

1 **R277. Education, Administration.**

2 **R277-303. Educator Preparation Programs.**

3 **R277-303-1. 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) Subsection [53E-6-201\(3\)\(a\)](#), which directs the Board to establish the criteria  
10 for obtaining licenses; and

11 (d) Section [53E-6-302](#), which requires the Board to establish standards for  
12 approval of educator preparation programs.

13 (2) The purpose of this rule is to establish flexible criteria for demonstration of  
14 competency in educator preparation programs in the State of Utah.

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16 **R277-303-2. Definitions.**

17 (1) "Candidate" means an individual enrolled in an approved educator  
18 preparation program who is working towards completing the requirements for a Utah  
19 professional educator license.

20 (2) "Clinical experience" means a structured opportunity in which:

21 (a) a licensed educator mentors a program candidate;

22 (b) a school or district administrator or university preparation program faculty  
23 member with appropriate training evaluates program candidates; and

24 (c) a program candidate develops and demonstrates competency in the skills and  
25 knowledge necessary to be an effective educator.

26 (3) "Competency" means evidence of successful application of knowledge and  
27 skills shown through demonstration in a higher education or prek-12 classroom setting.

28 (4) "Completer" means a candidate who has completed licensure requirements  
29 and been endorsed for licensure by an approved educator preparation program.

30 ([1]5)(a) "Educator preparation program" means a comprehensive program  
31 administered by an entity that is intended to prepare individuals to meet the  
32 requirements for a Utah professional license or license area of concentration.

33 (b) "Educator preparation program" may include a program developed by or  
34 associated with an institution of higher education, individual LEA, a consortium of LEAs,  
35 or the Board.

36 ([2]6) "Flexibility," for alternative preparation programs, means the process by  
37 which a program exercises local decision-making to design and implement focused  
38 options to meet program and applicant licensing needs, without adding additional  
39 requirements beyond those outlined in Board rule, and allowing a teacher to  
40 demonstrate competency where reasonably possible in lieu of coursework or other  
41 requirements, consistent with the purpose of Board licensing rules.

42 ([3]7) "LEA" includes, for purposes of this rule, the Utah Schools for the Deaf  
43 and the Blind.

44 ([4]8) "License area" has the same meaning as set forth in Subsection [R277-  
45 301-2\(5\)\(a\)](#).

46 (9) "Mentor" means an educator with a professional license with training that may  
47 include how to advise, coach, consult, and guide the development of a new educator.

48 (4) "Professional license" means the educator license described in Section  
49 [R277-301-6](#).

50

51 **R277-303-3. Utah Educator Preparation Program Standards.**

52 An approved Utah Educator Preparation Program shall meet the following  
53 standards:

54 (1) Program completer competency:

55 (a) a completer can effectively demonstrate the educator preparation  
56 competencies established in Board rule;

57 (b) a completer has the experience, knowledge, and skills needed to serve  
58 students with a variety of educational needs; and

59 (c) a completer establishes goals for their own professional growth and engages  
60 in self-assessment, goal setting, and reflection.

- 61 (2) Systems of support for candidate competency:  
62 (a) a program provides high quality learning experiences aligned to Utah  
63 competencies and standards while offering multiple opportunities for a candidate to  
64 demonstrate that the candidate has the knowledge and skills to serve all students;  
65 (b) a program seeks out and supports high quality clinical experiences for a  
66 candidate where the candidate has opportunities to practice and receive feedback on  
67 their knowledge and skills;  
68 (c) a program develops and supports high quality mentors who support program  
69 candidates in demonstrating competencies in Board rule; and  
70 (d) a program prioritizes capacity to support candidates as reflected in staffing  
71 and institutional resources.  
72 (3) Program continuous improvement and impact:  
73 (a) a program engages in thoughtful continuous improvement practices by  
74 reviewing program performance data and seeking opportunities for innovations and  
75 enhancement; and  
76 (b) a program seeks partnerships with stakeholders to strengthen the Utah  
77 education system.

78  
79 **R277-303-~~3~~4. Educator Preparation Program Review and Approval.**

- 80 (1) The Superintendent shall establish uniform procedures for initial approval  
81 and review of educator preparation programs to ensure compliance with this rule.  
82 (2) The Superintendent shall approve an educator preparation program that  
83 meets the requirements of this rule and the standards for program approval established  
84 in:  
85 (a) Rule [R277-304](#);  
86 (b) Rule [R277-305](#);  
87 (c) Rule [R277-306](#); and  
88 (d) all other applicable Board rules.  
89 (3)(a) The Superintendent shall conduct an ongoing review of approved  
90 educator preparation programs and shall renew or deny approval for a program at least  
91 every seven years.

92 (b) The review described in Subsection (3)(a) shall include monitoring whether:  
93 (i) an educational preparation program is in compliance with Board rules; and  
94 (ii) an alternative preparation program has reasonable flexibility for candidates to  
95 demonstrate required competencies.

96 (4) The Superintendent may grant preliminary approval to a new educator  
97 preparation program within a Utah public college or university pending approval by the  
98 Utah Board of Higher Education.

99 (5) The Superintendent shall make a report to the Board when an educator  
100 preparation program's initial application for approval is granted or denied.

101 (6) The Superintendent may place an approved educator preparation program  
102 on probation for:

103 (a) failure to meet program requirements detailed in applicable Board rules; or  
104 (b) failure to submit complete and accurate information in a report required  
105 under this rule.

106 (7) The Board may revoke the approval of a probationary program that fails to  
107 meet probationary requirements with at least one year's notice to the educator  
108 preparation program.

109 (8) The Superintendent may require a program or subset of programs to submit  
110 reports to inform the annual report to the Board required in Section [R277-301](#)-10.

111 (9) The Superintendent shall accept an approved educator preparation  
112 program's recommendations for a professional license or license area if the prospective  
113 licensee meets all other requirements of Board rule.

114

115 **R277-303-[4]5. Educator Preparation Programs.**

116 (1) An educator preparation program that applies for approval by the  
117 Superintendent shall demonstrate how it will ensure that participants:

118 (a) are prepared to meet the Utah Effective Educator Standards established in  
119 Rule [R277-\[530\]330](#);

120 (b) successfully complete or are prepared to complete the pedagogical  
121 performance assessment required in Rule [R277-301](#);

122 (c) have met the competencies required in all applicable Board rules;

123 (d) have sufficiently demonstrated the ability to work in the applicable license  
124 area and subject area; and

125 (e) successfully completed or are prepared to complete a pedagogical  
126 performance assessment meeting standards established by the Superintendent and  
127 approved by the Board for all new students enrolled in the program after January 1,  
128 2020 and recommended for a Utah educator license after September 1, 2021 in all  
129 license areas for which such an assessment is available.

130 (2) In addition to the requirements of Subsection (1), an educator preparation  
131 program that is not also a Utah LEA shall:

132 (a) have a physical location in the state of Utah where participants attend  
133 classes; or

134 (b) if the program provides only online instruction:

135 (i) have the program's primary headquarters located in Utah; and

136 (ii) be licensed to do business through the Utah Department of Commerce; and

137 (c) establish entry requirements that are designed to ensure that only high  
138 quality individuals enter the preparation program, which include measures of:

139 (i) previous academic success;

140 (ii) disposition for employment in an educational setting; and

141 (iii) basic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics; and

142 (d) include a pedagogical performance assessment meeting standards  
143 established by the Superintendent and approved by the Board for all new students  
144 enrolled in the program after January 1, 2020 and recommended for a Utah educator  
145 license after August 1, 2021 in all license areas for which such an assessment is  
146 available.

147 (3)(a) If the Superintendent denies an application from an educator preparation  
148 program, the proposed educator preparation program may appeal the Superintendent's  
149 decision to the Board by submitting a written appeal to the Board Secretary.

150 (b) The Board shall assign an appeal under Subsection (3)(a) to a standing  
151 committee to make a recommendation to the full Board for final action.

152 (4) An approved educator preparation program may recommend an individual  
153 that completed the program for a professional license or license area for up to five years

154 after the individual completed the program, as long as all current license requirements  
155 have been met.

156 (5) If five years have passed since an individual completed an approved  
157 educator preparation program, the program may recommend the individual for a  
158 professional license or license area if the program:

159 (a) reviews the individual's program; and

160 (b) requires the individual to complete any additional necessary requirements to  
161 meet current programs standards before making a licensing recommendation.

162 (6)(a) An approved educator preparation program may recommend an individual  
163 who began the program before January 1, 2020 for a professional license or license  
164 area without meeting the pedagogical performance assessment requirement in Rule  
165 [R277-301](#), but must present documentation showing that the individual met the  
166 appropriate license requirements in effect before that date.

167 (b) Subsection (6)(a) supersedes Subsections (4) and (5).

168

169 **R277-303-[5]6. Superintendent Responsibilities.**

170 (1) The Superintendent shall provide support to educator preparation programs  
171 and potential licensees to the extent that funding allows by:

172 (a) maintaining a website to:

173 (i) facilitate collaboration between educator preparation programs;

174 (ii) facilitate communication between potential educators and approved  
175 programs; and

176 (iii) provide access to up-to-date research on educator preparation and  
177 education practices;

178 (b) reviewing third-party preparation materials for alignment with the Utah  
179 Effective Educator Standards in Rule R277-[530]330;

180 (c) working with potential licensed educators to help them become licensed  
181 educators; and

182 (d) ensuring that alternative preparation program applicants be grandfathered  
183 from new program requirements added after an applicant's acceptance into the  
184 program.

185 (2) The Superintendent shall design and maintain a model educator preparation  
186 program that:

187 (a) meets all requirements of all applicable Board rules;

188 (b) may be adopted by an LEA or an accredited private school, subject to  
189 Section R277-303-[4]5; and

190 (c) is overseen by staff distinct from the staff responsible for ensuring educator  
191 preparation program compliance with all applicable Board rules.

192

193 **KEY: educator preparation program, pedagogical assessment, professional**  
194 **competency, programs**

195 **Date of Last Change: April 7, 2023**

196 **Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#); [53E-](#)**  
197 **[6-201\(3\)\(a\)](#)**