

Every Day Counts: Attendance Strategies for Success

July 16, 2025 Attendance Webinar

Agenda Webinar

1. USBE Supports Overview
2. Medically Excused Absences Commonly Asked Question & Legislation
3. Statewide Attendance Campaign
4. September Attendance Awareness Month
5. Attendance Teaming
6. Questions

USBE's Support to LEAs

Engagement and Attendance (1)

USBE engages LEAs in yearly cohorts. These are called Engagement and Attendance learning cohorts, where they engage in a year long focused sustainable attendance systems implementation. The first year is focused around Tier 1 attendance strategies and interventions.

Engagement and Attendance (2)

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Attendance policies
- Attendance MTSS
- Attendance messaging
- Attendance calendaring
- Laws and board rules around attendance
- Sharing best practices with other cohort members
- Attendance Campaigns/Initiatives/Incentives

Upcoming Attendance Webinars

- September 9, 2025 at 10:30am
- November 18, 2025 at 10:30am
- January 13, 2026 at 10:30am
- March 10, 2026 at 10:30am
- May 5, 2026 at 10:30am

Attendance Toolkit (1)

USBE attendance specialists are working with a group of LEAs and other departments within USBE to develop a usable [toolkit](#) for LEAs to help with their Attendance Teaming and Systems Development. This follows best practices for LEAs that are starting to look at or revising their Attendance Practices.

Attendance Toolkit (2)

The Toolkit will include:

1. Teaming
2. Stakeholder Engagement
3. Data
4. MTSS
5. Reflect, Adjust, Celebrate
6. Board Rule and Legislation

Monthly Attendance Newsletter

USBE Attendance Specialists are sending out information to LEA Attendance Leads each month with important updates, research, articles, and Utah success stories.

If you're not receiving these as an attendance Lead, please reach out to [Megan Menlove](#) at megan.menlove@schools.utah.gov to be added to the mailing list.

Check & Connect for Prevention

Check & Connect is the only **Tier 2** evidence based mentoring program. Utah identifies at-risk students based on their ABC's (Attendance, Behavior, and Course Performance).

Mentors work with students and families to set-goals to help students re-engage with schools with the goal of graduation.

For more information on Check & Connect Trainings please reach out to [Garrett Russell](mailto:garrett.russell@schools.utah.gov) at garrett.russell@schools.utah.gov.

Attendance Legislation & Commonly Asked Questions

Attendance Legislation/Commonly Asked Question

Where can I find the legislation that talks about medically excusing absences?

- [Utah Code 53G-6-201\(3\)](#): Valid Excuse Definitions
- [Utah Code 53G-6-205\(2\)](#): Direction on Medically Excused Absences

Statewide Attendance Campaign

Utah State Board of Education | 2025



Why a Statewide Attendance Campaign?

Absenteeism Is Rising

Chronic absenteeism in Utah has nearly **doubled** in 10 years, from 12.2% in 2014 to 23.8% in 2024.

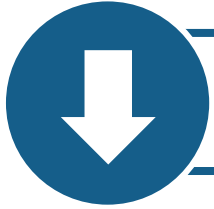
Messaging Works

States using clear, positive attendance messages have seen chronic absenteeism go down.

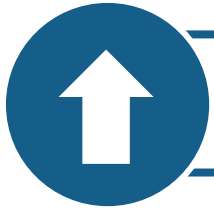
Everyone Plays a Role

Students, families, schools, and communities must partner together to improve attendance.

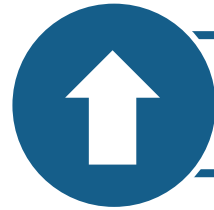
Goals



Reduce chronic absenteeism rates



Increase daily attendance rates



Raise awareness of attendance's impact

Fueling the Attendance Campaign

- Statewide Attendance Challenge
- Attendance Ambassadors & Support Network
- Monthly messaging: newsletter & social media
- LEA/school resources & implementation tools
- Attendance Toolkit with customizable posters and fliers
- Ongoing webinars and professional learning



Leading the Way (1)

Unite Your Whole School

Rally students, teachers, and families in a team effort to improve attendance and kick off the challenge.



Leading the Way (2)

Empower Teachers to Connect

Equip teachers to take daily attendance and build positive relationships that motivate students to attend every day.



Leading the Way (3)

Track Progress Together

Share your district/school's attendance story with a mid-year update by January 9, 2026.



Leading the Way (4)

Engage Families as Partners

Collaborate with families and school groups to spread the word and build support for attendance goals that benefit every student.



Leading the Way (5)

Celebrate and Inspire Your Community

Share your successes and inspire others by being featured on the USBE website as a proud participant in this statewide effort.



Join the Statewide Attendance Challenge

Be part of Utah's movement to
boost attendance, because *Every
Day Counts*.

Complete this quick form to get started



LEA and School Resources

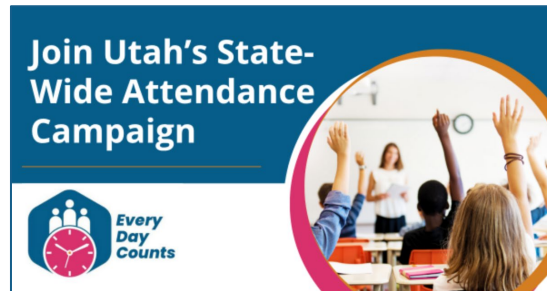
Monthly Newsletter/Email Messages

We will send you a scripted message for each month that you can include in your monthly newsletter/email home to parents focused around attendance.



Sample Social Media Posts

These posts can be “reposted” or you can post as original posts to your own social media accounts.



Posters/Fliers/Postcards Examples

2 Days a Month

Makes a Big Impact.

Every Day Counts

Keep Showing Up for Your Future!

Join Our School

in the State-Wide Attendance Challenge!

Utah State Board of Education

Attendance Calendar 2025-2026

August	September	October
M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
November	December	January
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February	March	April
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May	June	
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Every Day Counts

Make Every Day Count!

Going to school today? Check it off! See how your effort adds up over time. Try to keep your streak going all year long!

Make a Transportation Plan

Driving to school? Check the start time and add time for traffic.

Taking the bus? Know the schedule and get to the stop early.

Need a ride? Talk to your family and friends to make a back-up transportation plan.

Create a Routine and Stick to It!

- Set a regular schedule for bedtime.
- Lay out clothing and pack lunches the night before.
- Set your alarm 30 minutes early if you need more time.

Why Does Showing Up Matter?

Every day in class builds on the last. Even missing one day can make it harder to keep up. Being there every day helps you stay connected, confident, and ready to succeed.

Too Sick for School?

A quick guide to help you decide when to keep your child home

Going to school every day helps your child learn and build strong routines. But when kids are sick, it's important they rest and feel better before returning to the classroom.

Can My Child Go to School Today?

Yes, if they...

- Have a runny nose or light cough with no fever
- Have not had a fever in the last 24 hours and haven't taken medicine
- Had a stomachache without vomiting
- Have a light rash with no other problems
- Have watery eyes, but are not red, swollen, or painful

No, if they...

- Have a fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher
- Threw up two or more times in the last 24 hours
- Have watery diarrhea or had an accident, or may be prone to one
- Are too tired or sick to join class or play
- Have red, swollen or painful eyes or they had an eye injury

Call the Doctor if Your Child:

- Has a fever and pain (like earache, sore throat, stomachache, toothache or headache)
- Has blood in their stool is dehydrated or hasn't peed in 8 hours
- Has a cough that won't go away or trouble breathing
- Has eye pain, swelling, or injury
- Has a rash that is painful, has blisters, or looks like bruises

Every Day Counts

If you are not sure whether to send your child to school, have specific concerns regarding your child's physical or mental health, or are worried about spreading illness, contact your child's health care provider, urgent care or the school nurse. These tips are not meant to take the place of local health department guidance.

Utah State Board of Education | June 2025

Statewide Attendance Google Drive

- Incentive Ideas
- Interventions
- Letter Examples
- Messaging
- Policy Examples
- Teaming/Agenda Examples
- Campaign Information
- USBE Attendance Toolkit

Attendance Ambassadors

An Attendance Ambassador is Someone Who (1)

Is working hard to promote students attending school.

Knows about the campaign and helps spread the word within their school or community.

An Attendance Ambassador is Someone Who (2)

Cares about students and their success in school and out of school.

Supports others by sharing tools and pointing them to helpful attendance resources.

Who are the Utah Attendance Ambassadors?

Utah Attendance Ambassadors (1)



Cassie Hays



Kendra Muir



Susie Estrada



Jennifer
Wadsworth



Cathy Gray

Utah Attendance Ambassadors (2)



Cole Kelley



Lavinia
Gripentrog



Sharon Turner



Betty Jimenez

Utah Attendance Ambassadors (3)



Alden Jack



Coleen Dolan



Kim Schaefer



Nikki Stringham

Utah Attendance Ambassadors (4)



Jenna Landward



Michelle Reyes



Tamra Larsen



Jamie Kent

Utah Attendance Ambassadors (5)



Evan Feinberg



Ben Trentelman



Brett Peterson



Erica Wood



Amber Bonner

Want to Be an Attendance Ambassador?

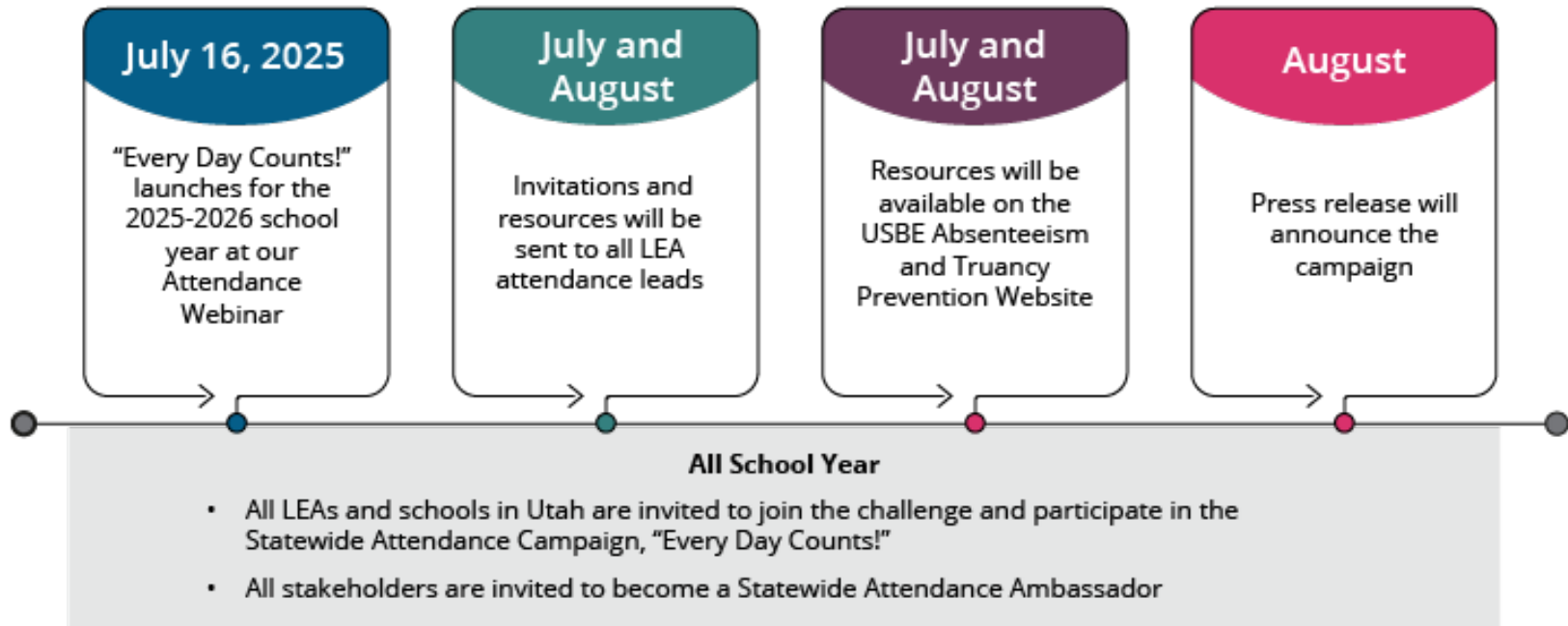
It's easy to get involved!

- Commit to the ambassador actions shared earlier.
- Email [Megan Menlove](mailto:megan.menlove@schools.utah.gov) at megan.menlove@schools.utah.gov.
- Include a headshot and let us know you'd like to be counted as an Attendance Ambassador for Utah.

Everyone is welcome!

The more voices we have working together, the stronger our impact—because *Every Day Counts*.

Statewide Attendance Campaign Timeline



USBE Attendance Team



Garrett Russell

garrett.russell@schools.utah.gov



Megan Menlove

megan.menlove@schools.utah.gov



Benji Carrier

benjamin.carrier@schools.utah.gov

September Attendance Awareness Month

September Attendance Awareness Month (1)

What is Attendance Awareness Month:

- A month long campaign emphasizing the importance of regular attendance and the impacts of chronic absenteeism
- Time to raise awareness of absenteeism and how to address it
- It is also a call to action for schools, families, and communities to work together to improve attendance

September Attendance Awareness Month (2)

Why promote Attendance Awareness Month:

- Regular attendance is a predictor of academic success and student achievement
- Chronic absenteeism can lead to various negative outcomes like; academic struggles, social and emotional difficulties, and an increased risk of dropping out
- By promoting attendance, and engaging multiple stakeholders, we can draw awareness to attendance issues and barriers while looking for solutions and share attendance processes with everyone

September Attendance Awareness Month (3)

How to promote Attendance Awareness Month:

- Launch a campaign
- Host events to engage families and emphasize the importance of attendance
- Work with community partners to identify and address barriers to attendance like transportation, health (including mental health), child care, personal needs (clothing, hygiene, food, etc...)

September 2025 Calendar

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1- Labor Day	2- Share Policy	3- Share Expectations	4- Share Goals	5- Share Procedures
Spirit Week	8- School Colors	9- Superhero	10- Wear a pattern (tie dye, Plaid, etc.)	11- Utah attire, represent the state	12- Hat Day
Class / Grade Challenge Week	15	16	17	18	19
Community Engagement Week	22- School club sign up	23- After school programs	24- Community resources	25- PTO organization	26- Community partners
	29- Share impacts	30- Share benefits			

September Attendance Awareness Month (4)

What are you, or have you done, to promote Attendance Awareness Month?

Breakout Room!

Breakout Session

Attendance Teaming

District Attendance Team

- [Attendance Works Members/ Roles](#)
- [USBE Why, What, How Document](#)

Large District Team Example (1)

Team Members:

- Director of Student Services
- District Attendance Specialist
- Health & Wellness Consultant
- District Counselor Specialist
- Prevention Specialist
- Safety Specialist

Large District Team Example (2)

Team Members:

- 2 Representatives from Information Systems that are Over Attendance
- High School Assistant Principal
- Middle School Assistant Principal
- Elementary School Principal
- Middle School Teacher

School Attendance Team

- [Attendance Works Team Members/ Roles](#)
- [USBE Attendance Team Members/ Roles](#)

School Attendance Team Example

Ogden School District (School Level Team)

- 1 Admin (Principal, Assistant Principal, or Admin Intern)
- 1 School Counselor (can be more at secondary level)
- 1 Secretary (the lead or one that works with attendance)
- 1 District Level Attendance Specialist (rotates through meetings to support)
- Optional:
 - Instructional Coach, Behavior Interventionist, Social Worker, Americorp, Parent Leader, Teachers

Attendance Team Agenda and Meeting Ideas

Attendance Team Meeting Agenda Ideas

- Set Purpose and Direction Early
- Be Intentional
- Set Goals
- Give Assignments
- Listen, Listen, Listen

[Tier 1 Attendance Agenda Example](#)

Meeting Frequency

Best Practice would be meeting **one** time per month for at least **one** hour.

- These should be scheduled at a recurring date and time
 - It is okay to not schedule meetings during “peak” times of year (i.e. December and May)
- For experienced **school** teams it may make sense to meet more frequently
 - 2x per month for 30 minutes- 1 hour
 - Every week for 30 minutes

Root Causes

Identifying Root Causes of Chronic Absenteeism

- [Root Causes Information](#) (Attendance Works)
- [Root Causes Worksheet](#)
- [Attendance Plans](#)

Exit Survey

We appreciate your attendance and would love
your feedback!



USBE Attendance Specialists

Garrett Russell

Phone: (385) 295-7923

Email: garrett.russell@schools.utah.gov

Megan Menlove

Phone: (801) 538-7969

Email: megan.menlove@schools.utah.gov