

1 **R277. Education, Administration.**

2 **R277-717. High School Course Grading Requirements.**

3 **R277-717-1. Authority and Purpose.**

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; and

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 53E-4-208, which directs the Board to establish standards for
10 citizenship grading policies.

11 (2) The purpose of this rule is to establish requirements for awarding credit when
12 a student repeats a course or takes a comparable course and earns a higher grade.

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14 **R277-717-2. Definitions.**

15 (1) "Citizenship grade" has the same meaning as defined in Section 53E-4-208.

16 ~~[(1)]~~(2) "Comparable course" means a teacher led course that:

17 (a) fulfills the same graduation credit requirements as the original course; and

18 (b) aligns with a majority of the same Core Standards, strands, or essential
19 learning objectives as the course for which a student seeks to improve a grade.

20 ~~[(2)]~~(3) "Course" means a course that a student:

21 (a) is enrolled in; and

22 (b)(i) completes; or

23 (ii) withdraws from but still receives a grade.

24 ~~[(3)]~~(4) "Course Component" means a quarter, term, or other defined grading
25 interval within a course.

26 (5) "Durable skills" means behaviors and habits associated with college and
27 career readiness, including responsibility, participation, engagement, timeliness, and
28 effective communication.

29 ~~[(4)]~~(6) "Highest grade" means a grade that reflects the higher grade of:

30 (a) a course and a repeat of the course; or

31 (b) a course and a comparable course.

32 ~~[(5)](7)~~ "LEA" includes the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind for purposes
33 of this rule.

34 (8) "Observable behavior" means a documented student action or omission that
35 may be consistently measured using clearly disclosed criteria.

36 ~~[(6)](9)~~ "Packet" has the same meaning as defined in Subsection R277-705-2(9).

37 ~~[(7)](10)~~ "Packet Method" has the same meaning as defined in Subsection
38 R277-705-2(10).

39 ~~[(8)](11)~~ "Recurring course" means a course that a student takes more than
40 once to:

41 (a) further the student's understanding and skills in the course subject, such as
42 journalism or band; or

43 (b) satisfy a different credit requirement that the course may fulfill, such as an art
44 class that fulfills an elective requirement and an art requirement.

45 ~~[(9)](12)~~ "Student" means an individual enrolled in an LEA in grade 9, 10, 11, or
46 12.

47 ~~[(10)](13)~~ "Teacher-led" means a course led by a licensed educator:

48 (a) directs the instructional process and manages the delivery of the Core
49 Standards: and

50 (b) provides direct feedback and assessment of student mastery.

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52 **R277-717-3. Grade Replacement.**

53 (1)(a) A student may, to improve a course grade received by the student:

54 (i) repeat the course one or more times; or

55 (ii) enroll in and complete a comparable course.

56 (b) A grade for an additional unit of a recurring course does not change a
57 student's original course grade for purposes of this section.

58 (2) If a student repeats a course, the student's LEA:

59 (a) shall adjust, if necessary, the student's course grade and grade point
60 average to reflect the student's highest grade and exclude a lower grade;

61 (b) shall exclude from the student's permanent record the course grade that is
62 not the highest grade; and

63 (c) may not otherwise show on the student's current record that the student
64 repeated the course.

65 (3)(a) If a student enrolls in a comparable course, the student shall, at the time
66 of enrolling in the comparable course, inform the student's LEA of the student's intent to
67 enroll in the course for improving a course grade.

68 (b) If a student enrolls in a comparable course, the student's LEA:

69 (i) shall confirm, when the student enrolls in the comparable course, that the
70 comparable course fulfills the same credit requirements as the course that the student
71 intends to replace with the comparable course grade;

72 (ii) shall update the student's current record and grade point average to reflect
73 the highest grade between the course and the comparable course and exclude the
74 lower grade and corresponding course; and

75 (iii) may not otherwise show the course or comparable course for which the
76 student did not receive the highest grade on the student's record.

77 (c) An LEA may not approve a course for grade replacement if the replacement
78 course is in a different subject area or instructional discipline than the original course,
79 regardless or whether both courses satisfy elective credit requirements.

80 (d) For the purposes of this rule, a course is only "comparable" if it is housed
81 within the same department or CTE cluster as the original course.

82 (4) An LEA may not use the packet method, or classify a packet as original
83 credit, to improve a previous course grade of a high school student as described in
84 Subsection R277-705-3(9).

85 (5) An LEA shall allow a student to repeat an individual course component to
86 improve a grade for that specific period, provided the course structure allows for such
87 separation.

88 (a) If a student repeats an individual course component:

89 (i) the LEA shall replace the original grade earned for that component with the
90 higher grade; and

91 (ii) the LEA shall; recalculate the final grade of the course to reflect
92 improvement.

93 (6) An LEA may not require a student to repeat portions of a course in which the
94 student has already demonstrated mastery, as evidenced by earning a passing grade,
95 as a condition for grade replacement of a failed term or component.

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97 **R277-717-4. Citizenship Grading Standards.**

98 (1) Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, a teacher assigning citizenship
99 grades independent of an LEA-adopted citizenship grading policy, in accordance with
100 Section 53E-4-208, shall ensure that citizenship grades:

101 (a) are based on clearly defined and observable behaviors;

102 (b) use consistent criteria;

103 (c) are communicated to students and parents at the beginning of a course or
104 grading period;

105 (d) remain separate from measures of academic content mastery; and

106 (e) comply with state and federal nondiscrimination and disability accommodation
107 requirements.

108 (2) Citizenship grading standards under R277-717-4(1) shall include criteria
109 related to durable skills, including:

110 (a) attendance;

111 (b) meeting deadlines;

112 (c) class participation and personal engagement; and

113 (d) effective communication.

114 (3) A teacher may not assign or reduce a citizenship grade based on:

115 (a) a student's disability or documented accommodation need; or

116 (b) a valid excused absence as defined in Section 53G-6-201.

117 (4) An LEA that adopts citizenship grading policies in accordance with Section
118 53E-4-208 shall:
119 (a) establish LEA-wide citizenship grading standards consistent with R277-717-
120 4(1)(2)(3);
121 (b) annually notify parents and students regarding:
122 (i) the citizenship grading policy;
123 (ii) the criteria used to determine citizenship grades; and
124 (iii) the parent's right to opt a student out of citizenship grading in accordance
125 with Section 53E-4-208(6);
126 (c) establish procedures for parent opt-out requests; and
127 (d) ensure that a student who opts out receives grades based solely on
128 academic content mastery.

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131 **KEY: students, grades, credits**

132 **Date of Last Change: April 7, 2026**

133 **Notice of Continuation: January 13, 2022**

134 **Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X Sec 3; 53E-3-401(4), 53E-**
135 **4-208**

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