- 1 R277. Education, Administration.
- 2 R277-552. Charter School Timelines and Approval Processes.
- 3 **R277-552-1.** Authority and Purpose.
- 4 (1) This rule is authorized by:

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- 5 (a) Utah Constitution Article X, Section 3, which vests general control and supervision over public education in the Board;
- 7 (b) Subsection <u>53E-3-401(4)</u>, which allows the Board to adopt rules in accordance 8 with its responsibilities;
- 9 (c) Subsection <u>53G-6-504(5)</u>, which requires the Board to make rules regarding a charter school expansion or satellite campus;
- 11 (d) Sections <u>53G-5-304</u> through <u>53G-5-306</u>, which require the Board to make a rule providing a timeline for the opening of a charter school;
 - (e) Section <u>53F-2-702</u>, which directs the Board to distribute funds for charter school students directly to the charter school;
 - (f) the Charter School Expansion Act of 1998, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 8063, which directs the Board to submit specific information [prior to]before a charter school's receipt of federal funds; and
 - (g) Subsection <u>53G-5-205(5)</u>, which requires the Board to make rules establishing minimum standards that an authorizer is required to apply in authorizing and monitoring charter schools.
 - (2) The purpose of this rule is to:
 - (a) establish procedures for timelines and approval processes for new charter schools; and
- 24 (b) provide criteria and standards for consideration of high performing charter 25 schools to expand and request new schools that are satellite schools.
 - R277-552-2. Definitions.

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28	(1) "Large expansion" means a charter school's request for expansion if the
29	expansion request:
30	(a) is for more than 50 students;
31	(b) would necessitate significant renovation; or
32	(c) is for more than one additional grade level.
33	(2) "Market analysis" means a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the
34	educational market near a proposed charter school, including:
35	[(1)](a) the school's target demographics;
36	[(2)](b) population and development trends in the area;
37	[(3)](c) nearby competing public schools;
38	[(4)](d) the proposed school's own forecasts, along with supporting data; and
39	[(5)](e) any risks, barriers, or regulations that may impact a proposed school's
40	success.
41	[(2)](3) "Significant [renovation]school remodel" means new construction or a
42	renovation that requires:
43	(i) a building permit from a local municipality or county; or
44	(ii) a project number from the Board as described in R277-471.
45	(4) "Small expansion request" means a charter school's request for expansion if
46	the expansion request:
47	(a) is for 50 or fewer students;
48	(b) would not necessitate a significant renovation; and
49	(c) is for no more than one additional grade.
50	R277-552-3. Charter School Authorization Process.
51	(1) An individual or non-profit organization as described in Subsection <u>53G-5-</u>
52	302(2)(b) may apply to open a charter school from any statutorily approved authorizer.
53	(2) An authorizer shall submit a process to the Board for approval of:
54	(a) a new charter school;
55	(b) a request from a school to change authorizers;

- 56 (c) a charter school expansion; or
 - (d) a satellite school.

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(3) A new authorizer shall submit a new charter school application process to the Board for approval at least six months [prior to]before accepting applications for a new charter school.

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- (4) An existing authorizer may not authorize a new charter school for the 2021-22 school year and beyond until the Board approves the authorizer's application process.
- (5)(a) The Board shall approve or deny an authorizer's proposed application process, including expansion and satellite approval processes, within 90 days of receipt of the proposed process from an authorizer.
- (b) If the Board denies an application process, the Superintendent shall provide a written explanation of the reasons for the denial to the applicant within 45 days.
- (c) If an authorizer's application process is denied, the authorizer may submit a revised application process for approval at any time.
- (6) An authorizer shall have an application and charter agreement, which shall include all elements required by Title 53G, Chapter 5, Part 3, Charter School Authorization.
- (7) An authorizer shall maintain the official signed charter agreement, which shall presumptively be the final, and complete agreement between a school and the school's authorizer.
 - (8) An authorizer's review process for a new charter school shall include:
 - (a) a plan for mandatory pre-operational and other trainings:
 - (b) an evaluation of the school's governing board, including:
- (i) a review of the resumes of and background information of proposed governing board members; and
 - (ii) a capacity interview of the proposed governing board;
- (c) an evaluation of the school's financial viability, including: 81
- 82 (i) a market analysis;
- 83 (ii) anticipated enrollment; and

(b) completed background checks for each governing board member; and

(c) executed a signed charter agreement, which includes academic goals.

(a) completed all required financial documents;

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- (3) [Prior to]Before an LEA [receiving]receives state start-up funds, the State Charter School Board shall require the LEA to submit documentation supporting the information required in Subsections (2)(a) and (c) to the Superintendent.
- (4) A charter school may receive state funds, including minimum school program funds, if the charter school authorizer certifies in writing to the Superintendent by June 30 [prior to]before the school's first operational year that:
 - (a) the charter school meets the requirements of Subsection (2);
- (b) the charter school's governing board has adopted all policies required by statute or Board rule, including a draft special education policies and procedures manual;
- (c) the charter school's governing board has adopted an annual calendar in an open meeting and has submitted the calendar to the Superintendent;
- (d) the authorizer has received the charter school's facility contract as required by Subsection 53G-5-404(9);
- (e) the charter school has met the requirements of Subsections (5) and (6) and that the school's building is scheduled for completion, including all required inspections, [prior to]before occupancy;
- (f)(i) the charter school has hired an executive director and a business administrator; or
- (ii)(A) the charter school governing board has designated an executive director or business administrator employed by a third party; and
- (B) the charter school governing board has established policies regarding the charter school's supervision of the charter school's third-party contractors;
- (g) the charter school's enrollment is on track to be sufficient to meet the school's financial obligations and implement the charter school agreement;
- (h) the charter school has an approved student data system that has successfully communicated with UTREx, including meeting the compatibility requirements of Subsection R277-484-5(3);
 - (i) the charter school has a functional accounting system; and

- 140 (j) the charter school has a budgeted net lease adjusted debt burden ratio of under 141 30% based on the school's executed facility agreement; and
 - (k) the charter school has complied with all legal requirements for new charter schools in a school's pre-operational year.
 - (5) An authorizer shall:

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- (a) create a process to verify the requirements in Subsection (4);
- 146 (b) maintain documentation of Subsection (5)(a); and
 - (c) provide the documentation described in Subsection (5)(b) to the Superintendent upon request; and
 - (d) submit a copy of the process required in Subsection (5)(a) to the Board for approval along with the authorizer's process for approving new charters under Subsection R277-552-3(2).
 - (6) A charter school shall begin construction on a new or existing facility requiring [major]significant renovation[, such as requiring a project number consistent with Rule R277-471,] no later than January 1 of the year the charter school is scheduled to open.
 - (7) A charter school that intends to occupy a facility requiring only minimal renovation, such as renovation not requiring a project number according to Rule R277-471, shall enter into a written agreement no later than May 1 of the calendar year the charter school is scheduled to open.
 - (8) If a charter school fails to meet the requirements of this section within 36 months of approval, the approval of the charter school shall expire.

R277-552-5. Charter Amendment Requests.

- (1) An authorizer shall have a policy establishing a process for consideration of proposed amendments to a school's charter agreement.
- (2) An authorizer's timeline for consideration of an amendment to a charter agreement may not conflict with any funding deadline established in Board rule.

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last three years;

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168 R277-552-6. Charter School Small Expansion Requests. 169 (1) An authorization process developed by an authorizer in accordance with 170 Subsection R277-552-[2]3(2) shall comply with [this] Sections R277-552-[5]6 and 7 for a 171 charter school expansion. 172 [(2) An authorizer may only consider an application from a charter school for an 173 expansion if: 174 (a) the charter school is in compliance with the requirements of federal and state 175 law, regulations, and Board rule, including: 176 (i) Title 53E, Chapter 9, Student Privacy and Data Protection: 177 (ii) Title 53G, Chapter 7, Part 5, Student Fees; 178 (iii) Title 53G, Chapter 9, Part 7, Suicide Prevention; 179 (iv) Title 53G, Chapter 8, Discipline and Safety; 180 (v) Title 52, Chapter 4, Open and Public Meetings Act; 181 (vi) Title 63G, Chapter 6a, Utah Procurement Code; and 182 (vii) the IDEA and Rule R277-750, with no unresolved audit exceptions; 183 (viii) Rule R277-113, Local Education Agency (LEA) Fiscal and Auditing Policies; 184 (ix) Section 53G-9-207, Child sexual abuse prevention; and 185 (x) Subsection 63G-7-301(3) and Rule R277-322; 186 (b) the request is consistent with the charter school's charter agreement; 187 (c) the expanding school or LEA is performing: 188 (i) consistent with or above the charter school's stated academic goals; and 189 (ii) at or above the average student performance of other nearby schools on 190 statewide assessments, unless serving a specialized population consistent with the school's 191 charter agreement; 192 (d) if the proposed expansion will require additional physical facilities, the charter

school has maintained a net lease adjusted debt burden ratio of under 25% for each of the

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195	(e) the charter school's financial statements report revenues in excess of		
196	expenditures for at least three of the last four fiscal years; and		
197	(f) the charter school provides any additional information or documentation		
198	requested by the charter school authorizer.		
199	(3) An authorizer shall provide documentation of an applicant school's eligibility to		
200	apply under Subsection (2) to the Superintendent upon request.]		
201	(2) An authorizer may approve a small expansion request in accordance with an		
202	authorizer's standards and established criteria.		
203	(2) An authorizer may approve an application from a charter school for an expansion		
204	request in accordance with the authorizer's standards and established criteria if:		
205	(a) the expansion request is for 50 students or less;		
206	(b) the expansion does not necessitate significant renovation; and		
207	(c) the expansion is for no more than one additional grade.]		
208	[(4)](3) An authorizer may [enly] approve an application from a charter school for		
209	[an]a large expansion if the charter school meets the requirements for a satellite school		
210	described in Section R277-552-7[if the expansion request is:		
211	(a) for more than 50 students;		
212	(b) the expansion would necessitate significant renovation; or		
213	(c) for more than one additional grade level.if:]		
214	[(a) the charter school is meeting the terms of its charter agreement;		
215	(b) the charter school is academically and operationally successful, taking into		
216	consideration at least two years of academic performance data of students at the charter		
217	school;		
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219	— (i) provides educational services consistent with state law and Board rule;		
220	(ii) administers and has capacity to carry out statewide assessments including		
221	proctoring statewide assessments, consistent with Section 53E-4-303 and Rule R277-404;		
222	and		

Draft 3: Green Text – Additions | Purple Text – Deletions January 13, 2022 223 (iii) provides evidence-based instruction for special populations as required by 224 federal law; 225 (d) the charter school has adequate qualified administrators and staff to meet the 226 needs of the proposed student population at the school: 227 (e) the school is in compliance with all applicable school legal obligations; 228 — (f) the charter school has maintained for each of the last three years: 229 (i) a re-enrollment rate of at least 80%; 230 (ii) a wait list of at least 40% of its annual enrollment; or 231 (iii) other evidence of market demand satisfactory to the authorizer: 232 (g) the charter school is financially viable, as evidenced by the charter school's 233 financial records, including the charter school's: 234 (i) most recent annual financial report (AFR); 235 (ii) annual program report (APR); and 236 (iii) audited financial statements; 237 (g) the charter school's proposal provides an adequate facility for the school; and 238 (h) the charter school has appropriately dealt with student safety issues, if any.] 239 (4) An authorizer may provide additional requirements in addition to the requirements 240 described in Sections R277-552-6 and 7. 241 (5) An authorizer shall provide documentation of an applicant school's eligibility for 242 an expansion under Subsection (2) or Section R277-552-7 to the Superintendent upon 243 request. 244 $\left[\frac{(5)}{(6)}\right]$ An authorizer shall: 245 (a) approve a proposed expansion before October 1 of the state fiscal year [prior 246 to]before the school year that the charter school intends to expand; and 247 (b) provide the total number of students by grade that the charter school expansion 248 is authorized to enroll to the Superintendent on or before October 1 of the state fiscal year 249 [prior to]before the school year that the school intends to expand.

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251	R277-552-7. Requests for a New Satellite School or Large Expansion[for an Approved
252	Charter School].
253	(1) An authorization process developed by an authorizer in accordance with
254	Subsection R277-552-3(2) shall comply with this Section R277-552-7 for a satellite school
255	or large expansion request.
256	[(2) An authorizer may only consider an application from a charter school for a
257	satellite school if:
258	(a) the charter school is in compliance with the requirements of federal and state
259	law, regulations, and Board rule, including:
260	(i) Title 53E, Chapter 9, Student Privacy and Data Protection;
261	(ii) Title 53G, Chapter 7, Part 5, Student Fees;
262	(iii) Title 53G, Chapter 9, Part 7, Suicide Prevention;
263	(iv) Title 53G, Chapter 8, Discipline and Safety;
264	(v) Title 52, Chapter 4, Open and Public Meetings Act;
265	(vi) Title 63G, Chapter 6a, Utah Procurement Code; and
266	(vii) the IDEA and Rule R277-750, with no unresolved audit exceptions;
267	(viii) Rule R277-113, Local Education Agency (LEA) Fiscal and Auditing Policies;
268	(ix) Section 53G-9-207, Child sexual abuse prevention; and
269	(x) Subsection 63G-7-301(3) and Rule R277-322;
270	(b) the request is consistent with the charter school's charter agreement;
271	(c) all schools operating under the governance of the existing charter school are
272	performing:
273	(i) consistent with or above the charter school's stated academic goals; or
274	(ii) if no student performance goals have been established, above the standardized
275	student assessment measures of other comparable nearby schools;
276	(d) the charter school has maintained a net lease adjusted debt burden ratio of under

277 25% for each of the last three years;

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278	(e) the charter school's financial statements report revenues in excess of	
279	expenditures for at least three of the last four years;	
280	(f) the charter school provides a market analysis, including documentation of the	
281	school's potential for enrollment stability, covering all public schools within a ten mile radius,	
282	including analysis of whether nearby schools are at enrollment capacity; and	
283	(g) the charter school provides any additional information or documentation	
284	requested by the charter school authorizer.]	
285	[(3)](2) An authorizer may not consider an application for a satellite school from a	
286	charter school governed by a different authorizer.	
287	[(4) An authorizer shall provide documentation of an applicant school's eligibility to	
288	apply under Subsection (2) to the Superintendent upon request.]	
289	[(5)](3) An authorizer may only approve an application from a charter school for a	
290	satellite school <u>or large expansion</u> if:	
291	(a) the charter school is in compliance with the requirements of federal and state	
292	law, regulations, and Board rule;	
293	(b) the charter school meets the requirement of the charter school authorizer's	
294	standards and requirements;	
295	(c) the charter school is academically high performing and in good standing	
296	according to the standards established by the charter school's authorizer in the authorizer's	
297	process for charter school expansion or satellite school described in Subsection R277-552-	
298	3(2), including whether[:	
299	(i) the charter LEA, as a whole, qualifies [for]as high performing under the charter	
300	school's authorizer's approved definition of high performing; [and	
301	(ii) no single school under the charter LEA individually fails to meet the charter	
302	school's authorizer's approved definition of academic good standing;]	
303	[(a) the charter school is meeting the terms of its charter agreement;	
304	(b) the charter school has maintained for each of the last three years:	
305	(i) a re-enrollment rate of at least 80%;	

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306	(ii) a wait list of at least 40% of its annual enrollment; or			
307	(iii) there is a demonstrated demand for the proposed satellite, taking into			
308	consideration the market analysis required under Subsection (2)(f);]			
309	[(c)](d) subject to Subsection (4), the charter school is [academically and]			
310	operationally successful, taking into consideration at least two years of [academic			
311	performance data of students at]data for every school under the charter agreement[the			
312	charter school, including whether the charter school is performing at or above:			
313	(i) the academic goals established in the charter school's agreement; and			
314	(ii) the average academic performance of other district and charter schools in the			
315	area or schools targeting similar populations or demographics;]			
316	[(d)](e) the charter school has plans for the new <u>satellite</u> school or <u>large expansion</u>			
317	to:			
318	(i) provide educational services consistent with state law and Board rule;			
319	(ii) administer and have capacity to carry out statewide assessments including			
320	proctoring statewide assessments, consistent with Section <u>53E-4-303</u> and Rule <u>R277-404</u> ;			
321	and			
322	(iii) provide evidence-based instruction for special populations as required by federal			
323	law;			
324	[(e)](f) the charter school has adequate qualified administrators and staff to meet the			
325	needs of the proposed student population at the new school;			
326	[(f)](g) the school is in compliance with all public school legal obligations;			
327	[(g)](h) the charter school is in good standing with its authorizer; [and]			
328	(i) the charter school has no outstanding corrective action that has not yet been			
329	resolved by the completion of a corrective action plan;			
330	[(h) the charter school is financially viable, as evidenced by the charter school's			
331	financial records, including the charter school's:			
332	(i) most recent annual financial report (AFR);			
333	——————————————————————————————————————			

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Draft 2: Blue Text – Additions | Red Text – Deletions DRAFT 3 Draft 3: Green Text – Additions | Purple Text – Deletions January 13, 2022 334 (iii) audited financial statements.] 335 (j) the charter school provides a market analysis, including documentation of the 336 school's potential for enrollment stability[, covering all public schools within a ten mile radius, 337 including analysis of whether nearby schools are at enrollment capacity]; and 338 (k) the charter school provides any additional information or documentation 339 requested by the authorizer. 340 (4)(a) For purposes of this Subsection (4), "debt coverage ratio" means: 341 (i) a debt coverage ratio calculated using (revenue - expenditures + interest cost + 342 depreciation) divided by annual debt service; or 343 (ii) if the charter school's facilities are leased and not owned, a debt coverage ratio 344 calculated using (revenue - expenditures + facility lease payment + real property taxes + 345 depreciation) divided by annual debt service. 346 (b) A charter school is considered to be operationally successful if: 347 (i) for each of the schools under the charter agreement, the charter school meets 348 the following criteria: 349 (A) for a school with 350 or less students enrolled in the school, at least 120% debt 350 coverage ratio for each of the three years before the request for a satellite: 351 (B) for a school with between 351 and 499 students enrolled in the school, at least 352 115% debt coverage ratio for each of the three years before the request for a satellite; 353 (C) for a school with between 500 and 750 students enrolled in the school, at least 354 110% debt coverage ratio for each of the three years before the request for a satellite; or 355 (D) for a school with more than 750 students enrolled in the school, at least 105% 356 debt coverage ratio for each of the three years before the request for a satellite; 357 (ii) the charter school is financially viable, as evidenced by the charter school's 358 financial records, including the charter school's: 359 (A) most recent annual financial report (AFR); 360 (B) annual program report (APR); and 361 (C) audited financial statements[-];

Draft 3: Green Text – Additions | Purple Text – Deletions January 13, 2022 362 (iii) the charter school has maintained a net lease adjusted debt burden ratio of under 363 25% for each of the last three years; and 364 (iv) the charter school's financial statements report revenues in excess of 365 expenditures for at least three of the last four years; 366 (v) the charter school is meeting the terms of its charter agreement; 367 (vi) the charter school has maintained for each of the last three years: 368 (A) a re-enrollment rate of at least 80%; 369 (B) a wait list of at least 40% of its annual enrollment; or 370 (C) there is a demonstrated demand for the proposed satellite or large expansion, 371 taking into consideration the market analysis required under Subsection (3)(j). 372 (5) An authorizer may provide additional requirements for a charter school in addition to the minimum requirements described in this Section R277-552-7. 373 374 (6) An authorizer shall provide documentation of an applicant school's eligibility for 375 a satellite school or large expansion under Subsection (3) to the Superintendent upon 376 request. 377 [(6)](7) An authorizer shall: (a) approve a proposed <u>large expansion request or</u> satellite school before October 378 379 1 of the state fiscal year [prior to]before the school year that the proposed school intends to 380 first serve students: 381 (b) provide the total number of students by grade that the expanded or satellite 382 school is authorized to enroll to the Superintendent on or before October 1 of the state fiscal 383 year [prior to]before the school year that the proposed school intends to first serve students; 384 and 385 (c) ensure that a proposed school that will receive School LAND Trust funds has a 386 charter trust land council and satisfies all requirements of Rule R277-477, including 387 transparency of information for parents. 388 [(7)](8) A charter school and all of the charter school's satellite schools are a single

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LEA for purposes of public school funding and reporting.

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[(8)](9) If a satellite charter school does not open within 36 months of approval, the				
approval shall expire.				
[(9)](10) If an authorizer denies an application for a satellite scho	ool, the school may			
immediately apply for a new charter in accordance with an authorizer's approved processes.				
R277-552-8. Procedures and Timelines to Change Charter School	Authorizers.			
(1) A charter school may transfer to another charter school author	orizer.			
(2) A charter school shall submit an application to the new charte	er school authorizer			
at least 90 days [prior to] <u>before</u> the proposed transfer.				
(3) The charter school authorizer transfer application shall includ	e:			
(a) the name and contact information of all current governing boa	ard members;			
(b) financial records that demonstrate the charter school's	financial position,			
including the following:				
(i) most recent annual financial report (AFR);				
(ii) annual program report (APR); and				
(iii) audited financial statements;				
(c) test scores, including all state required assessments;				
(d) current employees and assignments;				
(e) board minutes for the most recent 12 months; and				
(f) affidavits, signed by all board members certifying:				
(i) the charter school's compliance with all state and federal law	vs and regulations,			
including documentation if requested;				
(ii) all information on the transfer application is complete and acc	curate;			
(iii) the charter school is current with all required charter school	ol governing board			
policies;				
(iv) the charter school is operating consistent with the charter	er school's charter			
agreement; and				

(v) there are no outstanding lawsuits, judgments, or liens against the charter school.

R277-552-9. Requirements for Board Approval of Process Updates Due to

(1) An authorizer with a previously Board approved process shall re-submit the

authorizer's updated processes described in Subsection R277-552-3(2) within six months

of the new effective date of this Rule if the updates to this Rule include new or amended

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notify the Superintendent within 30 days.

Changes in Board Rule.

requirements.

Draft 2: Blue Text – Additions | Red Text – Deletions DRAFT 3 Draft 3: Green Text – Additions | Purple Text – Deletions January 13, 2022 (2) An authorizer may submit only those portions of the processes that were 445 446 impacted by the updates to this Rule. 447 KEY: training, timelines, expansion, satellite 448 449 Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: February 9, 2021 450 Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X Sec 3; 53E-3-401; 53G-5-205; 451 53F-2-702; 53G-6-503