



LEA SPECIFIC EDUCATOR LICENSE POLICY

PURPOSE OF POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to identify Vista School's LEA Specific Licensing requirements pursuant to the conditions outlined in Utah Administrative Rule R277-301. The following procedures are established to identify qualification requirements and guidelines for the issuance of Vista School's LEA Specific Licensing.

DEFINITIONS

1) "Local Education Agency (LEA)-specific Educator License": An individual, approved by the Board of Education who has met locally defined competencies to be an educator, and approved by LEA application to USBE.

2) "License Areas of Concentration": means a designation on a license of the specific educational setting or role for which the individual is qualified.

3) "Endorsement" means a designation on a License Area of Concentration earned through demonstrating required competencies established by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction that qualifies the individual to: provide instruction in a specific content area; or apply a specific set of skills in an education setting.

4) "Mentor" A trained educator who holds a professional educator license, and shall where possible:

- a) perform substantially the same duties as the mentored educator with release time work as a mentor; or
- b) be assigned as an instructional coach or equivalent position.
- c) pass the USBE mentor training modules.

LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY (LEA)-SPECIFIC EDUCATOR LICENSE

1) The general requirements for an LEA-specific Educator License include:

- a) completion of a criminal background check and clearance in accordance with R277-214;
- b) completion of an educator ethics review as described in R277-500 within one calendar year of the application;
- c) completion of a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited college or university; and/or demonstrated content knowledge and pedagogical requirements by:
 - i) successfully passing an assessment; or
 - ii) by demonstrated experience.

2) Approval: An application for an LEA-specific Educator License must receive approval by the Board of Education in a public meeting no more than 60 days prior to the LEA application to USBE.

a) The request for approval must include the rationale for the appointment of an LEA-Specific license.

LICENSE AND ENDORSEMENT AREAS

1) An LEA-specific Educator License, is limited to the following license areas:

a) Early Childhood,

b) Elementary,

c) Secondary,

d) Career and Technical Education or "CTE",

e) Speech-Language Pathologist,

f) Speech-Language Technician,

g) School Social Worker,

h) Communication Disorders,

i) Educational Leadership,

j) Special Education,

k) Deaf Education, and

l) School Counselor.

LEA-SPECIFIC EDUCATOR LICENSE REQUIREMENT

1) An LEA-specific Endorsement includes all USBE Endorsement areas.

2) An LEA-specific Educator License/Endorsement is valid for one, two, or three years in accordance with the LEA application to the USBE.

3) In accordance with R277-301 (7) an LEA-specific Educator License is valid only at Vista School and expires immediately upon employment separation.

LEA- SPECIFIC EDUCATOR TRAINING, MENTORING, AND SUPPORT

1) Within the first year of employment, the educator must complete the following training:

a) educator ethics;

b) classroom management and instruction;

c) basic special education law and instruction; and

d) Utah Effective Teaching Standards described in R277-530. II.

2) The educator must participate in the Mentoring Program. Vista School shall provide at least a three-year mentoring program by a trained mentor educator who:

a) holds a professional educator license and where possible;

b) performs substantially the same duties as the educator with release time

to work as a mentor; or

c) is assigned as an instructional coach or equivalent position.

d) The assigned mentor shall assist the educator to meet the Utah Effective Educator Standards established in Rule R277-530, but may not serve as an evaluator of the educator.

3) The mentoring program shall include:

a) a formal Professional Learning Plan and support in meeting the requirements of a professional license area; and

b) on-going training on educator ethics and special education.

NOTIFICATION OF LEA-SPECIFIC EDUCATOR LICENSE

1) Vista School shall post LEA-specific Educator Licenses, license areas, or endorsements on the school's website. The post shall include:

a) a disclosure of the fact that the school employs LEA-specific educator licenses, license areas, or endorsements;

b) the percentage of the types of licenses, license areas, and endorsements held by educators employed in the school based on the employees' FTE in the Comprehensive Administration of Credentials for Teachers in Utah Schools (CACTUS); and

c) a link to the Utah Educator Look-up tool. REF: Utah Admin. Code R277-301. Educator Licensing

**Passed by Vista School Board on 9/16/2021*