WSD New Attendance Need to Know 2026-2027

Truant: Any school aged minor is absent for **at least** half of the school day without a valid excuse (unexcused).

Valid excuses include:

- Illness, which may be either mental or physical
- Mental or behavioral health
- Family Death
- Absence permitted by students IEP/504
- An approved school activity, including competition in a rodeo sanctioned by an international, non-profit organization
- Pre-Arranged Absence -**one** day written prior notice
- Any reason a parent provides to justify a student's absence if the student maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0, including an event related to participation in the following: mountain biking; shooting sports; or a youth development program Utah State University administers, which provides educational experiences

A valid excuse does not include parent acknowledgement of an absence for a reason other than above and will be marked unexcused and will be considered truant if the unexcused absence is for half or more of the school day. A teacher is not obligated to provide an opportunity for make-up work for unexcused absences.

Schools/Administrators must attempt to resolve attendance problems:

- Monitoring School Attendance
- Providing counseling by school authorities
- Implementing targeted interventions
- Considering alternate parent proposals
- Provide a list of resources available to assist parents
- Refer for 504 evaluation, if appropriate

If an **Elementary Student** (grades 1-6) is absent without a valid excuse (truant) **5 or more** times in the school year: *(Utah Code 53G-6-202)*

- The parent may be issued a Notice of Compulsory Education Violation.
- If a parent intentionally or without good cause failed to meet with school designee, to cooperate in securing attendance or to prevent future truancies, the school **shall** report information to DCFS.
- School must provide DCFS with required information.

If a **Secondary Student** (grades 7-12) is truant **5 or more** times in the school year (cannot be counted truant more than once per day): *(Utah Code 53G-6-203)*

- The student and parent may be issued a Notice of Truancy.
- If the student *and* parent intentionally or without good cause failed to meet with school designee and to cooperate in securing attendance, the school may enlist the assistance of community or law enforcement.