

# UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Subject:**

ACTION: R277-800, Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind (USDB) (Amendment)

**Agenda item type:**

Action Item

**Recommended Action:**

**Motion for the Board:** That the Board approve R277-800, Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind (USDB), Draft 1, on second and final reading.

**Purpose of Memo:**

Recommended by leadership

**Background:**

The Board will review **R277-800-9**, which governs the **enrollment of hearing siblings** at the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB). This rule allows USDB, under certain conditions, to enroll the hearing sibling of a student who is deaf or hard of hearing and is already enrolled in a USDB campus program.

Key provisions of the rule include:

- Eligibility is limited to siblings of currently enrolled students.
- Enrollment is restricted to one hearing sibling per class.

Each case must be individually evaluated by the USDB Superintendent, with consideration given to:

- The educational benefit for both the deaf student and the hearing sibling.
- The impact on other students in the program.
- The sibling's behavior history or any conditions that could affect the classroom environment.
- The sibling's willingness to learn American Sign Language and engage with Deaf culture.

Hearing siblings who are enrolled are entitled to the same rights as traditional public school students. The USDB can rescind this opportunity at any time.

Given current budget constraints, it is important to consider whether the rule needs to include language that indicates this is also subject to available funding or whether any updates or clarifications are necessary.

**Reference:** Utah State Board of Education Rule R277-800-9

<https://www.schools.utah.gov/adminrules/R277-800>

Staff will present R277-800, Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind (USDB), Draft 1, for consideration and approval.

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

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**Attachments:**

1. 6.15 Hearing Siblings at USD
2. R277-800 - Draft 1 - August 2025 Committee