



# Student Privacy and Modesty Policy

Board Approved: August 2025

## I. Purpose

Vista School is committed to respecting student privacy and personal modesty while ensuring appropriate supervision and student safety during all school-sponsored activities. This policy aligns with Utah Code [§53G-9-214](#) and Utah Administrative Rule [R277-605-4](#) to protect students' rights and guide employees' conduct in all situations where students may be required to change clothing or be in private spaces.

## II. Student Privacy Rights

In accordance with Utah law, students have a reasonable expectation of privacy and personal modesty. Vista School will not require or coerce a student to change clothing in the presence of another individual, including school employees.

- A. If a student is required to change clothing due to participation in a class or school-sponsored activity (e.g., Dance, MDT (Music, Dance, Theater), PE (Physical Education), VRS (Vista Rising Stars), etc.), they will be provided access to a private space.
- B. These spaces may include:
  - 1. Single-occupancy restrooms;
  - 2. Changing stalls or curtained areas; or
  - 3. Other designated areas that protect the student's privacy.
- C. Students who request privacy when changing will be accommodated without question, delay, or the need to provide justification.

## III. Staff Conduct and Supervision

While student privacy is respected, employee supervision requirements still apply, particularly during school-sponsored events and extracurricular activities.

In accordance with [R277-605-4](#), coaches and designated school activity leaders shall:

- A. Diligently supervise students at all times during school-sponsored activities, including:
  - 1. On the stage, backstage, or other performance areas; and
  - 2. In locker rooms, seating areas, eating establishments, and lodging facilities; and
  - 3. While traveling to and from activities.
- B. Remain responsible for student supervision as long as the student is present on school grounds following an activity, in accordance with school policy. However, supervision in private areas such as locker rooms or changing spaces must be carried out in a manner that respects the student's right to privacy and modesty, as outlined in [§53G-9-214](#).
- C. Staff may not watch or remain in a room while a student is changing, unless:

1. There is a clear, immediate safety concern; or
2. The student explicitly requests assistance (which must be documented and, where appropriate, done with a second adult present); or
3. The supervision is required under emergency protocol or by law.

#### **IV. Communication and Training**

- A. This policy will be communicated to both students and parents annually.
- B. Training will be provided for all Vista employees whose students regularly change clothing as part of the class or program.
- C. Parents/Students should direct privacy accommodation requests to the teacher and/or the student's assigned counselor and/or a Vista Administrator.

#### **V. Complaints and Reporting**

- A. Any student or parent who believes this policy has been violated may submit a report to the Vista Administration or a Vista counselor.
- B. Reports will be handled confidentially and in accordance with the school's grievance procedures.

#### **VI. Legal References**

- A. Utah Code [§53G-9-214](#) – Student Privacy in Changing Areas
- B. Utah Admin. Rule [R277-605-4](#) – Coaches and School Activity Leaders as Supervisors and Role Models

#### **VII. Policy Review**

This policy shall be reviewed at least annually by the Director and the Vista Board and updated as needed to remain compliant with federal and Utah law and best practices.