

1 **R277. Education, Administration.**

2 **R277-607. Absenteeism and Truancy Prevention.**

3 **R277-607-1. Authority<sup>[s]</sup> Purpose<sup>[s]</sup> and Oversight Category.**

4 (1) This rule is authorized by:

5 (a) Utah Constitution Article X, Section 3, which vests general control and  
6 supervision over public education in the Board;

7 (b) Subsection 53E-3-401(4), which allows the Board to make rules to execute  
8 the Board's duties and responsibilities under the Utah Constitution and state; and

9 (c) Section 53G-6-206, which:

10 (i) describes the duties of an LEA governing board in making efforts in promoting  
11 regular attendance and resolving school absenteeism and truancy issues for each  
12 school-age child who is, or should be, enrolled in the LEA;

13 (ii) does not impose civil liability on the Board and LEA governing board or their  
14 employees; and

15 (iii) requires each LEA to annually report data on absences with or without a  
16 valid excuse to the state board.

17 (d) Section 53G-9-804, which requires the Board to make rules requiring LEAs  
18 to enact chronic absenteeism prevention and intervention policies.

19 (2) The purpose of this rule is to direct an LEA to create a policy, which:

20 (a) defines attendance expectations;

21 (b) provides interventions and resources;

22 (c) delineates consequences consistent with state law; and

23 (d) provides an appeals process.

24 (3) An LEA described in Subsection 53G-9-802(5) is exempt from providing  
25 dropout recovery services as described in Subsection 53G-9-802(3).

26 ~~[(4) This Rule R277-607 is categorized as Category 2 as described in Rule~~  
27 ~~R277-111.]~~

28

29 **R277-607-2. Definitions.**

30 (1)(a) "Absence" or "absent" means the failure of a school-age child assigned to  
31 a class or class period to attend at least half of the class or class period as defined by  
32 the LEA.

33 (b) "Absence or "absent" does not mean multiple tardies used to calculate an  
34 absence for the sake of a truancy.

35 (2) "Chronic absenteeism" means a student misses 10% or more of days  
36 enrolled, for any reason, and makes a school aware that a beginning of tiered supports  
37 may be needed.

38 (3) "Habitual truancy" means the same as defined in 53G-8-211, a school-age  
39 child who:

40 (i) is in grade 7 or above, unless the school-age child is less than 12 years old;

41 (ii) is subject to the requirements of Section 53G-6-202; and

42 (iii)(A) is truant at least 20 days during one school year; or

43 (B) fails to cooperate with efforts on the part of school authorities to resolve the  
44 school-age child's attendance problem as required under Section 53G-6-206.

45 (4) "Intervention" means the same as the term is defined in Subsection 53G-6-  
46 206(1).

47 (5) "Notice of compulsory education" is a notice of violation to the parents of  
48 students in grades 1-6 consistent with Section 53G-6-202.

49 (6) "Notice of truancy" is a citation issued to students and parents of students in  
50 grades 7-12 consistent with Section 53G-6-203.

51 (7) "Truancy means a condition in which a school-age child is absent without a  
52 valid excuse, for at least:

53 (a) half of the school day; or

54 (b) if the school-age child is enrolled in a learner verified program, as that term is  
55 defined by the Board, the relevant amount of time under the LEA's policy regarding the  
56 LEA's continuing enrollment measure as it relates to truancy.

57 (c) a school-age child may not be considered truant under this part more than  
58 one time during the same day.

59 (8)(a) "Valid excuse" means:  
60 (i) Any reason made pursuant to Section 53G-10-205.  
61 (ii) an illness, which may be either mental or physical, regardless of whether the  
62 school-age child or parent provides documentation from a medical professional;  
63 (iii) behavioral health of the school-age child;  
64 (iv) a family death;  
65 (v) an approved school activity or suspension;  
66 (vi) an absence permitted by a school-age child's:  
67 (A) individualized education plan; or  
68 (B) section 504 accommodation plan;  
69 (vii) an absence permitted in accordance with Subsection 53G-6-803(5); or  
70 (viii) any other excuse established as valid by a local school, charter school  
71 governing board, or school district.

72 (b) "Valid excuse" does not mean a parent acknowledgement of an absence for  
73 a reason other than a reason described in Subsections (8)(a)(i) through (vii), unless  
74 specifically permitted by the local school board, charter school governing board, or  
75 school district under Subsection (13)(a)(vii).

76

77 **R277-607-3. Promotion of Regular Attendance.**

78 (1) An LEA governing board:  
79 (a) shall create and review an LEA attendance policy that:  
80 (i) outlines attendance expectations with language and definitions consistent  
81 with Title 53G, Chapter 6, Part 2, Compulsory Education;  
82 (ii) provides for school level procedure making; and  
83 (iii) provides an appeals process to contest:  
84 (A) a notice of truancy;  
85 (B) a notice of compulsory education; or  
86 (C) any disciplinary actions taken against a student pursuant to an LEA's  
87 attendance policy;

88 (b) shall publicize the LEA's attendance policy and appeals process through:

89 (i) LEA and school websites;

90 (ii) handbooks;

91 (iii) letters to parents; and

92 (iv) other reasonable means of communication;

93 (c) shall support institutional efforts to promote regular attendance and address  
94 chronic absenteeism and truancy issues for school-age children enrolled in the LEA, in  
95 accordance with Subsection 53G-6-206(3) and Section 53G-9-804; and

96 (d) may enlist the assistance of community agencies and organizations for early  
97 intervention and habitual truancy services, in accordance with Section 53G-8-211.

98 (2) An LEA shall annually report the following data separately to the  
99 Superintendent:

100 (a) absences with a valid excuse; and

101 (b) absences without a valid excuse.

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103 **KEY: compulsory education, truancy, absenteeism, chronic absenteeism**

104 **Date of Last Change: March 10, 2025**

105 **Notice of Continuation: June 4, 2021**

106 **Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X Sec 3; 53E-3-401(4); 53G-**  
107 **6-206; 53G-9-804**

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