



Cache County School District

Policy Series 3400: Students

Policy No. 3400 P1

Attendance Definitions

Purpose

The purpose of the definitions procedure is to establish clear, consistent, and standardized meanings for key terms used throughout the Cache County School District Attendance policy. Standard definitions prevent misunderstandings, ensure compliance, and unify actions. The following definitions are used throughout the Building and Campus Safety and Security policy and procedures for Cache County School District. Definitions are intended to be consistent with relevant state statutes and rules. In the case of discrepancy, the Utah Code R277-607-1 and 53G-6-201 shall prevail.

- 1) "Absence" or "absent" means the failure of a school-age child assigned to a class or class period to attend at least half of the class or class period as defined by the LEA. "Absence" or "absent" does not mean multiple tardies used to calculate an absence for the sake of a truancy.
- 2) "Chronic absenteeism" means a student misses 10% or more of days enrolled, for any reason, and makes a school aware that the beginning of tiered supports may be needed.
- 3) "Habitual truancy" means the same as defined in 53G-8-211, a school-age child who is in grade 7 or above, unless the school-age child is less than 12 years old; is subject to the requirements of Section 53G-6-202; and is truant at least 20 days during one school year; or fails to cooperate with efforts on the part of school authorities to resolve the school-age child's attendance problem as required under Section 53G-6-206.
- 4) "Intervention" means the same as the term is defined in Subsection 53G-6-206(1).
- 5) "Late" means any point in which a student arrives at school more than 20 minutes after the start of the school day for an elementary or more than 10 minutes for the start of a secondary class period.
- 6) "Left Early" means that a student has been checked out by a parent or guardian and picked up from school before the end of the school day or class period.
- 7) "Notice of compulsory education" is a notice of violation to the parents of students in grades 1-6 consistent with Section 53G-6-202.
- 8) "Notice of truancy" is a citation issued to students and parents of students in grades 7-12 consistent with Section 53G-6-203.
- 9) "School Excused" represents anytime a student is not in class due to reasons of the school which may include, but not be limited to: visits with a counselor, social worker, administrator, or participation in a school event. This attendance code is not considered an absence for purposes of eligibility or identifying chronic absenteeism/habitual truancy.

- 10) "Sluffing" is defined as anytime a student is out of class without permission. Though the student may not be out of class for over half of the class period, and have their attendance marked as a 'Truancy, ' it is still a form of truancy and may be disciplined as such.
- 11) "Tardy" means a student's arrival after the designated start time for a class period or instructional day, before 20 minutes has elapsed for elementary, and 10 minutes for secondary.
- 12) "Truancy" means a condition in which a school-age child is absent without a valid excuse for at least half of the elementary school day, or half of a class period in a secondary school setting.
- 13) "Valid excuse" or "excused absence" means any reason made pursuant to Section 53G-10-205, such as:
 - a) an illness, which may be either mental or physical, regardless of whether the school-age child or parent provides documentation from a medical professional;
 - b) behavioral health of the school-age child;
 - c) a family death;
 - d) an approved school activity or suspension;
 - e) an absence permitted by a school-age child's:
 - i) individualized education plan; or
 - ii) section 504 accommodation plan;
 - f) competition in a rodeo sanctioned by an international, non-profit organization dedicated to the development of sportsmanship, horsemanship, and character in youth through the sport of rodeo;
 - g) 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 clubs:
 - i) mountain biking;
 - ii) shooting sports; or
 - iii) a youth development program Utah State University administers, which provides educational experiences in areas including agriculture, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, civic engagement, leadership, and healthy living through hands-on learning, mentoring, and community-based clubs or activities;
 - h) an absence permitted in accordance with Subsection 53G-6-803(5); or
 - i) any other excuse established as valid by a local school, charter school governing board, or school district.
 - j) "Valid excuse" does not mean a parent acknowledgement of an absence for a reason other than a reason described in Subsections (8)(a)(i) through (vii), unless specifically permitted by the local school board, charter school governing board, or school district under Subsection (13)(a)(vii).

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