

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Utah State Board of Education

FROM: Diana Suddreth
Director, Teaching & Learning

DATE: March 17-18, 2016

ACTION: R277-700 *The Elementary and Secondary School General Core, Section 6 - High School Requirements* (Amendment)

Background:

In October 2015, R277-700-6 *High School Requirements* was updated to include three computer science courses as an option for core science credit for high school graduation. The revision of R277-700-6 changed wording in the body of the science requirements with an unintended impact on overall science graduation requirements. R277-700-6 is amended for clarification purposes.

Board Strategic Plan:

This item supports the Educational Equity and Quality Learning Imperatives and strategies in the Board's Strategic Plan by setting minimum graduation standards in science with high expectations to promote each student's academic success.

Anticipated Action:

It is proposed that the Standards and Assessment Committee approve R277-700-6, as amended, on first reading and, if approved by the Committee, the Board approve R277-700-6, as amended, on second reading.

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1 **R277. Education, Administration.**

2 **R277-700. The Elementary and Secondary School General Core.**

3 **R277-700-6. High School Requirements.**

4 (1) The General Core and Core Standards for students in grades 9-12 are
5 described in this section.

6 (2) A student in grades 9-12 is required to earn a minimum of 24 units of
7 credit through course completion or through competency assessment consistent with
8 R277-705 to graduate.

9 (3) The General Core credit requirements from courses approved by the
10 Board are described in Subsections (4) through (18).

11 (4) Language Arts (4.0 units of credit from the following):

12 (a) Grade 9 level (1.0 unit of credit);

13 (b) Grade 10 level (1.0 unit of credit);

14 (c) Grade 11 level (1.0 unit of credit); and

15 (d) Grade 12 level (1.0 Unit of credit) consisting of applied or advanced
16 language arts credit from the list of Board-approved courses using the following
17 criteria and consistent with the student's SEOP/Plan for College and Career
18 Readiness:

19 (i) courses are within the field/discipline of language arts with a significant
20 portion of instruction aligned to language arts content, principles, knowledge, and
21 skills;

22 (ii) courses provide instruction that leads to student understanding of the
23 nature and disposition of language arts;

24 (iii) courses apply the fundamental concepts and skills of language arts;

25 (iv) courses provide developmentally appropriate content; and

26 (v) courses develop skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and
27 presentation.

28 (5) Mathematics (3.0 units of credit) shall be met minimally through successful
29 completion of a combination of the foundation or foundation honors courses,
30 Secondary Mathematics I, Secondary Mathematics II, and Secondary Mathematics
31 III.

32 (6)(a) A student may opt out of Secondary Mathematics III if the student's

33 parent submits a written request to the school.

34 (b) If a student's parent requests an opt out described in Subsection (6)(a),
35 the student is required to complete a third math credit from the Board-approved
36 mathematics list.

37 (7) A 7th or 8th grade student may earn credit for a mathematics foundation
38 course before 9th grade, consistent with the student's SEOP/Plan for College and
39 Career Readiness if:

40 (a) the student is identified as gifted in mathematics on at least two different
41 USOE-approved assessments;

42 (b) the student is dual enrolled at the middle school/junior high school and the
43 high school;

44 (c) the student qualifies for promotion one or two grade levels above the
45 student's age group and is placed in 9th grade; or

46 (d) the student takes the USOE competency test in the summer prior to 9th
47 grade and earns high school graduation credit for the course.

48 (8) A student who successfully completes a mathematics foundation course
49 before 9th grade is required to earn 3.0 units of additional mathematics credit by:

50 (a) taking the other mathematics foundation courses described in Subsection
51 (5); and

52 (b) an additional course from the Board-approved mathematics list consistent
53 with:

54 (i) the student's SEOP/Plan for College and Career Readiness; and

55 (ii) the following criteria:

56 (A) courses are within the field/discipline of mathematics with a significant
57 portion of instruction aligned to mathematics content, principles, knowledge, and
58 skills;

59 (B) courses provide instruction that lead to student understanding of the
60 nature and disposition of mathematics;

61 (C) courses apply the fundamental concepts and skills of mathematics;

62 (D) courses provide developmentally appropriate content; and

63 (E) courses include the five process skills of mathematics: problem solving,
64 reasoning, communication, connections, and representation.

65 (9) A student who successfully completes a Calculus course with a “C” grade
66 or higher has completed mathematics graduation requirements, regardless of the
67 number of mathematics credits earned.

68 (10) Science (3.0 units of credit):

69 (a) shall be met minimally through successful completion of ~~[two courses]~~2.0
70 units of credit from ~~[the following]~~two of the following five science foundation areas:

71 (i) Earth Science (1.0 units of credit);

72 (A) Earth Science;

73 (B) Advanced Placement Environmental Science; or

74 (C) International Baccalaureate Environmental Systems;

75 (ii) Biological Science (1.0 units of credit);

76 (A) Biology;

77 (B) Human Biology;

78 (C) Biology: Agricultural Science & Technology;

79 (D) Advanced Placement Biology;

80 (E) International Baccalaureate Biology; or

81 (F) Biology with Lab Concurrent Enrollment;

82 (iii) Chemistry (1.0 units of credit);

83 (A) Chemistry;

84 (B) Advanced Placement Chemistry;

85 (C) International Baccalaureate Chemistry; or

86 (D) Chemistry with Lab Concurrent Enrollment;

87 (iv) Physics (1.0 units of credit);~~[-or]~~

88 (A) Physics;

89 (B) Physics with Technology;

90 (C) Advanced Placement Physics (1, 2, C: Electricity and Magnetism, or C:
91 Mechanics);

92 (D) International Baccalaureate Physics; or

93 (E) Physics with Lab Concurrent Enrollment; or

94 (v) one of the following Computer Science courses (~~[-.5 or]~~1.0 units of credit):

95 (A) Advanced Placement Computer Science;

96 (B) Computer Science Principles; or

- 97 (C) Computer Programming II; and
98 (b) one additional unit of credit from:
99 (i) the foundation courses described in Subsection(10)(a); or
100 (ii) the applied or advanced science list;
101 (A) determined by the LEA board; and
102 (B) approved by the Board using the following criteria and consistent with the
103 student's SEOP/Plan for College and Career Readiness:
104 ([A]I) courses are within the field/discipline of science with a significant portion
105 of instruction aligned to science content, principles, knowledge, and skills;
106 ([B]II) courses provide instruction that leads to student understanding of the
107 nature and disposition of science;
108 ([C]III) courses apply the fundamental concepts and skills of science;
109 ([D]IV) courses provide developmentally appropriate content;
110 ([E]V) courses include the areas of physical, natural, or applied sciences; and
111 ([F]VI) courses develop students' skills in scientific inquiry.
112 (11) Social Studies (3.0 units of credit) shall be met minimally through
113 successful completion of:
114 (a) 2.5 units of credit from the following courses:
115 (i) Geography for Life (0.5 units of credit);
116 (ii) World Civilizations (0.5 units of credit);
117 (iii) U.S. History (1.0 units of credit); and
118 (iv) U.S. Government and Citizenship (0.5 units of credit);
119 (b) Social Studies (0.5 units of credit per LEA discretion); and
120 (c) a basic civics test or alternate assessment described in R277-700-8.
121 (12) The Arts (1.5 units of credit from any of the following performance
122 areas):
123 (a) Visual Arts;
124 (b) Music;
125 (c) Dance; or
126 (d) Theatre.
127 (13) Physical and Health Education (2.0 units of credit from any of the
128 following):

- 129 (a) Health (0.5 units of credit);
130 (b) Participation Skills (0.5 units of credit);
131 (c) Fitness for Life (0.5 units of credit);
132 (d) Individualized Lifetime Activities (0.5 units of credit); or
133 (e) team sport/athletic participation (maximum of 0.5 units of credit with school
134 approval).
- 135 (14) Career and Technical Education (1.0 units of credit from any of the
136 following):
- 137 (a) Agriculture;
138 (b) Business;
139 (c) Family and Consumer Sciences;
140 (d) Health Science and Technology;
141 (e) Information Technology;
142 (f) Marketing;
143 (g) Technology and Engineering Education; or
144 (h) Trade and Technical Education.
- 145 (15) Educational Technology (0.5 units of credit from one of the following):
146 (a) Digital Literacy (0.5 units of credit from a Board-approved list of courses);
147 or
148 (b) successful completion of a Board-approved competency examination
149 (credit may be awarded at the discretion of the LEA).
- 150 (16) Library Media Skills (integrated into the subject areas).
151 (17) General Financial Literacy (0.5 units of credit).
152 (18) Electives (5.5 units of credit).
153 (19) An LEA shall use Board-approved summative adaptive assessments to
154 assess student mastery of the following subjects:
- 155 (a) reading;
156 (b) language arts through grade 11;
157 (c) mathematics as defined in Subsection (5); and
158 (d) science as defined in Subsection (10).
159 (20) An LEA board may require a student to earn credits for graduation that
160 exceed the minimum Board requirements described in this rule.

161 (21) An LEA board may establish and offer additional elective course offerings
162 at the discretion of the LEA board.

163 (22)(a) An LEA may modify a student's graduation requirements to meet the
164 unique educational needs of a student if:

165 (i) the student has a disability; and

166 (ii) the modifications to the student's graduation requirements are made
167 through the student's individual IEP.

168 (b) An LEA shall document the nature and extent of a modification,
169 substitution, or exemption made to a student's graduation requirements described
170 in Subsection (22)(a) in the student's IEP.

171 (23) The Board and Superintendent may review an LEA board's list of
172 approved courses for compliance with this rule.

173 (24) An LEA may modify graduation requirements for an individual student to
174 achieve an appropriate route to student success if the modification:

175 (a) is consistent with:

176 (i) the student's IEP; or

177 (ii) SEOP/Plan for College and Career Readiness;

178 (b) is maintained in the student's file;

179 (c) includes the parent's signature; and

180 (d) maintains the integrity and rigor expected for high school graduation, as
181 determined by the Board.

182 **KEY: standards; graduation requirements**

183 **Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: ~~August 26, 2015~~2016**

184 **Notice of Continuation: July 1, 2015**

185 **Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X Sec 3; 53A-1-402(1)(b);**

186 **53A-1-402.6; 53A-1-401(3)**