

1 **R277. Education, Administration.**

2 **R277-550. Charter Schools - Definitions.**

3 **R277-550-1. 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 the  
8 Board's duties and responsibilities under the Utah Constitution and state law; and

9 (c) [Title 53G, Chapter 5](#), Charter Schools, which allows the Board to make rules  
10 governing aspects of operations of charter schools.

11 (2) The purpose of this rule is to establish definitions for rules governing charter  
12 schools.

13 (3) The definitions contained in this rule apply to Rules R277-550 through [R277-](#)  
14 [555](#).

15

16 **R277-550-2. Definitions.**

17 (1) "Amendment" means a change or addition to a charter agreement.

18 (2) "Authorizer" means an entity approved to authorize the establishment of a  
19 charter school under Sections [53G-5-304](#) through [53G-5-306](#).

20 (3) "Charter school" means a public school created in accordance with the  
21 provisions of [Title 53G, Chapter 5](#), Charter Schools.

22 (4)(a) "Charter school agreement" or "Charter agreement" means a written  
23 agreement between a charter school and its authorizer containing the terms and conditions  
24 for the operation of a charter school.

25 (b) The charter school agreement maintained by a charter school's authorizer is the  
26 final, official, and complete agreement.

27 (5) "Charter school deficiency" means:

28 (a) failure of a charter school to comply with its charter agreement, including  
29 governance, financial, academic, or operational obligations;

30 (b) failure of a charter school to comply with the requirements of state or federal law  
31 or board rule;

32 (c) failure of a charter school to meet terms established by the school's authorizer  
33 as part of a remediation process; or

34 (d) fraud or misuse of funds by charter school governing board members or  
35 employees.

36 (6) "Charter school governing board" means the local board that governs a charter  
37 school.

38 (7) "Expansion" means:

39 (a) an increase in the number of grade levels offered by a charter school identified  
40 by a single school number; or

41 (b) an increase in the number of students for which a charter school identified by a  
42 single school number is authorized to receive funding.

43 (8) "Large expansion" means a charter school's request for expansion if the  
44 expansion request:

45 (a) is for more than ~~[59]~~ 100 students;

46 (b) would necessitate significant school remodel; or

47 (c) is for more than one additional grade level.

48 (9) "Market analysis" means a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the educational  
49 market near a proposed charter school, including:

50 (a) the school's target demographics;

51 (b) population and development trends in the area;

52 (c) nearby competing public schools;

53 (d) the proposed school's own forecasts, along with supporting data; and

54 (e) any risks, barriers, or regulations that may impact a proposed school's success.

55 ([8]9) "Mentor" means an individual or organization with expertise or demonstrated  
56 competence, approved by the State Charter School Board to advise charter schools in the  
57 Mentoring Program.

58           (~~9~~10) "Mentoring program" means the State Charter School Board mentoring  
59 program.

60           (~~10~~11) "New school" means any school receiving a new school number, including  
61 a new charter school, or a new satellite school.

62           (~~11~~12) "Net lease adjusted debt burden ratio" means a school's cumulative annual  
63 debt service payments, inclusive of loans and facility lease payments, divided by the  
64 school's unrestricted annual operating revenue.

65           (~~12~~13) "Non-operating charter school" means a charter school that has not  
66 received minimum school program funds or federal funds and is not providing educational  
67 services during a fiscal year, such as a charter school in a start-up period.

68           (~~13~~14) "Operating charter school" means a charter school that has received  
69 minimum school program funds or federal funds and is providing educational services  
70 during a fiscal year.

71           (~~14~~15) "Probation" means a written formal action and notification through which a  
72 school is required to demonstrate the school's compliance with the authorizer's  
73 probationary requirements.

74           (~~15~~16) "Restricted revenue" means the same as the term is defined in Section  
75 63J-1-102.

76           (~~16~~17) "Satellite school" means a charter school affiliated with an existing charter  
77 school physically located within the state of Utah that:

78           (a) has the same governing board as the existing charter school;

79           (b) has the same authorizer as the existing charter school;

80           (c) may have a similar or different program of instruction or grades served from the  
81 existing charter school;

82           (d) is located at a different site or in a different geographical area than the existing  
83 charter school; and

84           (e) has a separate school number than the existing charter school.

85 ([17]18) "School number" means a number assigned by the Superintendent in  
86 accordance with National Center for Education Statistics criteria that identifies a distinct  
87 school within an LEA.

88 (19) "Significant school remodel" means new construction or a renovation that  
89 requires[:

90 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (a) a building permit from a local municipality or county; or~~

91 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (b)] a project number from the Board as described in Rule [R277-471](#).~~

92 (20) "Small expansion" means a charter school's request for expansion if the  
93 expansion request:

94 \_\_\_\_\_ (a) is for 50~~[or fewer]~~-100 students;

95 \_\_\_\_\_ (b) would not necessitate a significant school remodel; and

96 \_\_\_\_\_ (c) is for no more than one additional grade.

97 ([18]21) "State Charter School Board" means the board established in Section [53G-](#)  
98 [5-201](#).

99 ([19]22) "Unrestricted revenue" means revenue that is:

100 (a) not restricted revenue; or

101 (b) restricted revenue that may be used for purposes of paying for annual debt  
102 service payments, including loans and facility lease payments.

103 ([20]23) "Utah Consolidated Application" or "UCA" means the web-based grants  
104 management tool employed by the Superintendent through which LEAs submit plans and  
105 budgets for approval by the Superintendent or Board.

106 ([24]24) "Utah eTranscript and Record Exchange" or "UTREx" has the same  
107 meaning as described in Subsection [R277-484-2](#)([14]17).

108

109 **KEY: education, charter schools**

110 **Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: February 9, 2021**

111 **Date of Continuation:**

112 **Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401](#); [53G-5-205](#)**