

## **Participation in Online Education**

### **Information and Notices—**

Information about online courses and programs available through the Statewide Online Education Program shall be provided in school registration materials, posted on the District's website, and posted on school websites. Information in registration materials shall be provided concurrent with the high school registration period for the upcoming school year.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-726-5\(4\), \(5\) \(August 7, 2024\)](#)

### **Eligibility of District Students for Online Courses—**

With the advice of a school counselor at the student's District school, a student enrolled in the District may enroll in a course offered through the Statewide Online Education Program to earn middle school or high school credit if the student meets the course prerequisites, the course is open for enrollment, and the course is aligned with the student's plan for college and career readiness. Unless the District allows an exception, the student may enroll for a maximum of six credits per school year.

[Utah Code § 53F-4-501\(4\) \(2024\)](#)

[Utah Code § 53F-4-503\(1\), \(2\), \(3\) \(2024\)](#)

### **Facilitating Enrollment in Online Courses—**

District schools shall facilitate student enrollment with any eligible online course providers selected by an eligible student, consistent with course credit limits. If an eligible student has an IEP or a Section 504 accommodation plan, the student's District school shall forward a copy of the IEP or accommodation plan to an authorized online course provider in accordance with federal law and guidelines and shall ensure that the authorized online course provider is provided with an eligible student's updated IEP when revisions are made. The student's District school may ensure that the student's IEP team and the online course provider review a course enrollment to ensure that the student meets enrollment requirements and may as needed coordinate additional IEP team reviews with the online course provider to ensure that appropriate services, supports, and accommodations are in place for the student.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-726-5\(1\) \(August 7, 2024\)](#)

[Utah Code § 53F-4-503\(1\), \(10\)\(a\) \(2024\)](#)

### **Coordination With Online Course Provider—**

For each student enrolled in an online course offered through the Statewide Online Education Program, the District shall enter into a course credit acknowledgment agreement in which the online course provider acknowledges that it is responsible for instruction of the student in the online course and in which the District and the online course provider agree on a process to provide the student's District school with the ability to ensure the consistency of a course request with graduation requirements, the student's plan for college and career readiness, and (if applicable) the student's schedule. If a student has an IEP or Section 504 plan, the District shall forward a copy of the relevant portion of the student's existing IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan to the online course provider in accordance with federal law and regulations, ensure the student's IEP team and the online course provider review a course enrollment for compliance, coordinate additional IEP team reviews as necessary with the online course provider to ensure appropriate services, supports, and accommodations are in place for the student, and ensure that the online course provider is included in a student's IEP revision. These actions shall be completed within a timeline consistent with IDEA

requirements. The agreement shall also meet the other requirements specified in Utah Code § 53F-4-508.

[Utah Code § 53F-4-508\(1\) \(2024\)](#)

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-726-3\(4\) \(August 7, 2024\)](#)

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-726-8\(6\) \(August 7, 2024\)](#)

### **Course Credit—**

District schools shall include the online courses of students enrolled in the school in the student's enrollment records and, upon course completion, shall include online course grades and credits on the student's transcripts. Credits for high school courses completed before grade 9 will be recognized for purposes of high school graduation.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-726-5\(6\), \(7\) \(August 7, 2024\)](#)

### **Yearly Credit Limitation and Exceptions—**

A student enrolled in an online course may not earn more credits in a year than would be earned by taking a full course load during the regular school day at the student's District school which is the student's primary school of enrollment. However, this limitation does not apply if the Board of Education has adopted a policy which permits otherwise or if the student intends to complete high school graduation requirements early and exit high school early in accordance with the student's plan for college and career readiness.

[Utah Code § 53F-4-509\(1\), \(2\), \(3\) \(2024\)](#)

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-726-5\(1\), \(3\) \(August 7, 2024\)](#)

### **Inclusion in Daily Membership—**

The online course credit hours of students enrolled in online courses whose primary enrollment is in a District school are included in calculating District daily enrollment except to the extent that doing so would result in the student being counted as more than one FTE. (This restriction does not apply if the student intends to complete high school graduation requirements early and exit high school early in accordance with the student's plan for college and career readiness.)

[Utah Code § 53F-4-509\(1\), \(2\), \(3\) \(2024\)](#)

### **Access to Facilities and Services—**

District schools shall provide to enrolled students who are enrolled in online classes access to facilities for such students to participate in an online course during the regular school day. Where students access program courses using District owned and managed devices, the District shall configure the devices to participating students to form a separate user account or otherwise allow access to program provider materials using credentials supplied by a program provider. The District shall provide enrolled students who are enrolled in online classes with student leadership opportunities, sports, extracurricular and co-curricular activities, counseling, graduation, and other services offered to students generally without consideration of relative levels of participation in traditional courses versus online education courses.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-726-5\(10\), \(11\) \(August 7, 2024\)](#)

### **Students Eligible for Fee Waiver—**

If an enrolled student is eligible for fee waiver, District schools shall provide the student access to an online course by either allowing the student access to necessary technology to participate in the online course in a computer lab or other space within the school building during a school period or during the regular school day or by providing the student with the technology and wi-fi needed to participate in the online course outside of the school building.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-726-5\(9\) \(August 7, 2024\)](#)

## **DEFINITIONS:**

The following definitions apply for purposes of this policy:

1. "Academic Eligibility Panel" means a three---person panel selected by the District's superintendent from nominees submitted by national, state, or regional organizations whose members are home school students and parents. The three panel members will include:
  - a. One member with experience teaching in a public school as a licensed teacher and in home schooling high school---age students;
  - b. One member with experience teaching in a higher education institution and in home schooling; and
  - c. One member with experience in home schooling high school---age students. *Utah Code Ann. § 53A--11--102.6 (2011)*
2. "Competitive extracurricular activities" means
  - a. An interscholastic competition of athletic teams sponsored and supported by a public school; or
  - b. An interscholastic contest or competition for music, drama, or forensic groups or teams sponsored and supported by a public school.*Utah Code Ann. § 53A--11--102.6 (2011)*
3. "Online education" means the use of information and communication technologies to deliver educational opportunities to a student in a location other than a school.  
*Utah Code Ann. § 53A--2--214(1)(a)(2017)*
4. "Online student" means a student who participates in an online education program sponsored or supported by the State Board of Education, a school district, or a charter school and who generates funding for the school district or school under Utah Code Ann. § 53A---17a---103(7) and State Board of Education Rules.  
*Utah Code Ann. § 53A--2--214(1)(b) (2017)*
5. "Qualifying online student" means an online student seeking to participate in competitive extracurricular activities at a district school:
  - a. Within the attendance boundaries of which the student's custodial parent or legal guardian resides; or
  - b. From which the on---line student withdrew for the purpose of participating in an on---line education program.*Utah Code Ann. § 53A--2--214(2) (2017)*
6. "Qualifying charter school student" means a charter school student seeking to participate in competitive extracurricular activities, which are not offered at the student's charter school, at a district school:
  - a. Within the attendance boundaries of which the student's custodial parent or legal guardian resides; or
  - b. From which the charter school student withdrew to attend charter school.

7. "Qualifying private school student" means a private school student seeking to participate in competitive extracurricular activities, which are not offered at the student's private school, at a district school:
  - a. Within the attendance boundaries of which the student's custodial parent or legal guardian resides; or
  - b. From which the private school student withdrew to attend private school.

*Utah Code Ann. § 53A--11--102.6 (2011)*

8. "Qualifying home school student" means a home school student seeking to participate in competitive extracurricular activities at a district school:
  - a. Within the attendance boundaries of which the student's custodial parent or legal guardian resides; or
  - b. From which the home school student withdrew to attend home school.

*Utah Code Ann. § 53A--11--102.6 (2011)*

9. "Qualifying students" means qualifying home school, private school, charter school, or online students as defined above.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES FOR QUALIFYING STUDENTS:**

Qualifying students who are not enrolled in District schools are eligible to participate in extracurricular activities. Schools may allow non-qualifying students who are not enrolled in District schools to participate in extracurricular activities, with the exception of competitive extracurricular activities.

Qualifying students who are not enrolled in District schools shall be eligible to participate in an extracurricular activity at a District school consistent with eligibility standards:

1. Applied to a fully enrolled District school student;
2. Of the District school where the qualifying student participates in an extracurricular activity; and
3. For the extracurricular activity in which the qualifying student participates. District schools may not impose additional requirements on qualifying students to

participate in an extracurricular activity that are not imposed on fully enrolled students at the District school.

*Utah Code Ann. § 53A--11--102.6 (2011)*

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN COMPETITIVE  
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES FOR QUALIFYING HOME SCHOOL  
STUDENTS:**

Eligibility requirements based on school attendance are not applicable to a qualifying home school student.

A qualifying home school student meets academic eligibility requirements to participate in an extracurricular activity if:

1. The student is mastering the material in each course or subject being taught; and
2. The student is maintaining satisfactory progress towards achievement or promotion.

To establish a qualifying home school student's academic eligibility, a parent, teacher, or organization providing instruction to the student shall submit an academic eligibility affidavit to the principal indicating the student meets academic eligibility requirements. Upon submission of this affidavit, a qualifying home school student shall:

1. Be considered to meet academic eligibility requirements; and
2. Retain academic eligibility for all extracurricular activities during the activity season for which the affidavit is submitted, until:
  - a. An academic eligibility panel determines the home school student does not meet academic eligibility requirements; or
  - b. The person who submitted the academic eligibility affidavit provides written notice to the school principal that the student no longer meets academic eligibility requirements.

A home school student who loses academic eligibility pursuant to Subsection (2)(b) above may not participate in an extracurricular activity until the person who submitted the affidavit under Subsection (2)(b) provides written notice to the school principal that the home school student has reestablished academic eligibility. If a home school student reestablishes academic eligibility as described above, the home school student may participate in extracurricular activities for the remainder of the activity season.

A person who has probable cause to believe a home school student does not meet academic eligibility requirements may submit an affidavit to the principal:

1. Asserting the home student does not meet academic eligibility requirements; and
2. Providing information indicating that the home school student does not meet the academic eligibility requirements.

A principal shall review the affidavit, and if the principal determines it contains information which constitutes probable cause to believe a home school student may not meet academic eligibility requirements, the principal shall request an academic eligibility panel to verify the student's compliance with academic eligibility requirements.

The District superintendent shall appoint an academic eligibility panel to verify a home school student's compliance with academic eligibility requirements when requested by a principal. A panel shall:

1. Review the affidavit and may confer with the person who submitted the affidavit;
2. Request the home school student to submit test scores or a portfolio of work documenting the student's academic achievement to the panel;
3. Review the test scores or portfolio of work; and
4. Determine whether the home school student meets academic eligibility requirements.

If the panel determines that the home school student meets academic eligibility requirements, the student will retain academic eligibility for all extracurricular activities

during the activity season for which an affidavit was submitted. A panel's determination that a home school student does not comply with academic eligibility requirements is effective for an activity season and all extracurricular activities that have academic eligibility requirements.

*Utah Code Ann. § 53A--11--102.6 (2011)*

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES FEES:**

Qualifying students who participate in an extracurricular activity at a District school shall pay the same fees as required of fully enrolled District school students to participate in an extracurricular activity.

If the District imposes a mandatory student activity fee for a student enrolled in a District school, the fee may be imposed on a qualifying student who participates in an extracurricular activity at a District school if the same benefits of paying the mandatory student activity fee that are available to a fully enrolled District school student are available to a qualifying student who participates in an extracurricular activity at the District school.

*Utah Code Ann. § 53A--11--102.6 (2011)*

All fees, including school participation fees, student participation fees and activity fees shall be paid prior to student participation. School fees for qualifying students shall be waived by the District if required under Utah law and state board of education policy. However, the student's on---line or charter school shall be responsible for payment of waived fees to the District.

*Utah Admin. R277--438--4 (December 8, 2016)*

*Utah Admin. R277--494--3(7)(March 9, 2016)*