

1 **R277. Education, Administration.**

2 **R277-326. Early Learning.**

3 **R277-326-1. Authority, ~~and~~ Purpose, and Oversight Category.**

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) 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; and

12 (d) Subsection [53E-3-1002](#)(2), which directs the Board to make rules to allocate  
13 funding for early literacy coaches.

14 (2) The purpose of this rule is to:

15 (a)(i) provide the required elements for the Early Learning Professional Learning  
16 Grant program including eligibility criteria; and

17 (ii) establish a formula for the grant distribution; and

18 (b) establish criteria for assignment of early literacy coaches in accordance with  
19 Section [53E-3-1002](#).

20 (3) This Rule R277-326 is categorized as Category 3 as described in Rule [R277-](#)  
21 [111](#).

22

23 **R277-326-2. Definitions.**

24 (1) "Early literacy coach" means a coach provided by the Board to assist LEAs  
25 with early literacy in accordance with Section [53E-3-1002](#).

26 (2) "Evidence-based" means the same as the term is defined in Subsection  
27 [R277-406](#)-2(3).

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

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

32 (5) "Professional learning" means the same as the term is defined in Section  
33 53G-11-303.

34 (6) "Sustained" means multiple professional learning sessions with ongoing  
35 support for implementation of professional learning for long-term change.

36

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

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

40 (2) To receive grants funds, an LEA shall submit an application to the  
41 Superintendent, including the LEA's plan:

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

44 (i) comprehensive professional learning opportunities as described in Subsection  
45 [53G-11-303\(2\)](#); and

46 (ii) job-embedded coaching;

47 (b) for how the LEA intends to connect professional learning to the LEA's Early  
48 Learning Plan goals; and

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

51 (3) An LEA shall only use sustained professional learning opportunities that are  
52 evidence-based and focused.

53

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

55 (1) The Superintendent may allocate funds annually to one or more Regional  
56 Education Service Agencies to provide job-embedded-coaching.

57 (2) Subject to legislative appropriations, the Superintendent shall distribute the  
58 balance of Early Learning Professional Learning Grant funds as follows:

59 (a) a per teacher allotment shall be calculated by dividing the total amount of  
60 grant funds by the total number of preschool through grade 3 teachers of all applicants;

61 (b) an LEA shall receive a grant amount equal to the product of the per teacher  
62 allotment described in Subsection (a) and the total number of preschool through grade 3  
63 teachers in the LEA; and

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

67 (3) For purposes of calculating a grant amount in Subsection (1), an LEA shall  
68 determine the LEA's total number of preschool through grade 3 teachers by using  
69 employee data from the previous school year of the application school year.

70 (4) An LEA may use the grant funds for the following purposes:

71 (a) teacher stipends to attend trainings;

72 (b) presenter fees;

73 (c) coaching supports;

74 (d) substitute teachers;

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

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

77 (5) An LEA may not use grant funds for:

78 (a) the purchase of:

79 (i) property;

80 (ii) equipment;

81 (iii) other services; or

82 (iv) student materials and supplies; or

83 (b) travel related expenses.

84 ~~[(6) An LEA shall use the grant funds by the end of the fiscal year in which the~~  
85 ~~funds are received.~~

86 ~~——(7) The Superintendent may reduce grant funds to an LEA in an amount equal to~~  
87 ~~the LEA's unused prior year program funds.]~~

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89 **R277-326-5. Early Literacy Professional Learning Opportunity.**

90 (1) An LEA receiving funding from the Early Literacy Professional Learning  
91 Grant shall provide training as required in Subsection [53F-5-214\(6\)](#).

92 (2) Pursuant to Subsection [53F-5-214\(6\)\(b\)\(ii\)\(E\)](#), an educator whose primary  
93 assignment is teaching students who are deaf is exempt from the requirement of an  
94 early literacy professional learning opportunity.

95

96 **R277-326-6. Early Literacy Coaches.**

97 (1)(a) The Superintendent shall provide, train, and assign early literacy coaches  
98 in accordance with Section [53E-3-1002](#).

99 (b) An early literacy coach shall meet minimum qualifications established by the  
100 Superintendent.

101 (c) An early literacy coach may perform responsibilities as directed by the  
102 Superintendent including those identified in Subsections [53E-3-1002\(2\)\(c\)\(i\)](#) through  
103 (viii).

104 (d) An early literacy coach may not undertake duties unrelated to literacy  
105 coaches, as outlined in Subsection [53E-3-1002\(2\)\(d\)](#).

106 (2) An LEA receiving funds for early literacy coaches may not charge indirect  
107 costs.

108 (3)(a) The Superintendent will determine which schools qualify for assistance  
109 from early literacy coaches taking into account the previous year's end-of year  
110 assessment data from:

111 (i) KEEP Exit: Literacy;

112 (ii) Acadience Reading (benchmark and growth); and

113 (iii) RISE (English Language Arts proficiency).

114 (b) The Superintendent shall exclude data:

115 (i) for students who were not enrolled a full academic year; and

116 (ii) for schools scheduled to close the following year.

117 (4)(a) The Superintendent shall prioritize services under this program for schools  
118 identified in Subsections [53E-3-1002](#)(a)(i) and (ii).

119 (b) The Superintendent may prioritize services under this program to schools  
120 who do not receive support from the Center for Strategic Improvement.

121

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

123 **Date of Last Change: December 11, 2023**

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

125 **[5-214](#)**