



# UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

David L. Crandall, Chair    David L. Thomas, Vice Chair

Dixie L. Allen  
Kim R. Burningham  
Keith M. Buswell  
Leslie B. Castle  
Barbara W. Corry

Dan Griffiths  
Heather Groom  
Michael G. Jensen  
Jennifer A. Johnson

Jefferson Moss  
C. Mark Openshaw  
Debra G. Roberts  
Terry Warner

Joel Coleman, Interim Chief Executive Officer  
Lorraine Austin, Board Secretary

## MEMORANDUM

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

**FROM:** Joel Coleman  
Interim Chief Executive Officer

**DATE:** November 7, 2014

**ACTION:** R277-497 *School Grading System* (Amendment)

---

### **Background:**

SB 209 *School Grading Revisions* was passed in the 2014 Legislative Session. Section 53A-1-1114 provides the following:

- (b) the State Board of Education shall determine, by rule:
  - (i) how to measure growth of a school's students on statewide assessments of language arts, mathematics, and science achievement; and
  - (ii) a standard for sufficient growth;
- (c) the State Board of Education may, by rule, adjust the percentage of the maximum number of points required to earn A through F letter grades;

As required by statute, the Board has submitted a proposal to the Executive Appropriations Committee. The Executive Appropriations Committee has recommended that the Board approve its recommended proposal.

### **Key Points:**

R277-497 *School Grading System* is amended to include the Board's proposal for calculating grades for the 2013-14 school year. The amendment includes how to measure growth (student growth percentile), the standards for sufficient growth (percentile of 40 or above) and the adjustment in percentage of points required for grades (maintain a similar distribution of grades as in the 2012/13 school year).

### **Anticipated Action:**

It is proposed that the Standards and Assessment Committee consider approving R277-497, as amended, on first reading and, if approved by the Committee, the Board consider approving R277-497, as amended, on second reading.

**Contact:** Judy Park, Associate Superintendent, 801-538-7550  
Jo Ellen Shaeffer, Assessment Director, 801-538-7811

1 **R277. Education, Administration.**

2 **R277-497. School Grading System.**

3 **R277-497-1. Definitions.**

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

5 B. "LEA" means a local education agency, including local  
6 school boards/public school districts, charter schools, and,  
7 for purposes of this rule, the Utah Schools for the Deaf and  
8 the Blind.

9 C. "Sufficient student growth" as determined by the  
10 Board, means a student growth percentile of 40 or above.

11

12 **R277-497-2. Authority and Purpose.**

13 A. This rule is authorized by Utah Constitution Article  
14 X, Section 3 which vests general control and supervision of  
15 public education in the Board, Section 53A-1-1113 which  
16 directs the Board to adopt rules to implement a school grading  
17 system, and Section 53A-1-401(3) which allows the Board to  
18 adopt rules in accordance with its responsibilities.

19 B. The purpose of this rule is to provide consistent  
20 definitions, standards and procedures for LEAs to report  
21 school data through a school grading system.

22 **R277-497-3. Board Responsibilities.**

23 A. Beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, the Board  
24 shall implement a school grading system (A,B,C,D,F). The  
25 school grading system report provided by the Board shall  
26 include the following indicators:

27 (1) student proficiency on the Board-approved  
28 grade/subject level assessments in language arts, math and  
29 science;

30 (2) student growth as measured by student growth  
31 percentiles;

32 ([2]3) sufficient student growth; and

33 ([3]4) for high schools:

34 (a) graduation rates; and

35 (b) beginning in the 2013-14 school year, ACT scores.

36 B. School letter grades shall be determined as follows:

- 37 (1) 80 - 100 percent A;  
38 (2) 70 - 79 percent B;  
39 (3) 60 - 69 percent C;  
40 (4) 50 - 59 percent D; and  
41 (5) below 50 percent F.

42 C. Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year data, the  
43 Board shall:

44 (1) implement a school grading system that makes data and  
45 reports available to parents, educators and the public. The  
46 report shall include the elements described in R277-497-3A.

47 (2) School data and reports shall be available to  
48 parents, educators and the public through a public website  
49 that facilitates the comparison of public schools based on the  
50 school grading system and demographics.

51 D. The Board-implemented school grading system shall  
52 include test scores for students with disabilities consistent  
53 with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA),  
54 20 U.S.C. 1401(3).

55 E. For the 2013-2014 school year only, the Board shall  
56 adjust school grades to compensate for the new computer  
57 adaptive assessment results by adjusting the percentage  
58 required for each letter grade so that the distribution of  
59 percentage of schools receiving each letter grade will be  
60 similar to the distribution of grades for the 2012-2013 school  
61 year.

62 **R277-497-4. LEA Responsibilities.**

63 A. LEAs shall provide accurate and timely data as  
64 required under R277-484 to allow for the development of the  
65 school reports.

66 B. LEAs shall use the school reports as a communication  
67 tool to inform parents and the community about school  
68 performance.

69 C. LEAs shall ensure that the school reports are  
70 available for all parents.

71 **R277-497-5. School Responsibilities.**

72           A. Schools shall provide data for the school reports as  
73 provided in R277-484.

74           B. Schools shall cooperate with the Board and LEAs to  
75 ensure that the school reports are available for all parents.

76 **KEY: school reports, grading system**

77 **Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: [~~January 8,~~**  
78 **2014]2015**

79 **Notice of Continuation: November 8, 2013**

80 **Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X, Sec**  
81 **3; 53A-1-1113; 53A-1-401(3)**