

School Attendance Changes

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Andrew Stoddard

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill establishes chronic absenteeism data requirements and a study.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- establishes chronic absenteeism data requirements and a study.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

53G-6-213, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53G-6-213** is enacted to read:

53G-6-213 . Chronic absenteeism study.

- (1) As used in this section, "chronic absenteeism" means a student missing 10% or more of school days in an academic year, regardless of whether the absences are excused or unexcused.
- (2) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, an LEA shall annually collect and report to the state board the following data regarding chronic absenteeism:
- (a) the total number of students enrolled in each school within the LEA;
 - (b) disaggregated by grade level, the total number and percentage of students in each school within the LEA who are chronically absent; and
 - (c) for each chronically absent student:
 - (i) the total number of days absent; and
 - (ii) the number of days absent that were excused.

- 31 (3) The state board shall:
- 32 (a) develop a standardized reporting template for an LEA to use in submitting the data
- 33 required under Subsection (2); and
- 34 (b) annually publish aggregated, anonymized data on chronic absenteeism statewide on
- 35 the state board's website.
- 36 (4)(a) The state board shall conduct a study of chronic absenteeism in the state.
- 37 (b) The state board shall ensure the study required in Subsection (4)(a):
- 38 (i) analyzes the data an LEA reports in accordance with Subsection (2) to identify
- 39 trends and patterns of chronic absenteeism across the state;
- 40 (ii) researches and identifies evidence-based interventions and best practices for
- 41 addressing chronic absenteeism, including strategies for:
- 42 (A) prevention;
- 43 (B) early intervention; and
- 44 (C) student re-engagement;
- 45 (iii) examines the root causes of chronic absenteeism, including:
- 46 (A) socioeconomic factors;
- 47 (B) transportation related issues;
- 48 (C) mental health factors;
- 49 (D) accessibility to health care;
- 50 (E) family issues; and
- 51 (F) general student disengagement; and
- 52 (iv) consults stakeholders in conducting the study, including:
- 53 (A) educators;
- 54 (B) school and LEA level administrators;
- 55 (C) other state entities as the state board determines;
- 56 (D) parents and students;
- 57 (E) community organizations; and
- 58 (F) and other relevant stakeholders as the state board determines.
- 59 (5)(a) No later than September 15, 2027, the state board shall submit a report to the
- 60 Education Interim Committee detailing the findings and recommendations from the
- 61 study described in Subsection (4).
- 62 (b) The state board shall include in the report:
- 63 (i) a summary of the data collected and analyzed;
- 64 (ii) an analysis of the root causes of chronic absenteeism;

- (iii) a description of evidence-based interventions and best practices for addressing chronic absenteeism connected to the root causes, including specific recommendations for an LEA;
- (iv) if any, proposed legislation or policy changes needed to address chronic absenteeism and the root causes effectively; and
- (v) recommendations for professional development and training for educators and school level administrators on addressing chronic absenteeism.

Section 2. **Effective Date.**

This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.