



Education Exchange:

Where Families
and Schools Meet

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Understanding Parent Rights in Public Education

Utah's Constitution and laws recognize that parents play the most important role in their child's education.

The Utah State Board of Education (USB) values the trust families place in public schools and is committed to supporting parents every step of the way.

Learn More About Parent Rights:
tinyurl.com/UT-ParentRights

Why Family Engagement Matters

Research shows that when families are involved in education, students are more likely to:

- Come to school regularly
 - Build strong social skills
 - Earn better grades
 - Graduate from high school
- Continue on to college or other training

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Cassie brings nearly 30 years of experience in K-12 education. She was a teacher, ran online learning programs, and founded a charter school. Cassie supports families and schools in building strong partnerships that help students succeed.

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Parent Portal

Utah's Constitution and laws respect parents' primary role in the education of their children. The Utah State Board of Education deeply appreciates the trust that parents have placed in Utah's public education system, and is committed to supporting them in this critical mission. We have numerous resources on our website pages for parents and families. You can find them on the Parent Portal <https://www.schools.utah.gov/parent/>





Utah is committed to supporting military-connected students and their families by reducing the educational challenges that can accompany military service. To help ensure smooth school transitions, Utah adopted the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (MIC3), which removes barriers to educational success caused by frequent relocations and parental deployments for Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve families. For more information and to have your school apply, visit **Purple Star Schools**.
<https://www.schools.utah.gov/parentfamilyengagementeducators/purplestarschools>

Supporting Students with Disabilities

Education for students with disabilities is protected under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Below are some helpful resources to help families navigate the system.

- » **U.S. Department of Education:** Dedicated to improving results for families and children with disabilities. <https://www.ed.gov/about/ed-offices/osers/osep>
- » **Parent and Family Resources:** Provides numerous parent and family resources about regulations, support, and training. <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/parents-families/>
- » **Utah Parent Center:** A nonprofit offering support, training, and advocacy for families of children with disabilities. <https://utahparentcenter.org/>
- » **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):** This law makes a free appropriate public education to eligible children with disabilities and ensures services to those children. <https://www.ed.gov/laws-and-policy/individuals-disabilities/individuals-disabilities-education-act-idea>



Support & Resources for Utah Families

Community Resources

Utah families can access a wide range of [community-based programs](#) to support health, child care, learning, and advocacy. Here are a few programs and organizations support families across Utah:

United Way 211

Local services and support for health, housing, food, and more: [211utah.org](https://www.211utah.org)

Utah PTA

Parent-led advocacy and family involvement: utahpta.org

Utah Afterschool Network

Access to afterschool programs: utahafterschool.org

Child Care Assistance

Affordable child care options: jobs.utah.gov/occ

Learning & Curriculum Resources

There are many tools available to help families understand what students are learning, how to support them at home, and what is required to graduate. These resources can guide parents through each stage of a student's education:

- **Utah Core Standards:** Learning expectations by subject and grade <https://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/utahcorestandards>
- **Graduation Requirements:** Required courses for elementary, middle, and high school. <https://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/graduationrequirements>
- **Additional Learning Resources available through our Parent Portal:** <https://www.schools.utah.gov/parent/learningresourcesfamilies>





School Safety and Student Services

School Safety and Student Services is made up of the following departments:

Student Services- Offering Behavior Support, School-based Mental Health, School Counseling, School Nursing, and Wellness and Student and Family Rights

School Safety Center- Oversees Emergency Operation Plans, School Climate, Threat Crisis Response, School Safety and Security

Prevention- Assists with Bullying Prevention, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, Gang Prevention, Restorative Practices, Substance Use Prevention, and Suicide Prevention

For more information and resource regarding school safety, you can find them on our School Safety and Student Services website.

<https://www.schools.utah.gov/schoolsafetyandstudentservices/index>

Attendance Matters

Research suggests that students who attend at a rate of 95% or better are significantly less likely to have failing grades or problematic behavior. Utah is currently focusing on positive attendance promotion initiatives that positive impact all students and families, including:

- Statewide messaging on the importance of attendance
- Common language and definitions around attendance
- Consistent and accurate data collection
- Intentional statewide data analysis

During the 2026 Utah legislative session there were numerous updates regarding attendance these include [HB 145](#), [HB 502](#), and [SB 58](#). In addition, there are two important codes that also pertain to attendance which are [53G-6 Part 2: Compulsory Education](#) and [53G-8-211: Responses to School-based Behavior](#). For more information on laws and policies, statistics, and the current attendance campaign, visit our [Absenteeism and Truancy Prevention](#) page.

<https://www.schools.utah.gov/prevention/absenteeismtruancyprevention>

**When families
and schools
work together,
students thrive.**



Find Information About Schools and Educators

- » USBE Press Releases: www.schools.utah.gov/publicrelations
- » School Calendars: schools.utah.gov/schoolcalendars
- » School Comparison Tool: schoolcomparison.schools.utah.gov
- » Assessment and School Reports: schools.utah.gov/datastatistics/reports
- » Educator License Lookup: cactus.schools.utah.gov
- » Data Gateway: datagateway.schools.utah.gov