

1     **R277. Education, Administration.**

2     **R277-609. Standards for LEA Discipline Policy.**

3     **R277-609-1. 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-3-501(1)(b)(v), which requires the Board to establish rules  
10                 concerning discipline and control;

11             (d) Section 53E-3-509, which requires the Board to adopt rules that require a  
12                 local school board or governing board of a charter school to enact gang prevention and  
13                 intervention policies for all schools within the board's jurisdiction;

14             (e) Section 53G-8-702, which requires the Board to adopt rules regarding  
15                 training programs for school principals; and

16             (f) Section 53G-8-202, which directs local school boards and charter school  
17                 governing boards to adopt conduct and discipline policies and directs the Board to  
18                 develop model policies to assist local school boards and charter school governing  
19                 boards.

20         (2) The purpose of this rule is to outline requirements for an LEA's discipline  
21                 policy and related plans.

22         (3) This Rule R277-609 is categorized as Category 2 as described in Rule R277-  
23                 111.

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25     **R277-609-2. Definitions.**

26         (1)(a) "Accountability Practice" means any evidence-based practice that  
27                 increases academic outcomes, decreases behavior that disrupts the learning  
28                 environment and holds students accountable for their actions by requiring them to take  
29                 responsibility to repair harm and provide restitution when appropriate.

30 (b) [Some p]Practices may include[adapting instruction to increase  
31 engagement,] behavior plans, [and]restorative practices, and strategies to increase  
32 engagement.

33 (2) "Classroom management" means the use of planned strategies that:

34 (a) establish an organized and successful learning environment;

35 (b) promote academic excellence;

36 (c) teach behavioral, and social, ~~[and emotional (BSE)]~~ skills to all students; and

37 (d) prevent a pattern of behavior that interferes substantially and materially with

38 the instruction of other students in the classroom.

39 (3) "Discipline" means school discipline and

40 based strategies applied in school to manage student behavior.

41 (4) Discipline policy means one or more LEA policies that

42 required by this Rule R277-609.

44 in Section 76-10-101.

45 (b) Emergency safety intervention or ESI means the same as described in  
46 Section R277-608-2.

47 (7) "Evidence-based" means the same as defined in Section 53G-8-211.

48 (8) "Expulsion" means a disciplinary removal from school for more than ten  
49 school days without an offer of alternative education service.

56 (10) "Incident" means the same as defined in Rule R277-613.

57 (11) "Infraction" means the same as defined in Rule R277-613.

58 (12) "LEA" includes, for purposes of this rule, the Utah Schools for the Deaf and  
59 the Blind.

60 (13) "LEA Plan" means a data-driven written process or procedure that outlines  
61 the implementation of strategies that positively impact student behavior throughout the  
62 LEA.

63 (14) "Positive behavior interventions and support" means an implementation  
64 framework for maximizing the selection and use of evidence-based prevention practices  
65 along a multi-tiered continuum that supports the academic, social, emotional, and  
66 behavioral competence of a student.

67 (15) "Program" means an instructional or behavioral program including:

68 (a) contracted services offered by private providers under the direct supervision  
69 of public school staff;

70 (b) a program that receives public funding; or

71 (c) a program for which the Board has regulatory authority.

72 (16) "Prohibited student behavior" for the purposes of this rule includes:

73 (a) the grounds for suspension or expulsion described in Section 53G-8-205  
74 including disruption; and

75 (b) the conduct described in Subsection 53G-8-209(2)(b).

76 (17) "Qualifying minor" means a

77 (a) is at least nine years old; or

78 (b) turns nine years old at any time

79 (18) "Restorative justice program" means the same as that

80 Section 53G-8-211.

(19) "Restorative practice" means to help minors take responsibility for and repair harmful behavior that occurs within the school community.

83 (20) School employee means:

84 (a) a school teacher;

85 (b) a school staff member;

86 (c) a school administrator; or

87 (d) any other person employed, directly or indirectly, by an LEA.  
88 (21) "Suspension" means the same as defined in Section R277-100-2 and as  
89 described in Section 53G-8-206.

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**91 R277-609-3. Actions Required to Create or Update an LEA Discipline Policy.**

92 (1) An LEA or school shall develop and implement a board-approved LEA policy  
93 for school discipline.

94 (2) An LEA shall include administration, instruction and support staff, students,  
95 parents, community council, and other community members in policy development,  
96 training, and prevention implementation to create a community sense of participation,  
97 ownership, support, and responsibility.

98 (3) An LEA shall include as part of the policy, a process for parental outreach  
99 and education regarding the policy and how it can provide a discrimination and  
100 harassment free environment, through strategies promoting positive engagement  
101 between staff, students, and parents.

102 (4) An LEA may incorporate Rule R277-609 into one or more of its LEA policies,  
103 ensuring that all disciplinary practices are consistent with the requirements established  
104 in this rule.

105 (5) An LEA shall develop uniform and equitable methods for a school level data-  
106 based evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of the policy on an annual basis.

107 (6) An LEA shall publish a notice to parents and school employees of the  
108 discipline policy by reasonable means.

109

**110 R277-609-4. School Conduct and Discipline Policy.**

111 (1) An LEA discipline policy shall include:

112 (a) provisions consistent with:

113 (i) the requirements of Section 53G-8-210;

114 (ii) the requirements of Subsection 53E-7-207(5);

115 (iii) the requirements of Rule R277-750, including:

(A) procedural safeguards;

(B) child find;

(C) IEP development, review, and revision; and

(D) discipline procedures requirements; and

(iv) the child find provisions in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

(b) grounds for suspension and expulsion consistent with Section 53G-8-205;

(c) alternatives to suspension and expulsion consistent with Section 53G-8-207;

(d) direction for schools to determine the range of prohibited behaviors and establish the continuum of administrative procedures that may be used by school personnel to address prohibited student behavior;

(e) parent responsibilities as described in Section 53G-8-208.

(f) federal legal requirements, including IDEA, Title IX, and the Americans with Disabilities Act;

(g) identification, by position, of an individual designated to issue notices of prohibited student behavior as described in Section 53G-8-210;

(h) identification of individuals who shall receive notices of prohibited student behavior as described in Section 53G-8-210;

(i) the parent notification requirements in Section 53G-8-210; and

(j) provide procedures for qualifying minors and their parents to participate in decisions regarding consequences for prohibited student behavior.

(k) provide due process procedures for minors and parents to contest allegations and citations of prohibited student behavior.

(2) An LEA discipline policy, shall include provisions that apply to the following specific incident and infractions types:

(a) the illicit use, possession, or distribution of:

(i) alcohol;

(ii) tobacco and nicotine products, including electronic cigarettes, as defined in Section 76-10-101; and

(iii) marijuana and controlled substances as defined in Section 58-37-2;

(b) specific conduct as described in Subsection 53G-8-209(2);  
(c) provisions and procedures, consistent with requirements of Rule R277-613;  
(d) gang prevention and intervention provisions in accordance with Subsection 53E-3-509(1);  
(e) responses to defacement of school property consistent with Sections:  
(i) 53G-8-212;  
(ii) 76-6-101; and  
(iii) 80-6-610.  
(f) responses to attendance concerns as described in Rule R277-607; and  
(g) serious offenses of sexual crimes as described in Sections:  
(i) 53G-8-201;  
(ii) 53G-8-203; and  
(iii) 53G-8-213.

(3) An LEA discipline policy shall also include direction on the following available supportive or emergency responses:

(a) strategies that align with the LRBI manual incorporated in this rule;  
(b) the appropriate use of accountability practices;  
(c) the use of emergency safety interventions as outlined in Section R277-608-3 for all students consistent with evidence-based practices and Rule R277-608;  
(d) the use of SafeUT as described in Section 53G-8-203;  
(e) threat assessment as described in Rule R277-400; and  
(f) additional provisions that account for an individual LEA's or school's unique needs or circumstances, including:  
(i) the role of law enforcement; and  
(ii) emergency medical services.

173 (1) An LEA shall implement positive behavior interventions, supports, and  
174 accountability practices as part of the LEA's continuum of behavior interventions  
175 strategies.

176 (2) LEA plans shall use:

177 (i) written standards for student behavior expectations, including schoolwide and  
178 classroom management;

179 (ii) effective instructional practices for teaching student expectations;

180 (iii) systematic methods for reinforcing expected behaviors;

181 (iv) uniform and equitable methods for correcting student behavior; and

182 (v) procedures for re-teaching behavior expectations followed by effective,  
183 evidence-based interventions matched to student needs before suspension or cou  
184 referral:

185 (vi) procedures for referral for a student with a qualifying offense to alternative  
186 school-related interventions as described in Section 53G-8-211.

187 (3) An LEA shall provide an ongoing staff development program as described in  
188 Rule R277-608.

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**190 R277-609-6. LEA Reporting.**

191 (1) An LEA shall develop a consistent process to collect incident, infraction, and  
192 discipline data, including the number of days of student suspensions and expulsions.

193 (2)(a) An LEA shall submit all required incident, infraction, and discipline data,  
194 including suspensions and expulsions consistent with Rule R277-484;

195 (b) An LEA shall submit any yearly and comprehensive updates no later than  
196 June 30th of each year.

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**198 R277-609-7. Incorporation by Reference of Least Restrictive Behavior  
199 Intervention Manual.**

200 (1) This rule incorporates by reference the Least Restrictive Behavioral  
201 Intervention Manual May 2025 Edition.

202                   (2) A copy of this document is located at:  
203                   (a) <https://www.schools.utah.gov/administrativerules/documentsincorporated>;  
204 and  
205                   (b) the offices of the Utah State Board of Education.  
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207 **KEY: disciplinary actions, prohibited student behavior**

208 **Date of Last Change: August 7, 2025**

209 **Notice of Continuation: September 13, 2023**

210 **Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X Sec 3; 53E-3-401(4); 53E-  
211 3-501(1)(b)(v); 53E-3-509; 53G-8-202; 53G-8-702; 53G-8-302**

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