

R277. Education, Administration.

R277-703. Centennial Scholarship for Early Graduation.

R277-703-1. Authority and Purpose.

(1) This rule is authorized by:

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

(b) Subsection 53F-2-501(3), which requires the Board to make payments to a public school student who graduates early;

(c) Subsection 53E-3-501(1), which authorizes the Board to make rules regarding competency levels, graduation requirements, curriculum, and instruction requirements; and

(d) Subsection 53E-3-401(4), which allows the Board to make rules to execute the Board's duties and responsibilities under the Utah Constitution and state law.

(2) This rule:

(a) designates the early graduation centennial scholarship certificate for use by public schools;

(b) allows for graduation to be flexible and appropriate to meet individual students' needs; and

(c) outlines the early graduation procedure.

R277-703-1. Definitions.

(1) "Centennial scholarship" or "scholarship" means the amount awarded to an early graduating student in accordance with Section 53F-2-501.

(2) "LEA" includes, for purposes of this rule, the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

(3) "UCAT" or "technical college" means the Utah System of Technical Colleges listed in Section 53B-2a-105.

R277-703-3. Curriculum Options for Accelerating a Secondary School Student's Education Program.

(1) If a student graduates any time before the conclusion of grade 11, or prior to the

conclusion of grade 12, the student may receive a reimbursement towards enrollment in a Utah post-secondary institution as described in Subsection 53F-2-501(3)(b) and this R277-703.

(2) A post-secondary institution selected by a student who receives a centennial scholarship shall receive a centennial scholarship certificate signed by the high school principal or charter school director entitling the early graduate to a partial tuition scholarship following the date of graduation according to the schedule established by this rule.

(3) A student seeking a centennial scholarship shall complete the courses of study and credit mandated by the Board and by the student's local school board or charter school governing board.

(4) Options for earning additional credit may include:

(a) courses:

(i) high school summer school;

(ii) high school or UCAT early morning or after school classes;

(iii) courses completed at the student's own rate based on performance as approved by the local school board or charter school governing board;

(iv) college courses numbered 1000 and above from fully accredited institutions;

(v) LEA-approved high school or college level correspondence courses; or

(vi) equivalency ratio of higher education hours to high school credits: five (5) quarter or three (3) semester hours equal one (1) unit of high school credit;

(b) demonstrated proficiency by assessment in an amount of credit as determined by the local school board or charter school governing board:

(i) advanced placement examination, as approved by the local school board or charter school governing board;

(ii) ACT or SAT scores that meet or exceed a level set by the local school board or charter school governing board;

(iii) Utah state or LEA secondary end-of-course tests;

(iv) demonstrated proficiency in a subject, as assessed by the LEA; or

(v) College Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests;

(c) approved work experience, as assessed by the LEA.

(d) demonstrated mastery in an experimental program that has received prior approval from the Board;

(e) increased credit for courses that are combined into a time frame that ordinarily accommodates a lesser number of classes, as approved by the LEA;

(f) independent study credit for an independent research project or independent reading relevant to a course of study; or

(g) credit for experience gained during travel relevant to a specific course if approved in advance by the LEA.

R277-703-4. Early Graduation Student Education Plan.

(1) In consultation with the student's parent or guardian and school advisor, a student seeking a centennial scholarship shall indicate to the secondary principal or charter school director the student's intent to complete early graduation at the beginning of the ninth grade year or as soon thereafter as the intent is known.

(2) To be eligible for early graduation, a student shall have a current plan for college and career readiness on file at the student's high school as described in Subsection R277-700-6(24).

R277-703-5. Local Education Requirements.

(1) Requirements relating to semesters in membership are inapplicable to students who have been approved under Section R277-703-4 for graduation following the eleventh grade year.

(2) Local academic and citizenship credit requirements for graduation which exceed Board requirements shall include provisions that permit students to graduate early.

R277-703-6. Funding Provisions.

(1) An LEA shall receive a payment designated for each high school from which students graduated before the end of the twelfth grade year.

(2) An LEA shall receive payment for one-half of the designated centennial scholarship amount for each student reported as having graduated at the conclusion of the

eleventh grade year on the S-3 report in the fiscal year following the student's graduation.

(3)(a) An LEA shall receive payment based on a percentage of the centennial scholarship amount for each student reported as graduating during the twelfth grade year.

(b) A student described in Subsection (3)(a) shall also be listed on the S-3 report and payment shall be made to the LEA in the fiscal year following the students' graduation.

(c) An LEA shall receive payment for schools operating on the quarter or trimester system for each early graduating student according to the following schedule:

(i) end of first quarter of 12th grade year: 75 percent of one-half of the centennial scholarship amount;

(ii) end of second quarter of 12th grade year: 50 percent of one-half of the centennial scholarship amount;

(iii) end of third quarter of 12th grade year: 25 percent of one-half of the centennial scholarship amount;

(iv) end of first trimester of 12th grade year: 67 percent of one-half of the centennial scholarship amount; or

(v) end of second trimester of 12th grade year: 33 percent of one-half of the centennial scholarship amount.

(4) A student who graduates from high school at the conclusion of the eleventh grade year or during the twelfth grade year shall be entitled to a partial tuition scholarship in the form of the early graduation centennial scholarship certificate to be used at a Utah public college, university, community college, technical college, or any other institution in Utah accredited by the Northwest Accreditation Commission that offers post-secondary courses.

(5) The post-secondary institution selected by a student who receives a centennial scholarship shall complete the early graduation centennial scholarship certificate and submit it to the Superintendent.

(6) Upon receipt of the early graduation centennial scholarship certificate, the Superintendent shall verify the information, and reimburse the institution an amount set forth in the following schedule in the fiscal year during which the student enrolls in a post-secondary institution.

(7) Except as provided in Section R277-703-7, to be eligible for the scholarship, the student must enroll in an eligible post-secondary institution within one calendar year of graduation.

(8)(a) A student who graduates at the end of the eleventh grade year shall receive a full centennial scholarship.

(b) A student who graduates at the end of the first quarter of the twelfth grade year shall receive 75 percent of the centennial scholarship amount.

(c) A student who graduates at the end of the second quarter of the twelfth grade year shall receive 50 percent of the centennial scholarship amount.

(d) A student who graduates at the end of the third quarter of the twelfth grade year shall receive 25 percent of the centennial scholarship amount.

(e) A student who graduates at the end of the first trimester of the twelfth grade year shall receive 67 percent of the centennial scholarship amount.

(f) A student who graduates at the end of the second trimester of the twelfth grade year shall receive 33 percent of the centennial scholarship amount.

R277-703-7. Student Deferrals.

(1) Except as provided in Subsection (5) and as allowed in Subsection 53F-2-501(4), a student who is eligible for a centennial scholarship, as described in Subsection 53F-2-501(3) and this R277-703, may make a request to the Board that the Board defer consideration of the student for the scholarship for a set period of time up to five years.

(2) The Superintendent shall:

(a) create an application, for the Board's approval, for a student seeking a deferral to request the deferral; and

(b) make the application described in Subsection (2)(a) available online.

(3) A student seeking a deferral described in Subsection (1) shall file a request for deferral with the Superintendent on or before:

(a) the second Monday in February for a student who graduated on or before December 31 of a school year; and

(b) the second Monday in July for a student who graduated on or before June 15

of a school year.

(4)(a) If a student's request for a deferral is denied by the Superintendent, the student may request an appeal of the Superintendent's decision.

(b) The Law and Licensing Committee shall review a student's appeal within 60 days of receipt of the appeal.

(c) The Superintendent shall inform a student requesting appeal of the Law and Licensing Committee's decision.

(5) A student's centennial scholarship expires five years from the date the eligible student graduated.

KEY: graduation requirements, curricula, scholarship, early graduation

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Authorizing, and Implemented, or Interpreted Law: Art X Sec 3; 53E-3-501(1); 53E-3-401