

1     **R277. Education, Administration.**

2     **R277-303. Educator Preparation Programs.**

3     **R277-303-1. Authority, 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) 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.

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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 institution of higher education preparation  
25                 program faculty 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.

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(6).

(9) "Low rates of passage," as described in Subsection 53E-6-302(8) and this rule, means a university preparation program with less than a 75% passage rate of the science of reading preparation assessment for teaching candidates.

51                   ([9]10) "Mentor" means an educator with a professional license with training that  
52        may include how to advise, coach, consult, and guide the development of a new  
53        educator.

54                   ([10]11) "Professional license" means the educator license described in Section  
55                   R277-301-5.

## 57 R277-303-3. Utah Educator Preparation Program Standards.

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

60 (1) Program completer competency:

61 (a) a completer can effectively demonstrate the educator preparation  
62 competencies established in Board rule;

63 (b) a completer has the experience, knowledge, and skills needed to serve  
64 students with a variety of educational needs; and

65 (c) a completer establishes goals for their own professional growth and engages  
66 in self-assessment, goal setting, and reflection.

## 67 (2) Systems of support for candidate competency:

68 (a) a program provides high quality learning experiences aligned to Utah  
69 competencies and standards while offering multiple opportunities for a candidate to  
70 demonstrate that the candidate has the knowledge and skills to serve all students;

71 (b) a program seeks out and supports high quality clinical experiences for a  
72 candidate where the candidate has opportunities to practice and receive feedback on  
73 their knowledge and skills:

74 (c) a program develops and supports high quality mentors who support program  
75 candidates in demonstrating competencies in Board rule; and

76 (d) a program prioritizes capacity to support candidates as reflected in staffing  
77 and institutional resources.

### 78 (3) Program continuous improvement and impact:

79 (a) a program engages in thoughtful continuous improvement practices by  
80 reviewing program performance data and seeking opportunities for innovations and  
81 enhancement: and

82 (b) a program seeks partnerships with stakeholders to strengthen the Utah  
83 education system.

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

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

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

91 (a) Rule R277-304:

92 (b) Rule R277-305:

93 (c) Rule R277-306; and

94 (d) all other applicable Board rules.

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

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

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

100 (ii) an alternative preparation program has reasonable flexibility for candidates to

101 demonstrate required competencies.

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

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

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

109 (a) failure to meet program requirements detailed in applicable Board rules; or  
110 (b) failure to submit complete and accurate information in a report required  
111 under this rule.

115 (8) The Superintendent may require a program or subset of programs to submit  
116 reports to inform the annual report to the Board required in Section R277-301-9.

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

## 121 R277-303-5. Educator Preparation Programs.

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

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

126 (b) demonstrate all competencies applicable to the license area and subject area  
127 as established by the Superintendent.

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

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

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

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

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

134 (c) establish entry requirements that are designed to ensure that only high

135 quality individuals enter the preparation program, which include measures of:

136 (i) previous academic success;

137 (ii) disposition for employment in an educational sett

138 (iii) basic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics.

139 (3)(a) If the Superintendent denies an application fro

140 program, the proposed educator preparation program may appeal the Superintendent's  
141 decision to the Board by submitting a written appeal to the Board Secretary.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

158 (a) maintaining a website to:

159 (i) facilitate collaboration between educator preparation programs;

160 (ii) facilitate communication between potential educators and approved  
161 programs; and

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

164 (b) reviewing third-party preparation materials for alignment with the Utah  
165 Effective Educator Standards in Rule R277-330;

166 (c) working with potential licensed educators to help them become licensed  
167 educators; ~~[and]~~

168 (d) ensuring that alternative preparation program applicants be grandfathered  
169 from new program requirements added after an applicant's acceptance into the  
170 program~~[.]; and~~

171 (e)(i) developing strategies to provide support for preparation programs with low  
172 rates of passage on the required literacy preparation assessment; and

173 (ii) providing increasing levels of support to a preparation program with low rates  
174 of passage on the required literacy preparation assessment for two consecutive years.

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

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

178 (b) may be adopted by:

179 (i) an LEA; or

180 (ii) subject to Section R277-303-5:

181 (A) an accredited private school; or

182 (B) a consortium of accredited private schools; and

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

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- 186 **KEY: educator preparation program**
- 187 **Date of Last Change: July 9, 2024**
- 188 **Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X Sec 3; 53E-3-401(4); 53E-**
- 189 **6-201(3)(a)**