school is the LEA designated to provide
226 services to a student with an IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan, the district of
227 residence or charter school has the responsibility for providing instruction and services
228 for the student except that the USDB:

229 (a) may be designated by the team as a related service provider; and

230 (b) remains a required member of the student's IEP or 504 accommodation plan
231 team.

232 (7) A student's IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan shall clearly define what
233 services are to be provided by a related service provider.

234 (8) The IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan team shall determine the
235 designated LEA for student placement.

236 (9) If a parent is dissatisfied with a student's placement at USDB, the student's
237 district of residence, or charter school, the parent may access dispute resolution
238 procedures, consistent with Utah State Board of Education Special Education Rules,
239 adopted by the Board in Section [R277-750-2](#)

240 (10) If a student's IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan provides for services
241 to be provided by both the USDB and the student's district of residence, or for the
242 USDB and district of residence to share responsibility for serving a student, a parent
243 may access dispute resolution procedures consistent with Utah State Board of
244 Education Special Education Rules, adopted by the Board in Section R277-750-2.

245 **R277-800-6. Assessment of USDB Students Served in LEAs of Residence.**

246 (1) An appropriate specialist shall assess a student who may be deaf, hard of
247 hearing, blind, visually impaired, or deafblind using statewide assessment results and in
248 compliance with Board rule and state and federal law.

249 (2) The USDB shall establish an assessment policy and guidelines to implement
250 required assessments, which address:

251 (a) appropriate, complete, and timely evaluations of students;

252 (b) procedures for administration of assessments in addition to those required by
253 the law, as determined by IEPs, Section 504 accommodation plans, and individual
254 teachers;

255 (c) complete and accurate required assessments available to eligible students
256 consistent with state and LEA assessment timelines and availability of materials for
257 non-disabled students;

258 (d) staff professional development and preparation on appropriate administration
259 of assessments and reporting of assessment results; and

260 (e) procedures to ensure appropriate interpretation and use of assessments and
261 results for parents and USDB personnel.

262 **R277-800-7. Extension Classrooms.**

263 (1) The USDB and an LEA may negotiate to share the costs for providing more
264 efficient, cost-effective, and convenient services to students who are deaf, blind, or
265 deafblind in extension classrooms in locations other than the USDB campus.

266 (2) If the USDB and an LEA enter into an agreement in accordance with
267 Subsection (1), the LEA shall provide:

268 (a) classrooms;

269 (b) basic instructional materials;

270 (c) physical education, music, media, school lunch, and other programs and
271 services, consistent with those programs and services provided to other students within
272 the LEA;

273 (d) administrative support;

274 (e) basic secretarial services;

275 (f) special education and related services; and

276 (g) IT support.

277 (3) If the USDB and an LEA enter into an agreement in accordance with
278 Subsection (1), the USDB shall provide:

279 (a) classroom instructors, including aides; and

280 (b) instructional materials specific to the disability of the students.

281 (4) An agreement pursuant to Subsection (1) may reassign the responsibilities of
282 the USDB and a school district or charter school as negotiated between the LEA and
283 the USDB.

284 (5) An LEA shall claim the state WPU if the LEA provides all items or services
285 identified in Subsection (2).

286 **R277-800-8. USDB Fiscal Procedures.**

287 (1) The USDB shall keep fiscal, program, and accounting records as required by
288 the Board and shall submit reports required by the Board.

289 (2) The USDB shall follow state standards for fiscal procedures, auditing, and
290 accounting, consistent with Subsection [53E-8-203](#)(3).

291 (3) The USDB is a public state entity under the direction of the Board and as
292 such is subject to state laws and exemptions consistent with Section [53E-8-203](#).

293 (4)(a) The USDB shall prepare and present an annual budget to the Board that
294 includes no more than a five percent carryover of any one fund, including
295 reimbursement funds from federal programs.

296 (b) The five percent carryover prohibition does not apply to funds received under
297 Section [53F-2-404](#) and Section 12 of the Utah Enabling Act.

298 (5)(a) The Superintendent shall recover federal reimbursement funds (IDEA and
299 Medicaid) quarterly during the year.

300 (b) The Superintendent shall identify reimbursement amounts in the current
301 year's budget, but in no event later than the subsequent year's budget.

302 (6)(a) The USDB shall use the revenue from the federal trust land grant
303 designated for the benefit of the blind and the deaf, solely for the benefit of deaf, blind,
304 and deafblind students.

305 (b) The recommended or designated use of federal trust land funds is subject to
306 review by the Board.

307 **R277-800-9. Utah State Instructional Materials Access Center.**

308 (1) The USIMAC shall produce core instructional materials in alternative formats
309 to ensure that all students with print disabilities qualified under the Chafee Amendment
310 receive their materials in a timely manner.

311 (2) The USIMAC shall provide materials for all students with print disabilities who
312 are qualified under the Chafee Amendment or otherwise eligible through an IEP or
313 Section 504 accommodation plan.

314 (3) The Superintendent shall oversee the operations of the USIMAC.

315 (4) The USDB is the fiscal agent and operates the USIMAC to the extent of
316 funds received annually from the Utah Legislature and the Board.

317 (5) An LEA may purchase accessible instructional materials using the LEA's own
318 funding or request the production of accessible instructional materials in alternate

319 formats from the USIMAC in accordance with established opt in procedures to ensure
320 timely access for students with print disabilities.

321 (6) USIMAC shall provide a textbook in an alternate format by the beginning of
322 the school year if requested no later than April 1 of the preceding school year by an
323 LEA.

324 (7) The USDB ERC shall serve as the repository and distribution center for the
325 USIMAC.

326 (8) A student qualifies for accessible instructional materials from the USIMAC,
327 including Braille, audio, large print, or digital formats following an LEA determination
328 that the student has a print disability in accordance with:

329 (a) the Chafee Amendment;

330 (b) IDEA; or

331 (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

332 (2)(a) An LEA may request textbooks for blind, vision impaired or deafblind
333 students served by the USDB or the LEA consistent with a student's IEP or Section 504
334 accommodation plan.

335 (b)(i) When an LEA requests a core instructional textbook the USIMAC shall
336 conduct a search for the textbook within existing resources, and if the textbook is
337 available, the USIMAC shall send the textbook to the ERC for distribution to the LEA.

338 (ii) If a textbook is not available within existing resources, the USIMAC will
339 conduct a search to determine if the textbook is available for purchase through another
340 source.

341 (iii) If a textbook is available through the American Printing House for the Blind
342 (APH), the USDB shall order the textbook using state acquired federal funds designated
343 specifically for USIMAC materials and send the textbook to the ERC for distribution to
344 the LEA.

345 (iv) If a textbook is not available from APH, but is available from another
346 accessible media producer, the textbook shall be purchased and sent to the ERC for
347 distribution to the LEA.

348 (v) If a textbook is not available for purchase, the LEA shall provide a regular
349 print hard copy of the textbook to the USIMAC, which shall then produce the textbook
350 and send it to the ERC for distribution.

351 (3)(a) All approved textbook contracts for the state of Utah for instructional
352 materials published after August 2006 shall include a provision for making NIMAS file
353 sets available through the NIMAC in accordance with the IDEA and Board Instructional
354 Materials Contract timelines.

355 (b) If the USIMAC is unable to obtain the NIMAS file set from the NIMAC
356 because the publisher fails to timely provide the NIMAS file set to the NIMAC in
357 accordance with the IDEA and Board Instructional Materials Contract timelines, the
358 USIMAC may:

359 (i) bill the textbook publisher the difference in the cost of producing the alternate
360 format textbook without benefit of the NIMAS file set; or

361 (ii) request authorization from the Board to seek damages from the publisher for
362 failure to meet contract provisions.

363 (c) The Superintendent shall advise publishers of the provisions of this
364 Subsection (3).

365 (d) The Utah Instructional Materials Commission created under Rule R277-469
366 may not approve textbooks and materials from publishers that have a pattern of not
367 providing materials and textbooks for students with disabilities in a timely manner,
368 consistent with the law and Board rules.

369 (4)(a) An LEA may request and access audio books through the USIMAC, as
370 appropriate, or through other sources.

371 (b) Membership required for other sources is the responsibility of the LEA
372 designated as the responsible entity for serving the student in the IEP or Section 504
373 accommodation plan.

374 **R277-800-10. Effective Date.**

375 This rule is effective July 1, 2021.

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376 **KEY: educational administration**

377 **Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: February 7, 2020**

378 **Notice of Continuation: July 19, 2017**

379 **Authorizing, and Implemented, or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#); [53E-](#)**
380 **[8-204](#); [53E-8-402](#); [53E-8-409](#)**