

1 **R277. Education, Administration.**

2 **R277-497. School Grading System.**

3 **R277-497-1. 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 of public education in the Board;

7 (b) Section 53A-1-1113, which directs the Board to adopt rules to implement
8 a school grading system;

9 (c) Section 53A-1-1104, which authorizes the Board to make a rule to
10 establish an accountability plan for an alternative school or special needs school that
11 the Board has exempted from school grading; and

12 (d) Subsection 53A-1-401(3), which allows the Board to adopt rules in
13 accordance with its responsibilities.

14 (2) The purpose of this rule is to provide consistent definitions, standards, and
15 procedures for LEAs to report school data through a school grading system.

16 **R277-497-2. Definitions.**

17 (1) "Alternative school" means the same as that term is defined in Section
18 53A-1-1102.

19 (2) "Special needs school" means a school that only enrolls a student that:

20 (a) has at least one of the following disabilities:

21 (i) an intellectual disability;

22 (ii) a hearing impairment or deafness;

23 (iii) a speech or language impairment;

24 (iv) a visual impairment, including blindness;

25 (v) deafblindness;

26 (vi) an emotional disturbance;

27 (vii) an orthopedic impairment;

28 (viii) autism;

29 (ix) developmental delay;

30 (x) traumatic brain injury;

31 (xi) other health impairment;

32 (xii) multiple disabilities; or
33 (xiii) specific learning disabilities; and
34 (b) has been determined to need placement in a special school by an IEP
35 team.

36 [~~(3) "Sufficient student growth" means a student growth percentile of 40 or~~
37 ~~above.~~]

38 **R277-497-3. Board Responsibilities.**

39 (1) The Board may not count a student who does not participate in required
40 testing under Section 53A-1-603 due to parent excuse provisions of Subsection
41 53A-15-1403(9) and Section R277-404-6 in determining the participation rate for
42 purposes of school grades.

43 (2) The Board and LEAs shall take necessary actions within their authority to
44 satisfy Subsection 53A-15-1403(9)(b).

45 (3) The Superintendent shall calculate a growth target for a student by using
46 the following formula:

47 **R277-497-4. LEA Responsibilities.**

48 (1) An LEA shall provide accurate and timely data as required under Rule
49 R277-484 to allow for the development of the school reports.

50 (2) An LEA shall use the school reports as a communication tool to inform
51 parents and the community about school performance.

52 (3) An LEA shall ensure that the school reports are available for all parents.

53 **R277-497-5. School Responsibilities.**

54 (1) A school shall provide data for the school report as provided in Rule
55 R277-484.

56 (2) A school shall cooperate with the Board and LEAs to ensure that the
57 school report is available for all parents.

58 **R277-497-6. Exemption from School Grading.**

59 (1)(a) As authorized by Section 53A-1-1104, an alternative school or a special
60 needs school may submit a request for an exemption from school grading for the
61 next three school years to the Board by July 1.

62 (b) The request shall demonstrate that:

63 (i) the school meets the definition of an alternative school or a special needs
64 school;

65 (ii) the school has the approval of:

66 (A) the school's LEA governing board; or

67 (B) if the school is the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, the USDB
68 advisory committee; and

69 (iii) if the school has received an exemption for a previous school year, the
70 school has timely submitted to the Superintendent all information necessary for the
71 Board to evaluate the school as required by Section 53A-1-1104.

72 (2)(a) The Board shall exempt a school from school grading if the school
73 meets the requirements of Subsection (1).

74 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (2)(c), an exemption from school
75 grading is valid for three school years.

76 (c) The Board may revoke an exemption if a school fails to timely submit to
77 the Superintendent all information necessary for the Board to annually evaluate the
78 school in accordance with the accountability plan.

79 **R277-497-7. Accountability Plan – General Provisions.**

80 (1)(a) This rule incorporates by reference the Guide to Utah's Comprehensive
81 Accountability System for Alternative Schools - June 6, 2014, which describes the
82 accountability plan required by Section 53A-1-1104, with the exceptions for a special
83 needs school described in Section R277-497-8.

84 (b) The Superintendent shall annually evaluate a school in accordance with
85 the accountability plan by calculating a school's composite score, which has a
86 maximum value of 1500, by summing the school's weighted indicator scores.

87 (2) The accountability plan consists of five indicators weighted as follows:

88 (a) growth, which measures student academic progress based on a school's

89 median student growth percentile for all students and below proficient students, is
90 20% with a maximum score of 300;

91 (b) attendance, which is the higher of a school's attendance rate in the current
92 year or improvement in cohort attendance rate from the previous year, is 25% with
93 a maximum score of 375;

94 (c) credit earning, which measures the degree to which a student enrolled in
95 the current year is successfully completing courses in which the student is enrolled
96 or is making improvement in cohort credit earning rate from the previous year, is
97 25% with a maximum score of 375;

98 (d) attainment, which measures the extent to which a student successfully
99 completes or makes substantial progress toward completion of meaningful
100 educational goals, is 20% with a maximum score of 300; and

101 (e) school climate, which measures whether a school is collecting data to
102 evaluate school climate and using results to inform efforts to improve climate, is ten
103 percent with a maximum score of 150.

104 (3) The Superintendent shall assign the scores based on the rubrics
105 established in the guide.

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107 **R277-497-8. Accountability Plan Exceptions.**

108 (1) At the request of a special needs school, the Superintendent may exempt
109 a student from the attendance indicator score calculation if the student has a
110 documented medical condition that prevents the student from attending 160 days of
111 school.

112 (2) In accordance with a Section 53A-1-111, a student with a disability may
113 take an alternative assessment to determine the student's growth instead of the
114 Student Assessment of Growth and Excellence.

115 (3) If required by Section R277-410-5, a special needs school shall report on
116 the school's progress on the school's accreditation improvement plan in the School
117 Snapshot section of the school's report card published by the Superintendent under
118 Subsection 53A-1-1104(5)(b)(ii).

119 **KEY: school reports, grading system**

- 120 **Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: 2015**
- 121 **Notice of Continuation: August 13, 2015**
- 122 **Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X, Sec 3; 53A-1-1104;**
- 123 **53A-1-1113; 53A-1-401(3)**