

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
8 the Board's duties and responsibilities under the Utah Constitution and state law;

9 (c) Subsection [53E-6-201\(3\)\(a\)](#), which directs the Board to establish the criteria
10 for obtaining licenses; and

11 (d) Section [53E-6-302](#), which requires the Board to establish standards for
12 approval of educator preparation programs.

13 (2) The purpose of this rule is to establish flexible criteria for demonstration of
14 competency in educator preparation programs in Utah.

15 (3) This Rule R277-303 is categorized as Category 4 as described in Rule [R277-](#)
16 [111](#).

17

18 **R277-303-2. Definitions.**

19 (1) "Candidate" means an individual enrolled in an approved educator
20 preparation program who is working toward completing the requirements for a Utah
21 professional educator license.

22 (2) "Clinical experience" means a structured opportunity in which:

23 (a) a licensed educator mentors a program candidate;

24 (b) a school or district administrator or university preparation program faculty
25 member with appropriate training evaluates program candidates; and

26 (c) a program candidate develops and demonstrates competency in the skills
27 and knowledge necessary to be an effective educator.

28 (3) "Competency" means evidence of successful application of knowledge and
29 skills shown through demonstration in a higher education or prek-12 classroom setting.

30 (4) "Completer" means a candidate who has completed licensure requirements
31 and been endorsed for licensure by an approved educator preparation program.

32 (5)(a) "Educator preparation program" means a comprehensive program
33 administered by an entity that is intended to prepare individuals to meet the
34 requirements for a Utah professional license or license area of concentration.

35 (b) "Educator preparation program" may include a program developed by or
36 associated with an institution of higher education, individual LEA, a consortium of LEAs,
37 or the Board.

38 (6) "Flexibility," for alternative preparation programs, means the process by
39 which a program exercises local decision-making to design and implement focused
40 options to meet program and applicant licensing needs, without adding additional
41 requirements beyond those outlined in Board rule, and allowing a teacher to
42 demonstrate competency where reasonably possible in lieu of coursework or other
43 requirements, consistent with the purpose of Board licensing rules.

44 (7) "LEA" includes, for purposes of this rule, the Utah Schools for the Deaf and
45 the Blind.

46 (8) "License area" has the same meaning as set forth in Subsection R277-301-
47 2(5)(a).

48 (9) "Mentor" means an educator with a professional license with training that
49 may include how to advise, coach, consult, and guide the development of a new
50 educator.

51 (10) "Professional license" means the educator license described in Section
52 R277-301-6.

53 (11) "Teaching competency evaluation" means the same as defined in Rule
54 R277-301.

55

56 **R277-303-3. Utah Educator Preparation Program Standards.**

57 An approved Utah Educator Preparation Program shall meet the following
58 standards:

- 59 (1) Program completer competency:
- 60 (a) a completer can effectively demonstrate the educator preparation
- 61 competencies established in Board rule;
- 62 (b) a completer has the experience, knowledge, and skills needed to serve
- 63 students with a variety of educational needs; and
- 64 (c) a completer establishes goals for their own professional growth and engages
- 65 in self-assessment, goal setting, and reflection.
- 66 (2) Systems of support for candidate competency:
- 67 (a) a program provides high quality learning experiences aligned to Utah
- 68 competencies and standards while offering multiple opportunities for a candidate to
- 69 demonstrate that the candidate has the knowledge and skills to serve all students;
- 70 (b) a program seeks out and supports high quality clinical experiences for a
- 71 candidate where the candidate has opportunities to practice and receive feedback on
- 72 their knowledge and skills;
- 73 (c) a program develops and supports high quality mentors who support program
- 74 candidates in demonstrating competencies in Board rule; and
- 75 (d) a program prioritizes capacity to support candidates as reflected in staffing
- 76 and institutional resources.
- 77 (3) Program continuous improvement and impact:
- 78 (a) a program engages in thoughtful continuous improvement practices by
- 79 reviewing program performance data and seeking opportunities for innovations and
- 80 enhancement; and
- 81 (b) a program seeks partnerships with stakeholders to strengthen the Utah
- 82 education system.

83

84 **R277-303-4. Educator Preparation Program Review and Approval.**

- 85 (1) The Superintendent shall establish uniform procedures for initial approval
- 86 and review of educator preparation programs to ensure compliance with this rule.

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

90 (a) Rule [R277-304](#);

91 (b) Rule [R277-305](#);

92 (c) [Rule R277-306](#); and

93 (d) all other applicable Board rules.

94 (3)(a) The Superintendent shall conduct an ongoing review of approved
95 educator preparation programs and shall renew or deny approval for a program at least
96 every seven years.

97 (b) The review described in Subsection (3)(a) shall include monitoring whether:

98 (i) an educational preparation program is in compliance with Board rules; and

99 (ii) an alternative preparation program has reasonable flexibility for candidates to
100 demonstrate required competencies.

101 (4) The Superintendent may grant preliminary approval to a new educator
102 preparation program within a Utah public college or university pending approval by the
103 Utah Board of Higher Education.

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

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

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

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

111 (7) The Board may revoke the approval of a probationary program that fails to
112 meet probationary requirements with at least one year's notice to the educator
113 preparation program.

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

116 (9) The Superintendent shall accept an approved educator preparation
117 program's recommendations for a professional license or license area if the prospective
118 licensee meets all other requirements of Board rule.

119

120 **R277-303-5. Educator Preparation Programs.**

121 (1) An educator preparation program that applies for approval by the
122 Superintendent shall demonstrate how it will ensure that participants:

123 (a) are prepared to meet the Utah Effective Educator Standards established in
124 Rule R277-330;

125 (b) successfully complete or are prepared to complete the ~~[pedagogical~~
126 ~~performance assessment]~~ teaching competency evaluation required in Rule [R277-301](#);

127 (c) have met the competencies required in all applicable Board rules;

128 (d) have sufficiently demonstrated the ability to work in the applicable license
129 area and subject area; and

130 ~~[(e) successfully completed or are prepared to complete a pedagogical~~
131 ~~performance assessment meeting standards established by the Superintendent and~~
132 ~~approved by the Board for all new students enrolled in the program after January 1,~~
133 ~~2020 and recommended for a Utah educator license after September 1, 2021 in all~~
134 ~~license areas for which such an assessment is available.]~~

135 (e) successfully complete a teaching competency evaluation selected by the
136 educator preparation program; with a candidate option to complete either:

137 (i) a third party pedagogical performance assessment meeting standards
138 approved by the Board; or

139 (ii) an educator preparation program specific evaluation of teaching competency.

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

142 (a) have a physical location in Utah where participants attend classes; or

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

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

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

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

148 (i) previous academic success;

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

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

151 (d) include a ~~[pedagogical performance assessment meeting standards~~

152 ~~established by the Superintendent and approved by the Board for all new students~~

153 ~~enrolled in the program after January 1, 2020 and recommended for a Utah educator~~

154 ~~license after August 1, 2021 in all license areas for which such an assessment is~~

155 ~~available.] teaching competency evaluation for all teaching license areas, with a~~

156 candidate option to complete either:

157 (i) a third party pedagogical performance assessment meeting standards

158 approved by the Board; or

159 (ii) an educator preparation program specific evaluation of teaching competency.

160 (3)(a) If the Superintendent denies an application from an educator preparation
161 program, the proposed educator preparation program may appeal the Superintendent's
162 decision to the Board by submitting a written appeal to the Board Secretary.

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

165 (4) An approved educator preparation program may recommend an individual
166 that completed the program for a professional license or license area for up to five years
167 after the individual completed the program, as long as all current license requirements
168 have been met.

169 (5) If five years have passed since an individual completed an approved
170 educator preparation program, the program may recommend the individual for a
171 professional license or license area if the program:

172 (a) reviews the individual's program; and

173 (b) requires the individual to complete any additional necessary requirements to
174 meet current programs standards before making a licensing recommendation.

175 (6)(a) An approved educator preparation program may recommend an individual
176 who began the program before January 1, 2020 for a professional license or license
177 area without meeting the [~~pedagogical performance assessment~~] teaching competency
178 evaluation requirement in Rule R277-301, but must present documentation showing that
179 the individual met the appropriate license requirements in effect before that date.

180 (b) Subsection (6)(a) supersedes Subsections (4) and (5).

181

182 **R277-303-6. Superintendent Responsibilities.**

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

185 (a) maintaining a website to:

186 (i) facilitate collaboration between educator preparation programs;

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

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

191 (b) reviewing third-party preparation materials for alignment with the Utah
192 Effective Educator Standards in Rule [R277-330](#);

193 (c) working with potential licensed educators to help them become licensed
194 educators; and

195 (d) ensuring that alternative preparation program applicants be grandfathered
196 from new program requirements added after an applicant's acceptance into the
197 program.

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

200 (a) meets all requirements of all applicable Board rules;

201 (b) may be adopted by an LEA or an accredited private school, subject to
202 Section [R277-303-5](#); and

203 (c) is overseen by staff distinct from the staff responsible for ensuring educator
204 preparation program compliance with all applicable Board rules.

205

206 **KEY: educator preparation program, [~~pedagogical assessment, professional~~**
207 **~~competency, programs] teaching competency evaluation~~**

208 **Date of Last Change: October 11, 2023**

209 **Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#); [53E-](#)**
210 **[6-201\(3\)\(a\)](#)**