

1 **R277. Education, Administration.**

2 **R277-613. LEA Bullying, Cyber-bullying, Hazing, ~~and Harassment~~Retaliation, and**  
3 **Abusive Conduct Policies and Training.**

4 **R277-613-~~[2]~~1. Authority and Purpose.**

5 ~~[A.](1)~~ This rule is authorized by:

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

8 (b) Section 53A-1-401~~[(3)]~~, which allows the Board to ~~adopt~~make rules [in  
9 accordance with its responsibilities;]to execute the Board's duties and responsibilities under  
10 the Utah Constitution and state law~~[- and the responsibility of the Board to provide~~  
11 assistance with and ensure LEA compliance with Section 53A-11a-304].

12 ~~[B.](2)~~ The purpose of the rule is to:

13 (a) require LEAs to implement bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, ~~and~~  
14 harassment]retaliation, and abusive conduct policies ~~[district and school wide]~~at the school  
15 district and school level;

16 (b) ~~[to]~~provide for regular and meaningful training of school employees and  
17 students;

18 (c) ~~[to]~~provide for enforcement of the policies in schools, at the state level and in  
19 public school athletic programs; and

20 (d) ~~[to require LEAs to notify parents of specific bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing,~~  
21 harassment and suicide threat incidents; and to require LEAs to maintain documentation  
22 as required by law]require an LEA to review allegations of bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing,  
23 retaliation, and abusive conduct.

24 **R277-613-~~[1]~~2. Definitions.**

25 ~~[A. "Board" means the Utah State Board of Education.]~~

26 (1) "Abusive conduct" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53A-11a-  
27 102.

28 ~~[B.](2)(a)~~ "Bullying" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53A-11a-102.  
29 [intentionally or knowingly committing an act that:

- 30 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (1)(a) endangers the physical health or safety of a school employee or student;~~  
31 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (b) involves any brutality of a physical nature such as whipping, beating, branding,~~  
32 ~~calisthenics, bruising, electric shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or~~  
33 ~~exposure to the elements;~~  
34 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (c) involves consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance;~~  
35 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (d) involves other physical activity that endangers the physical health and safety of~~  
36 ~~a school employee or student; or~~  
37 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (e) involves physically obstructing a school employee's or student's freedom to~~  
38 ~~move; and~~  
39 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (2) is done for the purpose of placing a school employee or student in fear of:~~  
40 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (a) physical harm to the school employee or student; or~~  
41 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (b) harm to property of the school employee or student.]~~  
42 (b) "Bullying" includes relational aggression or indirect, covert, or social aggression,  
43 including rumor spreading, intimidation, enlisting a friend to assault a child, and social  
44 isolation.  
45 [(3)c] The conduct described in [R277-613-1B]Subsection 53A-11a-102(2)  
46 constitutes bullying, regardless of whether the person against whom the conduct is  
47 committed directed, consented to, or acquiesced in, the conduct.  
48 ~~[(4) Bullying is commonly understood as aggressive behavior that:~~  
49 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (a) is intended to cause distress and harm;~~  
50 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (b) exists in a relationship in which there is an imbalance of power and strength; and~~  
51 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (c) is repeated over time.]~~  
52 ~~[E:]~~(3) "Civil rights violations," for purposes of this rule, means bullying, cyber-  
53 bullying, hazing, [or harassing]retaliation, or abusive conduct that is targeted at a federally  
54 protected class.  
55 ~~[D:]~~(4) "Cyber-bullying" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53A-11a-  
56 102[ using the Internet, a cell phone, or another device to send or post text, video, or an  
57 image with the intent or knowledge, or with reckless disregard, that the text, video, or  
58 image will hurt, embarrass, or threaten an individual, regardless of whether the individual  
59 directed, consented to, or acquiesced in the conduct, or voluntarily accessed the electronic

60 communication].

61 ~~[E.](5)~~ "Federally protected class" means any group protected from discrimination  
62 under the following federal laws:

63 ~~[(1)a]~~ Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the  
64 basis of race, color, or national origin;

65 ~~[(2)b]~~ Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits discrimination  
66 on the basis of sex;

67 ~~[(3)c]~~ Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with  
68 Disabilities Act of 1990, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability; and

69 ~~[(4)d]~~ ~~[Θ]~~ other areas included under these acts described in Subsection (5)(a)  
70 through (c), which prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion, gender identity, and  
71 sexual orientation.

72 ~~[F. "Harassment" means repeatedly communicating to another individual, in an~~  
73 ~~objectively demeaning or disparaging manner, statements that contribute to a hostile~~  
74 ~~learning or work environment for the individual.]~~

75 ~~[G.](6)~~ "Hazing" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53A-11a-102.  
76 ~~[intentionally or knowingly committing an act that:~~

77 ~~——(1)(a) endangers the physical health or safety of a school employee or student;~~

78 ~~——(b) involves any brutality of a physical nature such as whipping, beating, branding,~~  
79 ~~calisthenics, bruising, electric shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or~~  
80 ~~exposure to the elements;~~

81 ~~——(c) involves consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance;~~

82 ~~——(d) involves other physical activity that endangers the physical health and safety of~~  
83 ~~a school employee or student; or~~

84 ~~——(e) involves physically obstructing a school employee's or student's freedom to~~  
85 ~~move; and~~

86 ~~——(f)(i) is done for the purpose of initiation or admission into, affiliation with, holding~~  
87 ~~office in, or as a condition for, membership or acceptance, or continued membership or~~  
88 ~~acceptance, in any school or school sponsored team, organization, program, or event; or~~

89 ~~——(ii) if the person committing the act against a school employee or student knew that~~

90 ~~the school employee or student is a member of, or candidate for, membership with a~~  
91 ~~school, or school sponsored team, organization, program, or event to which the person~~  
92 ~~committing the act belongs to or participates in.~~

93 ~~— (2) The conduct described in R277-613-1G constitutes hazing, regardless of~~  
94 ~~whether the person against whom the conduct is committed, directed, consented to, or~~  
95 ~~acquiesced in, the conduct.]~~

96 [H.](7) "LEA" [means a local education agency, including local school boards/public  
97 school districts, charter schools, and] includes, for purposes of this rule, the Utah Schools  
98 for the Deaf and the Blind.

99 [I. "Parent," for purposes of this rule, means a student's guardian consistent with  
100 Section 53A-11a-203(1).]

101 [J.](8) "Participant" means any student, employee or volunteer coach participating  
102 in a public school sponsored athletic program or activity, [both] including a curricular, co-  
103 curricular, [and] or extracurricular [or extracurricular] club or activity.

104 [K.](9) "Policy" means standards and procedures that:

105 (a) are required in Section 53A-11a-301;

106 (b) include the provisions of Section 53A-11-901; and

107 (c) provide additional standards, procedures, and training adopted in an open  
108 meeting by an LEA board that:

109 (i) define bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, [and harassment] retaliation, and abusive  
110 conduct[;]; and

111 (ii) prohibit bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, [and harassment] retaliation, and abusive  
112 conduct[;];

113 (iii) require regular annual discussion and training designed to prevent bullying,  
114 cyber-bullying, hazing, [and harassment] retaliation, and abusive conduct among school  
115 employees and students; and

116 (iv) provide for enforcement through employment action or student discipline.

117 (10) "Restorative justice" means a discipline practice that brings together students,  
118 schools personnel, families, and community members to resolve conflicts, address  
119 disruptive behaviors, and promote healing [and entire communities]. In restorative justice

120 practices, students are held accountable for their behavior by engaging with those who  
121 have been wronged.

122 ~~[L.](11)~~ "Retaliate" or "retaliation" means the same as that term is defined in  
123 Section 53A-11a-102~~[an act or communication intended:~~

124 ~~—— (1) as retribution against a person for reporting bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing and~~  
125 ~~harassment; or~~

126 ~~—— (2) to improperly influence the investigation of, or the response to, a report of~~  
127 ~~bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing and harassment].~~

128 (12) "School employee" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53A-11a-  
129 102.

130 (13) "Trauma-Informed Care" means a strengths-based service delivery approach  
131 that is grounded in an understanding of and responsiveness to the impact of trauma, that  
132 emphasizes physical, psychological, and emotional safety for both offenders and victims,  
133 and that creates opportunities for victims to rebuild a sense of control and empowerment.

134 **R277-613-3. ~~[Utah State Board of Education]~~ Superintendent Responsibilities.**

135 ~~[A.](1) [To the extent of resources available]~~ Subject to availability of funds, the  
136 [Board] Superintendent shall provide:

137 (a) a model policy on bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, retaliation, and abusive  
138 conduct as required in Section 53A-11a-302;

139 (b) model training on:

140 (i) the prevention and identification of bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, retaliation,  
141 and abusive conduct that an LEA may use to train the LEA's employees, contract  
142 employees, and volunteers, including coaches; and

143 (ii) the reporting and review requirements in Section R277-613-5;

144 (c) training opportunities ~~[or materials or both for employees of LEAs on]~~ related to  
145 the prevention of bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, retaliation, and abusive conduct; and

146 (d) evidence based practices and policies related to the prevention of bullying,  
147 cyber-bullying, hazing, ~~[and harassment]~~ retaliation, and abusive conduct.

148 (2) Although an LEA is required to have a policy on bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing,

149 retaliation and abusive conduct as described in Section 53A-11a-301 and provide training  
150 as described in Section 53A-11a-401, the LEA is not required to use the model policy or  
151 model training developed by the Superintendent described in Subsection (1).

152 ~~[B:]~~~~(2)3~~ The Board may interrupt disbursements of funds consistent with  
153 Subsection 53A-1-401~~(3)8~~ and Rule R277-114 for failure of an LEA to comply with:

154 (a) Title 53A, Chapter 11a, Bulling and Hazing; and

155 (b) this rule.

156 ~~(3)4~~ In addition to the requirements of Title 53A, Chapter 11a, Bullying and Hazing  
157 and this R277-613, LEAs are required to comply with applicable federal requirements.

158 ~~**[R277-613-5. LEA Responsibility to Create Bullying Policies.]**~~

159 **R277-613-4. Bullying, Cyber-bullying, Hazing, Retaliation, and Abusive Conduct**  
160 **Prohibited.**

161 ~~[A. Each]~~An LEA shall~~[-implement an updated policy]~~ prohibit~~[ing]~~:

162 (1) bullying~~[-];~~

163 (2) cyber-bullying~~[-];~~

164 (3) hazing~~[-harassment and];~~

165 ~~(e)4~~ retaliation~~[-and];~~

166 (5) abusive conduct; and

167 (6) making a false report~~[-consistent with Section 53A-11a-301].~~

168 **R277-613-5. LEA Responsibility to Create Bullying Policies.**

169 ~~[B:]~~(1) [Each]In addition to the requirements of Subsection 53A-11a-301(3), an LEA  
170 shall:

171 (a) develop and implement policies as required by Section 53A-11a-301 and this  
172 rule;

173 ~~(1)4~~b post a copy of [its]the LEA's policy on the LEA website~~[-and]~~

174 ~~(2)~~ provide a copy of the LEA policy or uniform resource locator (URL) to the State  
175 Superintendent of Public Instruction at the Utah State Office of Education.

176 (c) develop an action plan to address a reported incident of bullying, cyber-bullying,

177 hazing, retaliation, or abusive conduct; and

178 (d) provide a requirement for a signed statement that meets the requirements of  
179 Subsection 53A-11a-301(3)(g)h) annually.

180 ~~[C.](2)(a) [The policy shall include parental notification]~~As required by Section 53A-  
181 11a-301, an LEA shall notify a parent of:

182 ~~(1)i)~~ a parent's student's threat to commit suicide; ~~[and]or~~

183 ~~(2)ii)~~ an incident of bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, ~~[harassment or]~~retaliation, or  
184 abusive conduct involving the parent's student.

185 ~~(3)b) [This part of the policy shall also include]~~An LEA shall:

186 ~~(a)i) [timely parent notification]~~notify a parent described in Subsection (3)(a) in a  
187 timely manner;

188 ~~(b)ii) designat[ion of]e the appropriate school employee[~~(s)~~]~~ to provide parental  
189 notification; and

190 ~~(c)iii) designat[ion of]e the format in which notification [shall be]is provided to~~  
191 parents and maintained by the LEA[;

192 ~~——(d) directives for secure maintenance of the notification record as required under~~  
193 Section 53A-11a-203(1);

194 ~~——(e) a retention period and destruction process for the notification; and~~

195 ~~——(f) an LEA definition of parent(s) consistent with Section 53A-11-203 and this rule].~~

196 ~~[D.](3) [The policy shall provide for student assessment of the]~~Subject to the  
197 parental consent requirements of Section 53A-13-302, an LEA shall survey students on  
198 the prevalence of bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, and ~~[harassment]~~retaliation in LEAs and  
199 schools, specifically locations where students are unsafe and additional adult supervision  
200 may be required, such as playgrounds, hallways, and lunch areas.

201 ~~[E.](4) [The policy shall include required]~~An LEA shall take strong responsive action  
202 against retaliation, including assistance to ~~[harassed]~~bullied students and their parents in  
203 reporting subsequent problems and new incidents.

204 ~~[F.](5)(a) [The policy]~~An LEA shall provide that students, ~~[staff,]school employees,~~  
205 coaches, and volunteers receive training on bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, ~~[and~~  
206 harassment]retaliation, and abusive conduct from individuals qualified to provide such

207 training.~~[The LEA shall determine how often training shall be provided.]~~  
208       ~~(1)~~(b) The training ~~[should be specific to]~~described in Subsection (5)(a) shall:  
209       ~~(a)~~i include information on various types of aggression and bullying, including:  
210       (A) overt aggression that may include physical fighting such as punching, shoving,  
211 kicking, and verbal threatening behavior, such as name calling, or both physical and verbal  
212 aggression or threatening behavior;  
213       ~~(b)~~B relational aggression or indirect, covert, or social aggression, including rumor  
214 spreading, intimidation, enlisting a friend to assault a child, and social isolation;  
215       ~~(c)~~C sexual aggression or acts of a sexual nature or with sexual overtones;  
216       ~~(d)~~D cyber-bullying, including use of email, web pages, text messaging, instant  
217 messaging, three-way calling or messaging or any other electronic means for aggression  
218 inside or outside of school; and  
219       ~~(e)~~E civil rights violations,~~[appropriate reporting and investigative procedures.~~  
220 ~~This]~~ includ[es]ing bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, and [harassment]retaliation based upon  
221 the students' actual or perceived identities and conformance or failure to conform with  
222 stereotypes[-]; and  
223       ~~(2) Training should also include awareness and intervention skills such as social~~  
224 ~~skills training for students and staff, including aides, custodians, kitchen and lunchroom~~  
225 ~~workers, secretaries, paraprofessionals, and coaches.]~~  
226       ~~(3)~~ii [Training on bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing and harassment required of LEA  
227 policies under the rule should] complement the suicide prevention program required for  
228 students under Rule R277-620 and the suicide prevention training required for licensed  
229 educators consistent with Subsection 53A-1-603(9).  
230       (6) The training described in Subsection (5) shall be offered to new school  
231 employees, coaches, and volunteers and to all school employees, coaches, and volunteers  
232 at least once every three years.  
233       ~~(G.)~~(7)(a) An LEA's [P]policies developed under this section shall[also] complement  
234 existing safe and drug free school policies and research based school discipline plans.  
235       (b) Consistent with Rule R277-609, the discipline plan shall provide direction for  
236 dealing with bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, [harassment]retaliation, abusive conduct, and



237 disruptive students.

238 (c) [This part of the]An LEA shall ensure that a discipline plan required by Rule  
239 R277-609[shall]:

240 ([1]i) directs schools to determine the range of behaviors and establish the  
241 continuum of administrative procedures that may be used by school personnel to address  
242 the behavior of~~[habitually disruptive]~~ students;

243 ([2]ii) provides for identification, by position~~[(s)]~~, of an individual[(s)] designated to  
244 issue notices of disruptive student and bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, ~~[and harassment~~  
245 ~~behavior]~~retaliation, and abusive conduct;

246 ([3]iii) designates to whom notices shall be provided;

247 ([4]iv) provides for documentation of disruptive student behavior ~~[prior to referral of~~  
248 ~~disruptive students to juvenile court]~~in the LEA's student information system;

249 ([5]v) includes strategies to provide for necessary adult supervision;

250 ([6]vi) [be]is clearly written and consistently enforced;

251 ([7]vii) includes administration, instruction and support staff, students, parents,  
252 community council and other community members in policy development, training and  
253 prevention implementation so as to create a community sense of participation, ownership,  
254 support and responsibility; and

255 ([8]viii) provides notice to employees that violation~~[(s)]~~ of this rule may result in  
256 employment discipline or action.

257 **R277-613-6. Reporting and Incident Review of Allegations of Bullying, Cyber-**  
258 **bullying, Hazing, Retaliation, and Abusive Conduct.**

259 (1) An LEA shall:

260 (a) review allegations of incidents of bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, retaliation, and  
261 abusive conduct in accordance with this section; and

262 (b) provide an individual who reviews allegations of incidents of bullying, cyber-  
263 bullying, hazing, retaliation, and abusive conduct with adequate training on conducting a  
264 review.

265 (2) An LEA shall contact the appropriate local law enforcement agency if:

- 266 (a) there is an alleged crime;  
267 (b) safety issue; or  
268 (c) threat of violence.  
269 ~~(2)3~~(a) An LEA shall review allegations of incidents described in Subsection (1)(a)  
270 by interviewing at least the alleged victim first and the alleged offender second.  
271 (b) An LEA may also interview the following as part of a review:  
272 (i) parents of the alleged victim and the alleged offender;  
273 (ii) any witnesses; and  
274 (iii) school staff.  
275 ~~(c) An individual who reviews an allegation of an incident shall inform an individual~~  
276 ~~being interviewed that:~~  
277 ~~—— (i) the individual is required to keep all details of the interview confidential; and~~  
278 ~~—— (ii) further reports of bullying will become part of the review.~~  
279 ~~—— (3) The confidentiality requirement in Subsection (2)(c) does not apply to:~~  
280 ~~—— (a) conversations with law enforcement professionals;~~  
281 ~~—— (b) requests for information pursuant to a warrant or subpoena; or~~  
282 ~~—— (c) a state or federal reporting requirement.]~~  
283 (4) In conducting a review under this section, an LEA may:  
284 (a) review disciplinary reports of involved students; and  
285 (b) review physical evidence, which may include:  
286 (i) video or audio;  
287 (ii) notes;  
288 (iii) email;  
289 (iv) text messages;  
290 (v) social media; or  
291 (vi) graffiti.  
292 (5) Following a review of an allegation of an incident of bullying, cyber-bullying,  
293 hazing, retaliation, and abusive conduct, if appropriate an LEA ~~shall~~may:  
294 (a) in accordance with the requirements in Subsection (5), take ~~appropriate~~ positive  
295 restorative justice discipline action, in accordance with policies established by the LEA;

296 and

297 (b) support involved students through trauma-informed practices, if appropriate.

298 (6)(a) An alleged victim is not required to participate in a restorative justice discipline  
299 process with an alleged aggressor as described in Subsection (5)(a).

300 (b) If an LEA would like an alleged victim who is student to participate in a  
301 restorative justice discipline process, the LEA shall notify the alleged victim student's  
302 parent of the process and obtain consent from the alleged victim student's parent or legal  
303 guardian before including the alleged victim student in the process.

304 ([6]7) An LEA shall, as required by 53A-1-401(3), report the following annually, on  
305 or before June 30, to the Superintendent:

306 (a) a copy of LEA's policy required in Section R277-613-4;

307 (b) implementation of the signed statement requirement described in Subsection  
308 53A-11a-301(3)(g);

309 (c) verification of the LEA's training of school employees relating to bullying,  
310 cyber-bullying, hazing, retaliation, and abusive conduct described in Section 53A-11a-401;

311 (d) incidents of bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, and retaliation~~[through the Board's~~  
312 ~~student information system within 5 school days of making a determination that the alleged~~  
313 ~~incident constituted an actual incident of bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, and retaliation in~~  
314 ~~accordance with the Superintendent's submission requirements]~~; and

315 (e) the number of incidents described in Subsection ([6]7)(d) included a student who  
316 is part of a federally protected class, including whether the student was bullied,  
317 cyber-bullied, hazed, or retaliated against because the of the student's disability, race,  
318 national origin, religion, or sex~~[, gender identity, or sexual orientation]~~ in accordance with  
319 the Superintendent's submission requirements.

320 **R277-613-[5]7. Training by LEAs Specific to Participants in Public School Athletic**  
321 **Programs and School Clubs.**

322 [A-](1)(a) Prior to any student, employee or volunteer coach participating in a public  
323 school sponsored athletic program, both curricular and extracurricular, or extracurricular  
324 club or activity, the student, employee or coach shall participate in bullying, cyber-bullying,

325 hazing, ~~[and harassment]~~retaliation, and abusive conduct prevention training.

326 (b) [This]A training described in Subsection (1)(a) shall be offered to new  
327 participants on an annual basis and to all participants at least once every three years.

328 ~~[B. LEAs may collaborate with the Utah High School Activities Association to~~  
329 ~~develop and provide training.]~~

330 ~~[C.](2) [Student]~~An LEA shall inform student athletes and extracurricular club  
331 members~~[shall be informed]~~ of prohibited activities under this rule and notified of potential  
332 consequences for violation of the law and the rule.

333 ~~[D.](3) An LEA shall maintain [F]training [curriculum outlines, training schedules,~~  
334 ~~and] participant lists or signatures, [shall be maintained by each LEA and]~~to be provided  
335 to the ~~[Utah State Office of Education]~~Board upon request.

336 **~~[R277-613-6. Professional Responsibilities of Employee and Volunteer Coaches.~~**

337 ~~—— A. All public school coaches shall act consistent with professional standards of~~  
338 ~~R277-515 in all responsibilities and activities of their assignments.~~

339 ~~—— B. Failure to act consistently with R277-515 toward students, colleagues and~~  
340 ~~parents may result in discipline against an educator's license or termination of volunteer~~  
341 ~~services.]~~

342 **KEY: bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, ~~[harassment]~~retaliation, abusive conduct,**  
343 **policies, training**

344 **Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: ~~[October 8, 2013]~~2017**

345 **Notice of Continuation: ~~[August 2, 2013]~~2017**

346 **Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X Sec 3; 53A-1-401~~[(3)];~~**  
347 **~~[53A-11a-301]~~53A, Chapter 11a**