

~~R277. Education, Administration.~~

~~R277-721. PRIME Program.~~

~~R277-721-1. Authority, Purpose, and Oversight Category.~~

———(1) This rule is authorized by:

———(a) Utah Constitution Article X, Section 3, which vests general control and supervision over public education in the Board;

———(b) Subsection 53E-3-401(4), which allows the Board to make rules to execute the Board's duties and responsibilities under the Utah Constitution and state law; and

———(c) Section 53E-10-309, which requires the Board to make rules to establish the requirements for the Utah PRIME Program.

———(2) The purpose of this rule is to:

———(a) establish eligibility requirements for a participating LEA; and

———(b) create an application process for LEAs to apply for the program.

———(3) This Rule R277-406 is categorized as Category 4 as described in Rule R277-411.

~~R277-721-2. Definitions.~~

———(1) "Career and technical education" or "CTE" means the same as the term is defined in Subsection 53B-1-101.5(3).

———(2) "Concurrent enrollment" or "CE" means the same as the term is defined in Subsection R277-701-2(2).

———(3) "Program" means the PRIME program as described in Section 53E-10-309.

———(4) "Underrepresented students" means the same as the term is defined in Subsection R277-707-2(6).

———(5) "Technical college" means the same as the term is defined in Subsection 53B-1-101.5(7).

———(6) "Utah System of Higher Education" or "USHE" means the same as the term is defined in Section 53B-1-102.

~~R277-721-3. PRIME Program Eligibility, Application, and Review Committee.~~

~~———— (1) Subject to legislative appropriation, an LEA may apply for a PRIME pilot program grant.~~

~~———— (2) An LEA's application shall contain the following:~~

~~———— (a) a budget proposal for the use of funds;~~

~~———— (b) how the LEA will increase access to courses for underrepresented students;~~

~~———— (c) a list of the current CE and CTE courses the LEA offers;~~

~~———— (d) a detailed plan of implementation including current gaps the program will address; and~~

~~———— (e) requisite baseline data established by the Superintendent.~~

~~———— (3) The Superintendent, along with the committee established in Subsection (4), shall score and rank each application based upon the quality of the LEA's overall budget proposal and application as described in Subsection (2).~~

~~———— (4) The Superintendent shall create a PRIME program advisory committee.~~

~~———— (5) The advisory committee shall include the following members as non-voting chairs:~~

~~———— (a) The Superintendent; and~~

~~———— (b) The Commissioner of Higher Education or the commissioner's designee.~~

~~———— (6) In addition to the chairs described in Subsection (5), the Board shall appoint additional members to the committee including:~~

~~———— (a) an early college specialist;~~

~~———— (b) a CTE coordinator, or the coordinator's designee;~~

~~———— (c) a technical college representative;~~

~~———— (d) a representative of USHE;~~

~~———— (e) a member of the State Charter School Board; and~~

~~———— (f) a secondary LEA designee.~~

~~———— (7) The Superintendent shall award program grants:~~

~~———— (a) based upon the score and rank assigned in accordance with Subsection (3);~~

~~and~~

~~_____ (b) consistent with Section 53E-10-309.~~

~~R277-721-4. Performance Measures and Reporting.~~

~~_____ (1) An LEA that receives a program grant shall submit to the Superintendent an annual progress report by June 30 that includes:~~

~~_____ (a) demographic data of participating students compared to overall LEA demographics;~~

~~_____ (b) growth of the program compared to the program baseline data submitted in the LEA's application;~~

~~_____ (c) how the LEA has closed access gaps with underrepresented students;~~

~~_____ (d) itemized budgetary expenditures; and~~

~~_____ (e) overall effectiveness of the program.~~

~~_____ (2) An LEA may request a complete list of awarded certificates from the Superintendent.~~

~~R277-721-5. Distribution and Use of Funds.~~

~~_____ (1) An LEA may receive up to the LEA's requested amount not to exceed \$100,000 annually.~~

~~_____ (2) An LEA may not use funds to:~~

~~_____ (a) fund non-CTE or CE courses;~~

~~_____ (b) supplant local funds;~~

~~_____ (c) pay indirect costs charged by the LEA;~~

~~_____ (d) cover expenditures not listed in the LEA's proposed budget.~~

~~KEY: PRIME, concurrent enrollment, CTE, early college~~

~~Date of Last Change: December 8, 2025~~

~~Notice of Continuation: October 7, 2025~~

~~Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X Sec 3; 53E-3-401~~

R277. Education, Administration.

R277-721. Utah First Credential Program.

R277-721-1. Authority and Purpose.

(1) This rule is authorized by:

(a) Utah Constitution Article X, Section 3, which vests general control and supervision over public education in the Board;

(b) Subsection 53E-3-401(4), which allows the Board to make rules to execute the Board's duties and responsibilities under the Utah Constitution and state law; and

(c) Subsections 53E-10-310(17)(g)(ii) and 53E-10-310(18), which require the Board to make rules implementing the Utah First Credential Program.

(2) The purpose of this rule is to align with the Utah First Credential Program by establishing:

(a) administrative requirements for First Credential implementation grants;

(b) tiers for incentive grant awards to LEAs;

(c) performance metrics for continued program funding;

(d) reporting requirements for grant recipients;

(e) procedures for coordinating with state computer science initiative grants;

(f) guidelines for certification program procurement and implementation; and

(g) requirements related to review of applications for inclusion on the Master Credential List.

R277-721-2. Definitions.

(1) "First Credential" means the certificate described in Subsection 53E-10-310(1)(b).

(2) "Committee" means the First Credential Oversight Committee established under Subsection 53E-10-310(2).

(3) "Incentive grant" means a grant awarded to an LEA that meets the requirements of Subsection 53E-10-310(17)(g)(i).

(4) "Master Credential List" means the list of credentials described in Subsection

53E-10-310(1)(d).

(5) “Program” means the Utah First Credential Program described in Section 53E-10-310.

(6) “Review Committee” means the credentials review committee described in Subsection 53E-10-310(4)(k).

R277-721-3. First Credential Grant Application Process.

(1) Subject to legislative appropriation, LEAs may apply for a First Credential implementation grant.

(2) An LEA shall submit the needs assessment and grant application required by Subsection 53E-10-310(17)(c) using the form and submission process established by the Superintendent.

(3) The committee shall:

(a) establish an annual application and award schedule for First Credential implementation grants based on legislative appropriations and available program funds;

(b) review the needs assessment and grant application;

(c) document the LEA’s placement on the continuum of need; and

(d) communicate to the LEA the implementation-plan requirements applicable to the LEA based on the needs assessment and continuum-of-need placement.

(4) An LEA shall submit an implementation plan that meets the requirements of Subsection 53E-10-310(17)(e) and any additional implementation plan requirements established by the Superintendent consistent with the LEA’s needs assessment.

(5) Following approval of the implementation plan, the committee shall award the implementation grant in accordance with the approved implementation plan and available legislative appropriations.

(6) The Superintendent shall establish grant payment procedures that require documentation demonstrating that grant expenditures are consistent with the approved implementation plan.

R277-721-4. Incentive Grant Tiers and Award Criteria.

(1) Subject to legislative appropriations, the Superintendent shall award an incentive grant to an LEA that meets the requirements of Subsection 53E-10-310(17)(g)(i).

(2) The Superintendent shall award incentive grants using the weighted values established under Subsection 53E-10-310(4)(m) and the tiers established in this section.

(a) Tier 1 Credential receives a 1.0 weight in the total credential count and 100% of the individual credential incentive grant value.

(b) Tier 2 Credential receives a 0.75 weight in the total credential count and 75% of the individual credential incentive grant value.

(c) Tier 3 Credential receives a 0.50 weight in the total credential count and 50% of the individual credential incentive grant value.

(3) The Superintendent shall determine the individual credential incentive grant value by dividing the total incentive grant allocation by the total number of weighted credentials earned by all eligible LEAs.

R277-721-5. Performance Metrics and Reporting Requirements.

(1) An LEA that receives an implementation grant shall submit an annual performance report to the Superintendent by September 30 that includes:

(a) student participation, completion, and certification program outcome data by First Credential route, including demographic information required by the Superintendent;

(b) evidence of ongoing industry alignment and engagement with regional employers or trade groups; and

(c) evidence that the LEA has achieved each established implementation goal outlined in its approved implementation plan.

R277-721-6. Procedures for Coordinating with Computer Science Initiative Grants.

(1) An LEA seeking First Credential funding for a computer science program shall identify applicable state computer science grant funding and describe how the proposed First Credential funding will be coordinated with that funding.

(2) The Superintendent shall adjust an award as necessary to prevent First Credential funds from duplicating funding for the same expenditure under another state computer science grant program.

R277-721-7. Guidelines for Certification Program Procurement and Implementation.

(1) An LEA procuring industry-recognized certification program licenses or implementing First Credential routes shall:

(a) use an industry-recognized certification only if the certification is included on the current Master Credential List;

(b) ensure that competency-based assessments associated with the certification are administered in a proctored environment;

(c) maintain documentation of local industry endorsement of the credential; and

(d) when applicable, coordinate procurement and implementation with state or federal computer science initiatives, including the Computer Science for Utah Grant Program described in Section 53H-13-306.

(2) An LEA implementing a First Credential pathway shall provide students with information regarding opportunities to sequence or stack the credential toward higher-level certifications or degrees.

R277-721-8. Procedures for Updating the Master Credential List.

(1) The Review Committee shall review applications for new credentials seeking inclusion on the Master Credential List at least twice annually.

(2) The Superintendent shall establish and publish application deadlines for each review cycle.

R277-721-9. [Monitoring and] Oversight.

(1) The Superintendent shall ~~[monitor]~~review LEA grant implementation and compliance with this rule in accordance with procedures established by the Superintendent.

(2) Failure to meet established performance metrics ~~[may result in a formal review and]~~ may affect an LEA's eligibility for continued or future First Credential grant funding.

(3) An LEA shall maintain documentation necessary to demonstrate compliance with grant and reporting requirements for the period required by applicable records retention requirements.

R277-721-10. Distribution and Use of Funds.

(1) Subject to legislative appropriations, an LEA may receive an award in an amount determined by the approved grant application and available program funds.

(2) An LEA may not use funds for:

(a) expenditures not directly related to an eligible First Credential route or the LEA's approved implementation plan;

(b) supplanting local funds; and

(c) indirect costs charged by the LEA.

KEY: first credential, incentive grants, concurrent enrollment, CTE, industry-recognized credentials

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X Sec 3; 53E-3-401(4); 53E-10-310