

Every Day Counts: Attendance Strategies for Success

May 5, 2026 Attendance Webinar

Agenda for Webinar

1. Upcoming Webinar Dates
2. Statewide Attendance Campaign Update
3. Attendance Commonly Asked Questions
4. Panorama Presentation
5. Attendance Policies
6. Scenario
7. Summer Support
8. Questions & Exit Survey

2026-2027 Upcoming Attendance Webinars

- July 14, 2026
- September 15, 2026
- November 10, 2026
- January 12, 2027
- March 16, 2027
- May 4, 2027

Statewide Attendance Campaign Update

- We are finishing this school year with 102 Attendance Ambassadors
- This will continue into next year so it is never too late to join us as an Attendance Ambassador- fill out this [survey](#)
- We are in the process of hiring a marketing agency to help us with the promotion of the campaign and help increase awareness
- Please let us know if you have any feedback or would like to be more involved next year

Commonly Asked Questions

What Are Some Commonly Asked Questions?

- What happened in the legislative session this year with education and more specifically with attendance?

2026 Legislative Updates

Utah State Board of Education |
Legislative Session Updates
As of April 16, 2026



**Utah State
Board of
Education**



Education Bills by the Numbers

210

Bills
Introduced

104

Bills
Passed

49.5%
Bill Passage
Rate

Total bills featured
in the Bill Book

Notable Education Bills (1)

School Excused Absence Amendments

[HB 145](#) Representative Albrecht | Senator McKell

- Allows parents to provide any reason to excuse a student's absence from school as long as the student's GPA is at or above 2.0.
- Specifically includes events such as mountain biking and shooting sports or a youth development program that USU administers which provide education experiences as excused absences.



Notable Education Bills (2)

School Attendance Modifications

[HB 502](#) Representative Welton | Senator McKell

- Allows a LEA to adopt a citizen grading policy with standards established by the USBE and establishes a scholarship program tied to citizenship grading.
- Allows 7-12th grade teachers to base up to 10% of final grades on class attendance. LEAs may create an attendance grading policy for no more than 20% of a student grade.
- Allows students in grades 9–12 to "test out" of core classes via USBE-standardized exams.



Notable Education Bills (3)

Public School Attendance Amendments

[SB 58](#) Senator Fillmore | Representative Thompson

- Clarifies definitions around attendance.
- Requires LEAs to develop policies and procedures for attendance tracking, intervention, and enforcement and conduct regular reviews of student attendance data.
- LEA governing boards also are required to review attendance data.
- Requires LEAs to ensure that SIS data is accurate.



Panorama Presentation

Attendance Policies

Model Attendance Policy

- [USBE Model Attendance Policy](#)

What Should Be Included In Your Attendance Policy? (1)

- Definitions used in policy (reference 53G-6-201)
- General procedures and requirements
 - Attendance expectations, excusing absences (valid excuses), check-in/check-out procedures, attendance notifications
- Stakeholder Responsibilities
 - Students expectations, parent/guardian expectations, teacher expectations, administration/counselor expectations

What Should Be Included In Your Attendance Policy? (2)

- Interventions and Support
 - Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3
 - Flowchart (what interventions happen at each absence)
- Promotion of Regular Attendance
 - Messaging, incentives, etc.
- Appeals Process

Breakout Room Discussion Questions

- What is the current status of your attendance policy?
- What questions do you have about updating your policy?

Scenario

Scenario

Addressing absenteeism during the summer months is a critical strategy that schools can leverage to foster student engagement and improve attendance throughout the school year. The summer break presents a unique opportunity for schools to identify and reconnect with students at risk of disengaging. By proactively reviewing attendance data and reaching out to families through targeted outreach efforts, schools can create personalized support systems that mitigate potential barriers such as transportation issues or health concerns.

What ideas do you have to address your school/LEA absenteeism during this coming summer?

What is one thing you could try?

Summer Support

- July 14th Webinar- Attendance Teaming/Attendance Campaigns/September Attendance Awareness Month/Statewide Attendance Campaign/Attendance Legislation
- Individual support upon request

Next Steps

- What is one thing you can do in the next month to help move attendance forward in your school/LEA?
- If you need help, please reach out!

Exit Survey

We appreciate your attendance today and would love to hear about your experience!



USBE Attendance Team (1)

Garrett Russell

Attendance Support Specialist

Phone: (385) 295-7923

Email: garrett.russell@schools.utah.gov



Megan Menlove

Attendance Support Specialist

Phone: (801) 538-7969

Email: megan.menlove@schools.utah.gov



USBE Attendance Team (2)

Benji Carrier

Attendance Support Coordinator

Phone: 801-538-7884

Email: benjamin.carrier@schools.utah.gov

