

## POLICY 4028

### Special Programs: Education of Youth in Care

#### A. Contracts With the State to Provide Education for Youth in Care

1. The District may contract with the State Board of Education to provide for education of persons who are either 21 years or younger or are students with disabilities entitled to a free, appropriate public education and who are receiving services from the Department of Health and Human Services or an agency of a Native American tribe or who are being held in a juvenile detention center. To do so, the District must submit an application and plan to the State Board of Education. The responsibilities of the District, the State Board of Education, and other local service providers regarding serving youth in care in the District shall be established by the approved application and plan. The District may subcontract with local non-district educational service providers for the provision of educational services.

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

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-709-3\(1\), \(3\) \(March 10, 2026\)](#)

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-709-6\(1\) \(March 10, 2026\)](#)

#### B. Youth in Care Plan for College and Career Readiness

1. Each student who is a youth in care shall have a written plan for college and career readiness defining the student's academic achievement, which shall specify known in-school and extra-school factors which may affect the student's school performance. The plan shall be as described in [Utah Administrative Rules R277-462-5](#). The plan shall be developed in cooperation with appropriate representatives of other service agencies working with the student such as the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services, the Division of Child and Family Services, and the Department of Workforce Services. This plan shall be annually reviewed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and school staff.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-709-4 \(March 10, 2026\)](#)

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-462-5 \(December 10, 2024\)](#)

#### C. Education Programs for Youth in Care

1. The District shall provide the student with an education program which conforms as closely as possible to the student's education plan. Educational services shall

be provided in the least restrictive environment appropriate for the student's behavior and educational performance. Youth in care who do not require special services beyond those which would be available to them were they not in custody shall be considered part of the District's regular enrollment and treated accordingly.

2. Youth in care may not be assigned or allowed to remain in a restrictive environment (including separation from general education students and programs) due to their custodial status, their past behavior that does not put others at risk, or the inappropriate behavior of other students.
3. Educational services shall be coordinated with non-custody programs to enable youth in care to continue their education following discharge from custody.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-709-3\(3\)\(j\), \(4\), \(6\) \(March 10, 2026\)](#)

#### D. Special Education Services for Youth in Care

1. Youth in care students shall receive special education evaluation and services according to the requirements of IDEA and Utah State Board of Education rules. Where a youth in care student qualifies for special education services, the District may provide services to the student through both the youth in care program and the District's special education program. The District shall not qualify a youth in care student for special education services based on custodial status alone.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-709-5 \(March 10, 2026\)](#)

#### E. Enrollment and Transfers of Youth in Care

1. Youth in care shall be admitted to classes within five school days following arrival at a new residential placement. The student may be provided a temporary schedule which may be modified to meet the student's needs after the evaluation and planning process are complete. Each student in a school-based program shall be assigned a mentor using an evidence-based mentoring program. Youth in care students shall be flagged as such in the District's student information system. Applicable forms relating to the youth in care designation of the student shall be obtained from the Utah Department of Health and Human Services.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-709-3\(3\)\(a\), \(b\), \(c\) \(March 10, 2026\)](#)

2. When a youth in care student is released from custody or transferred to another program, the sending program shall ensure all available school records are up to

date and forward them to the receiving program consistent with [Policy 5010 Admissions Eligibility Requirements](#) and [Utah Code § 53G-6-604](#).

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-709-3\(11\) \(March 10, 2026\)](#)

#### F. Records of Youth in Care Students

1. All information maintained regarding a youth in care student, regardless of the source of the information, is an educational record for purposes of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and are considered confidential student records. (See [Policy 5100 Student Records](#).) School records which refer to custodial status, juvenile court records, and related matters shall be kept separate from permanent school records, but are nonetheless educational records if retained by the school or District. Members of the interagency team which oversee the student's education plan shall have access, through team member representatives of the participating agencies, to relevant records of the various agencies. However, the records and information obtained from those records remain the property of the supplying agency and shall not be transferred or shared with other persons or agencies without the permission of the supplying agency, the student's parent, or an eligible student as defined by FERPA.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-709-8 \(March 10, 2026\)](#)

#### G. Transcripts and Diplomas for Youth in Care Students

1. Transcripts and diplomas prepared for youth in care students shall be issued in the name of an existing accredited school in the District and may not refer in any way to custodial status of the student.

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-709-8\(1\) \(March 10, 2026\)](#)

#### H. Interagency Advisory Council

1. If the District has been authorized to provide services for youth in care, the District shall establish a local interagency advisory council to advise member agencies concerning coordination of youth in custody programs. This council shall include:
  - a. A representative of the Division of Child and Family Services;
  - b. A representative of the Division of Juvenile Justice Services;

- c. Directors of agencies located in the District such as detention centers, secure ~~lockup care~~ facilities, ~~observation and assessment units shelters~~, ~~day skill intervention programs~~, and the Utah State Hospital;
  - d. A representative from contracted residential providers serving youth in care in the District; and
  - e. A representative of the District.
2. The council shall adopt bylaws for its operation and shall meet at least quarterly.

[Utah Code § 53E-3-503\(6\) \(2024\)](#)

[Utah Admin. Rules R277-709-10 \(March 10, 2026\)](#)