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ABSENTEEISM PREVENTION AMENDMENTS

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Michael S. Kennedy

House Sponsor: R. Neil Walter

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill allows a school age child's grade to include attendance under certain circumstances.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- allows a school age child's grade to include attendance under certain circumstances; and
- makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53G-6-206, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 93

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

Section 1. Section **53G-6-206** is amended to read:

53G-6-206 . Duties of a local school board, charter school governing board, or school district in promoting regular attendance -- Parental involvement -- Liability not imposed -- Report to state board.

(1) (a) As used in this section, "intervention" means a series of non-punitive and increasingly frequent and individualized activities that are designed to:

- (i) create a trusting relationship between teachers, students, and parents;
- (ii) improve attendance;
- (iii) improve academic outcomes; and
- (iv) reduce negative behavior referrals.

- 29 (b) "Intervention" includes:
- 30 (i) mentorship programs;
- 31 (ii) family connection to community resources;
- 32 (iii) academic support through small group or individualized tutoring or similar
- 33 methods; and
- 34 (iv) teaching executive function skills, including:
- 35 (A) planning;
- 36 (B) goal setting;
- 37 (C) understanding and following multi-step directions; and
- 38 (D) self-regulation.
- 39 (2) (a) Subject to Subsection (2)(b), ~~[a local school board, charter school governing~~
- 40 ~~board, or school district]~~ an LEA shall make efforts to promote regular attendance and
- 41 resolve school absenteeism and truancy issues for each school-age child who is, or
- 42 should be, enrolled in the ~~[school district or charter school]~~ LEA.
- 43 (b) A school-age child exempt from school attendance under Section 53G-6-204 or
- 44 53G-6-702, or a school-age child who is enrolled in a regularly established private
- 45 school or part-time school, is not considered to be a school-age child who is or
- 46 should be enrolled in a school district or charter school under Subsection (2)(a).
- 47 (3) The efforts described in Subsection (2) shall include, as reasonably feasible:
- 48 (a) counseling of the school-age child by school authorities;
- 49 (b) (i) issuing a notice of truancy to the school-age child in accordance with Section
- 50 53G-6-203; or
- 51 (ii) issuing a notice of compulsory education violation to the school-age child's parent
- 52 in accordance with Section 53G-6-202;
- 53 (c) making any necessary adjustment to the curriculum and schedule to meet special
- 54 needs of the school-age child;
- 55 (d) considering alternatives proposed by the school-age child's parent;
- 56 (e) incorporating attendance in the school-age child's course score or grade if:
- 57 (i) incorporation is determined appropriate through an individualized plan the
- 58 school-age child's parent and teacher develops;
- 59 (ii) parental written consent is obtained for the individualized plan; and
- 60 (iii) the parent retains the ability to revoke the parent's consent described in
- 61 Subsection (3)(e)(ii) at any time.
- 62 [(e)] (f) monitoring school attendance of the school-age child;

- 63 [~~(f)~~] (g) voluntary participation in truancy mediation, if available; and
64 [~~(g)~~] (h) providing the school-age child's parent, upon request, with a list of resources
65 available to assist the parent in resolving the school-age child's attendance problems.
- 66 (4) In addition to the efforts described in Subsection (3), the local school board, charter
67 school governing board, or school district may enlist the assistance of community and
68 law enforcement agencies and organizations for early intervention services as
69 appropriate and reasonably feasible in accordance with Section 53G-8-211.
- 70 (5) This section does not impose civil liability on boards of education, local school boards,
71 charter school governing boards, school districts, or their employees.
- 72 (6) Proceedings initiated under this part do not obligate or preclude action by the Division
73 of Child and Family Services under Section 53G-6-210.
- 74 (7) Each LEA shall annually report the following data separately to the state board:
75 (a) absences with a valid excuse; and
76 (b) absences without a valid excuse.
- 77 Section 2. **Effective date.**
78 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2024.