

Charter-Specific Educator Licensure

I. Definitions

(a) Local Education Agency: A Local Education Agency (LEA) means a school district or a charter school. Bear River Charter School, as a public charter in the State of Utah, is its own Local Education Agency.

(b) LEA Governing Board: a charter school governing board. At Bear River Charter School, the Bear River Charter School Governing Board is the LEA Governing Board.

(c) Educator: an individual licensed under Section 53E-6-201 of Utah State Code and/or its promulgated administrative rules.

(d) Local Education Agency-Specific Educator License or Endorsement: A license or endorsement issued by the Utah State Board of Education at the request of an LEA's governing body that is valid for an individual to provide educational services in the requesting LEA's schools. Referred to here as an LEA-Specific License (or Endorsement) or Charter-Specific License (or Endorsement).

(e) License Area: a designation on a license of the specific educational setting or role for which the individual educator is qualified.

(f) Endorsement Area: A designation on a license area of concentration earned through demonstrating required competencies established by the Superintendent that qualifies the Educator to provide instruction in a specific content area, or apply a specific set of skills in an education setting.

II. Requirements

(a) To qualify for an LEA-Specific Educator License or Endorsement, an individual must meet the following requirements prior to application for the license:

- Completion of a criminal background check, including review of any criminal offenses, and clearance in accordance with Utah Administrative Rule R277-214;
- Completion of the educator ethics review as described in R277-500 within one calendar year prior to the application; and
- Completion of, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

In the absence of the minimum requirement of a bachelor's degree for a Charter-Specific Licensure or Endorsement candidate, demonstrated content and pedagogy knowledge may substitute for that requirement. The LEA may consider successful performance on an assessment or demonstrated experience in lieu of the minimum of a bachelor's degree.

(b) Within one year of employment with Bear River Charter School, a recipient of a Charter-Specific License must demonstrate successful training related to:

- Educator ethics;
- Classroom management and instruction;
- Basic special education law and instruction; and
- The Utah Effective Teaching Standards as described in Utah Administrative Rule R277-530.

Because Endorsement requires a pre-requisite of a License, this subsection (b) is not required for individuals requesting Charter-Specific Endorsements.

III. Licensure or Endorsement Process

(a) Initial Licensure

Candidates for a Charter-Specific License or Endorsement at Bear River Charter School must submit a request, in writing, to the Executive Director of Bear River Charter School no fewer than two calendar weeks prior to the Governing Board meeting where such a request will be considered. The written request should include a summary of the candidate's qualifications related to the requirements articulated in Section II(a), above. The Executive Director will forward the request, along with a rationale for the request and requested license or endorsement areas, to the President of the Bear River Charter School Governing Board. The Bear River Charter School Governing Board shall vote on each candidate's request, based on the materials provided by the candidate and the Executive Director, in a public meeting. Approved requests will be forwarded to the Utah State Board of Education within 60 days of the vote.

(b) Term

Charter-Specific Licenses or Endorsements may be granted by the Utah State Board of Education for one, two, or three years. A Charter-Specific License expires immediately if employment with Bear River Charter School is terminated by either party for any reason.

(c) Renewal

All Charter-Specific Licenses and Endorsements expire on June 30 of the year of expiration, and may be renewed any time after January 1 of the same year. Responsibility for renewal rests solely with the licensee. The first renewal of a Charter-Specific License or Endorsement must be approved or denied by the Bear River Charter School Governing Board. During the first renewal, the Governing Board should determine whether subsequent renewals should be voted on by the Governing Board, or whether the Executive Director should make requests directly to USBE moving forward. If the Governing Board delegates the renewal process to the Executive Director for a Charter-Specific Licensee or Endorsee, the Governing Board must be notified by the Executive Director of each request within 60 days of making the request to USBE. The Governing Board may, at its discretion, determine that any renewal request be voted on by the Governing Board prior to forwarding to USBE.

IV. License/Endorsement Areas

An LEA-Specific Educator License may be granted for any of the following license areas: Early Childhood; Elementary; Secondary; Educational Leadership; Career and Technical Education; School Psychologist; School Counselor; Speech-Language Pathologist; Speech-Language Technician; Deaf Education; School Social Worker; and Communication Disorders. An LEA-specific Endorsement includes all USBE Endorsement areas, which can be located on the [USBE website](#). In accordance with R277-301, an LEA-Specific Educator License may not be offered in the areas of Special Education or Preschool Special Education.

V. LEA- Specific Educator Training, Mentoring, and Support

The Educator receiving a Charter-Specific License must participate in the BRCS Mentoring Program. BRCS shall provide at least a three-year mentoring program, carried out by an assigned mentor who holds a professional educator license or is assigned as an instructional coach or equivalent position. The assigned mentor shall assist the educator in meeting the

Utah Effective Educator Standards established in Rule R277-530. The mentoring program shall include a formal professional learning plan and ongoing training on educator ethics and special education.

VI. Notification of LEA-Specific Educator Licensure or Endorsement

Bear River Charter School shall post LEA-Specific Educator Licenses, License Areas, and Endorsements on its website. The post shall include: a disclosure of the fact that the school utilizes Charter-Specific Licensure or Endorsements; the percentage of the types of licenses, licenses 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 a link to the Utah Educator Look-up tool.

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