



## **UTAH ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY EXPECTATIONS FOR STATEWIDE ONLINE EDUCATION PROGRAM PROVIDERS:** Guidance Document

As SOEP Providers, you are responsible for assessing students in grades 6 through 10. Utah State Board Administrative R277-726(20) specifies this accountability requirement for a SOEP Provider. While this requirement is different from the standard school accountability system, (53E-5 Part 2), it is important for Providers to understand this requirement because it answers the “why” of “do SOEP Providers need to worry about state assessments?”

### ASSESSMENT WINDOW

Providers can only test students enrolled when the assessment window is open. Providers who are also LEAs or programs of LEAs will be familiar with the requirement to submit a “plan to administer statewide assessments by September 15 annually.” Non-LEA Providers are likely to be less familiar with processes involved in rostering and administration of assessments required by R277-726(7)(18(e)). These processes are outlined in Utah State Board Administrative R277-404-5(4) which requires a Provider to submit a “plan to administer statewide assessments by September 15 annually.” Please contact USBE’s Assessment and Accountability Section for more detailed information in this regard. Training courses are held monthly, and non-LEAs must request inclusion in monthly Assessment Director Meetings and other training.

### GRADES 6-8 – RISE

R277-726-7 requires a Provider to administer statewide assessments to a participating private or home school student as directed by the Superintendent, including proctoring the assessment, consistent with Statute and Rule (53F-4-510, R277-726-8 and R277-404). A Provider is required to pay administrative and



proctoring costs for the assessment described in R277-726 Subsection (1)(a) and (b). LEA assessment staff or third-party proctor staff shall use the Standard Test Administration and Testing Ethics Policy in providing training for all assessment administrators and proctors (R277-404-5(6)).

If a student is enrolled in a course (RISE) or grade (Utah Aspire Plus) that generates or is associated with a state assessment, and the student does not complete the required assessment, the LEA will need to provide a participation code indicating why the student did not complete the required assessment. Instructions for entering participation codes are in the Test Administration Manuals for RISE and Utah Aspire Plus.

Important to note, as RISE is a *course-based test* (assigned to a student based on course number), based on the revised R277-726, SOEP Providers are required to administer the RISE ELA (English Language Arts), Mathematics, and/or Science assessments to any student enrolled in an ELA, Mathematics, and/or Science course during the period that the testing window is open. These students will be rostered directly to the Provider of the applicable course. A SOEP.

Provider offering student instruction in 8<sup>th</sup> grade English is not excluded from the requirement to administer the 8<sup>th</sup> grade RISE writing assessment.

## GRADES 9-10 – UTAH ASPIRE PLUS

An LEA must annually administer the high school assessment adopted by the State Board (Utah Aspire Plus) to all students in grades 9 and 10. A public-school student in grades 9-10 will be rostered for the Utah Aspire Plus assessment at their primary school of enrollment if a SOEP Provider has recorded them with *school of record* marked “No.” USBE uses the *school of record* field and then the other fields as listed in the tiebreaker business rules.

In contrast to RISE, the course-based assessment for middle school students, Utah Aspire Plus is an end-of-grade-level assessment for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. Rostering for Utah Aspire Plus is assigned based on grade level and not on the



course a student takes. Utah Aspire Plus is used to assess student attainment of end-of-grade-level expectations for 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and for 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Students registered as 9<sup>th</sup> grade students will be rostered to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade battery (English, math, reading, and science), and students registered as 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will be rostered to the 10<sup>th</sup> grade battery (English, math, reading, and science). All 9<sup>th</sup> grade students take the same fixed-form assessment regardless of course enrollment. Likewise, all 10<sup>th</sup> grade students take the same fixed-form assessment regardless of course enrollment.

### UTAH ASPIRE PLUS TIEBREAKER BUSINESS RULES

In cases where a student is currently enrolled in more than one school, the endpoint prioritizes schools by giving preference to:

1. School of Record (where school of record is "Y" in Data Gateway)
2. Primary Enrollment over Non-Primary (expressed in membership days)
  - Priority school entry date (descending order)
  - Brick and mortar school setting (where brick and mortar is 1, or True)
  - Higher grade over lower grade
  - Lowest OrgSourceId (Concatenated district number and school number)

*Schools can work together to manually transfer student enrollment for testing if they determine that they would like to do so.* In situations where students are enrolled in multiple organizations in UTREx, the school that receives the student testing assignment due to the application of tie break rules has the *responsibility* to communicate with the student to ensure that testing takes place. This is true for grades 9 & 10.

For 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students taking Utah Aspire Plus, a school where the student is **rostered** is responsible for ensuring that testing is completed, regardless of whether the student does or does not have a particular class at their school location.



## PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-8

A public-school student in grades 6-8 will be rostered in RISE to the school or Provider offering the course. If a student is taking math 8 at the SOEP Provider school and ELA 8 at the primary LEA, then the SOEP Provider will be responsible for administering the Math 8 RISE assessment and the primary LEA will be responsible for administering ELA 8 RISE assessment. You can find more detailed explanations for course-based rostering in the [Assessment Resource page](#).

## HOME AND PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Providers must test home and private school students enrolled when the assessment window is open. Providers are not accountable for testing students not registered during a testing window, and if this student is rostered with a provider, the applicable test should be manually transferred to the Primary LEA. If a private or homeschool student is not enrolled with an SOEP Provider during a testing window, they will not be rostered in the Utah Aspire Plus system, and the school will be technically unable to complete a related assessment.

Two additional policies govern homeschool student's access to state assessments. If the student is enrolled in a SOEP Provider through the SOEP program, R277-726 provides student participation in state assessments, but the ACT is not required. The high school assessment is the Utah Aspire Plus.

## ATTRIBUTION FOR PROVIDER ACCOUNTABILITY

Application of student scores for accountability purposes depends on how students are registered in UTREx. Students who receive regular state funding for the coursework and whose UTREx records indicate that a SOEP Provider is a school of record will be rostered at their school of record. Students whose records in UTREx indicate that they are SOEP students (School of Record = N, for "No," correctly indicating that the SOEP Provider is not their school of record) are not included in regular state/federal accountability of the Provider, even while they



must be tested. R277-726(20) specifies this accountability requirement for the SOEP Provider.

## EXEMPTIONS

A parent is primarily responsible for a child's education and has the constitutional right to determine which aspects of public education the child participates in, including assessment systems. A parent may exercise the right to exempt their child from a statewide assessment (R277-404-7). Parents have many rights, with some of them documented in 53G-6-803, including parental exclusion from statewide testing.

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are nevertheless required to provide annual notice for each parental right listed in statute. If an LEA singles out the parental exclusion from statewide assessments (failing to give equal weight to the other identified parental rights), they may be viewed as being in violation of the Standard Test Administration and Testing Ethics Policy which includes the prohibition of *"explicitly or implicitly encouraging parents to exclude their students from participating in a statewide assessment."*