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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members, Utah State Board of Education

**FROM:** Martell Menlove, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer

**DATE:** June 6, 2014

**ACTION:** R277-402 *School Readiness Initiative* (New)

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### **Background:**

R277-402 *School Readiness Initiative* is created in response to HB96 *Utah School Readiness Initiative*, 2014 Legislative Session. The new rule provides procedures for the Board to solicit proposals to fund grants for qualifying early childhood programs, make recommendations to the School Readiness Board about funding the applications, and monitor and evaluate the program.

### **Key Points:**

R277-402 *School Readiness Initiative* provides procedures and a schedule for the following:

- Solicitation of applications from LEAs.
- Review by an expert committee to make recommendations to the Board.
- Final review and recommendation by the Board.
- Submission of the applications to the School Readiness Board.

### **Anticipated Action:**

It is proposed that the Standards and Assessment Committee consider approving R277-402 on first reading and, if approved by the Committee, the Board consider approving R277-402 on second reading.

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1 **R277. Education, Administration.**

2 **R277-402. School Readiness Initiative.**

3 **R277-402-1. Definitions.**

4 A. "Board" means the Utah State Board of Education.

5 B. "Economically disadvantaged status" means public  
6 education students who satisfy criteria of Section 53A-1b-  
7 102(2).

8 C. "Eligible LEA," for purposes of this rule, means an  
9 LEA that meets requirements of Section 53A-1b-102(4).

10 D. "LEA" means local education agency, including local  
11 school boards/ public school districts and charter schools.

12 E. "School Readiness Board" means the board established  
13 under Section 53A-1b-103.

14 F. "USOE" means the Utah State Office of Education.

15 **R277-402-2. Authority and Purpose.**

16 A. This rule is authorized by Utah Constitution Article  
17 X, Section 3 which vests general control and supervision of  
18 public education in the Board, Section 53A-1b-106(13) that  
19 requires the Board to make rules to effectively administer and  
20 monitor the high quality school readiness grant program, and  
21 Section 53A-1-401(3) which permits the Board to adopt rules in  
22 accordance with its responsibilities.

23 B. The purpose of this rule is to provide for  
24 appointments of School Readiness Board members by public  
25 education entities, provide timelines for USOE review and  
26 Board approval of proposals for the High Quality School  
27 Readiness Programs, and provide for program monitoring,  
28 evaluation and reporting as required by law.

29 **R277-402-3. Board and Board-related Responsibilities.**

30 A. The Board shall appoint one member to the School  
31 Readiness Board.

32 B. The Chair of the State Charter School Board shall

33 appoint one member of the School Readiness Board.

34 C. The Board shall solicit proposals from eligible LEAs  
35 on the following timeline:

36 (1) the USOE shall convene a committee (expert committee)  
37 composed of members with early childhood experience or  
38 expertise;

39 (2) eligible LEAs shall submit proposals to the USOE by  
40 June 1 annually;

41 (3) the expert committee shall use a USOE-developed  
42 rubric to review proposals from eligible LEAs and make  
43 recommendations to the Board for funding based on point scores  
44 of applications before July 1 annually; and

45 (4) the Board shall make recommendations to the School  
46 Readiness Board before August 1 annually.

47 D. LEA grant recipients shall provide reports annually to  
48 the Board, consistent with Section 53A-1b-106(11).

49 E. The Board shall share information with the School  
50 Readiness Board for the School Readiness Board's report to the  
51 Education Interim Committee, consistent with Section 53A-1b-  
52 111.

53 F. The Board may adjust application timelines from year  
54 to year as necessary.

55 **R277-402-4. LEA Responsibilities.**

56 A. LEAs shall submit proposals consistent with the USOE  
57 application and the timeline in R277-402-3(2).

58 B. LEAs that receive school readiness grants, shall  
59 assign each student that participates in the school readiness  
60 initiative a unique student identifier, in consultation with the  
61 USOE, before September 20 annually.

62 C. LEAs that receive school readiness grants shall report  
63 annually to the Board and the School Readiness Board.

64 D. LEA grant recipients shall cooperate with Board and  
65 School Readiness Board requests for data to satisfy monitoring

66 and reporting requirements.

67 KEY: school, readiness, initiative, grants

68 Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: 2014

69 Authorizing, Implemented, or Interpreted Law: Art X Sec 3;

70 53A-1b-106(3); 53A-1-401(3)