

1 **R277. Education, Administration.**

2 **R277-326. Early Learning.**

3 **R277-326-1. 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;

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 [53F-5-214](#), which directs the Board to make rules regarding the
10 required elements of the Early Learning Professional Learning Grant and a formula to
11 determine an LEA's grant amount; and

12 (d) Subsection [53E-3-1002\(2\)](#), which directs the Board to make rules to allocate
13 funding for early literacy coaches.

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

15 (a)(i) provide the required elements for the Early Learning Professional Learning
16 Grant program including eligibility criteria; and

17 (ii) establish a formula for the grant distribution; and

18 (b) establish criteria for assignment of early literacy coaches in accordance with
19 Section [53E-3-1002](#).

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21 **R277-326-2. Definitions.**

22 (1) "Early literacy coach" means a coach provided by the Board to assist LEAs
23 with early literacy in accordance with Section [53E-3-1002](#).

24 (2) "Evidence-based" means the same as the term is defined in Subsection
25 [R277-406-2\(3\)](#).

26 (3) "Focused" means professional learning that is targeted to strategies that
27 align with an LEA's plan and goals that would best support improving outcomes.

28 (4) "Job-embedded" means learning that is during the workday and designed to
29 enhance instructional practices with the intent of improving student learning outcomes.

30 (5) "Professional learning" means the same as the term is defined in
31 [Subsection] [Section 53G-11-303](#)~~(1)~~.

32 (6) "Sustained" means multiple professional learning sessions with ongoing
33 support for implementation of professional learning for long-term change.

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35 **R277-326-3. Eligibility and Application.**

36 (1) All LEAs are eligible to apply for the Early Learning Professional Learning
37 Grant.

38 (2) To receive grants funds, an LEA shall submit an application to the
39 Superintendent, including the LEA's plan:

40 (a) for the types of professional learning opportunities~~;~~ the LEA plans to utilize
41 including:

42 (i) comprehensive professional learning opportunities as described in Subsection
43 [53G-11-303](#)(2); and

44 (ii) job-embedded coaching~~;~~;

45 (b) for how the LEA intends to connect professional learning to the LEA's Early
46 Learning Plan goals; and

47 (c) for how the LEA intends to increase benchmark assessment scores and
48 related outcomes through professional learning opportunities.

49 (3) An LEA shall only use sustained professional learning opportunities that are
50 evidence-based and focused.

51

52 **R277-326-4. Distribution and Use of Funds.**

53 (1) The Superintendent may allocate funds annually to one or more Regional
54 Education Service Agencies to provide job-embedded-coaching.

55 (2) Subject to legislative appropriations, the Superintendent shall distribute the
56 balance of Early Learning Professional Learning Grant funds as follows:

57 (a) a per teacher allotment shall be calculated by dividing the total amount of
58 grant funds by the total number of preschool through grade 3 teachers of all applicants;

59 (b) an LEA shall receive a grant amount equal to the product of the per teacher
60 allotment described in Subsection (a) and the total number of preschool through grade 3
61 teachers in the LEA; and

62 (c) if an LEA's Early Learning Plan is denied or an LEA chooses to forgo any
63 grant funds, the grant funds may be reallocated to all other eligible LEAs receiving grant
64 funds as described in Subsections (1)(a) and (b).

65 (3) For purposes of calculating a grant amount in Subsection (1), an LEA shall
66 determine the LEA's total number of preschool through grade 3 teachers by using
67 employee data from the previous school year of the application school year.

68 (4) An LEA may use the grant funds for the following purposes:

69 (a) teacher stipends to attend trainings;

70 (b) presenter fees;

71 (c) coaching supports;

72 (d) substitute teachers;

73 (e) to hire a coach or specialist; and

74 (f) supplies and materials for teacher professional learning.

75 (5) An LEA may not use grant funds for:

76 (a) the purchase of:

77 (i) property;

78 (ii) equipment;

79 (iii) other services; or

80 (iv) student materials and supplies; or

81 (b) travel related expenses.

82 (6) An LEA shall use the grant funds by the end of the fiscal year in which the
83 funds are received.

84 (7) The Superintendent may reduce grant funds to an LEA in an amount equal to
85 the LEA's unused prior year program funds.

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87 **R277-326-5. Early Literacy Professional Learning Opportunity.**

88 (1) An LEA receiving funding from the Early Literacy Professional Learning Grant
89 shall provide training as required in Subsection [53F-5-214\(6\)](#).

90 (2) Pursuant to Subsection [53F-5-214\(6\)\(b\)\(ii\)\(E\)](#), an educator whose primary
91 assignment is teaching students who are deaf is exempt from the requirement of an
92 early literacy professional learning opportunity.

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94 **R277-326-[5]6. Early Literacy Coaches.**

95 (1)(a) The Superintendent shall provide, train, and assign early literacy coaches
96 in accordance with Section [53E-3-1002](#).

97 (b) An early literacy coach shall meet minimum qualifications established by the
98 Superintendent.

99 (c) An early literacy coach may perform responsibilities as directed by the
100 Superintendent including those identified in Subsections [53E-3-1002\(2\)\(c\)\(i\)](#) through
101 (viii).

102 (d) An early literacy coach may not undertake duties unrelated to literacy
103 coaches, as outlined in Subsection [53E-3-1002\(2\)\(d\)](#).

104 (2) An LEA receiving funds for early literacy coaches may not charge indirect
105 costs.

106 (3)(a) The Superintendent will determine which schools qualify for assistance
107 from early literacy coaches taking into account the previous year's end-of year
108 assessment data from:

109 (i) KEEP Exit: Literacy;

110 (ii) Acadience Reading (benchmark and growth); and

111 (iii) RISE (English Language Arts proficiency).

112 (b) The Superintendent shall exclude data:

113 (i) for students who were not enrolled a full academic year; and

114 (ii) for schools scheduled to close the following year.

115 (4)(a) The Superintendent shall prioritize services under this program for schools
116 identified in Subsections [53E-3-1002\(a\)\(i\)](#) and (ii).

117 (b) The Superintendent may prioritize services under this program to schools
118 who do not receive support from the Center for Strategic Improvement.

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120 **KEY: professional learning, prek-3, early learning, teacher development**

121 **Date of Last Change: October 11, 2022**

122 **Authorizing, and Implemented, or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#); [53F-](#)
123 [5-214](#)**