

Andrew Stoddard proposes the following substitute bill:

**School Attendance Amendments**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Andrew Stoddard**

Senate Sponsor:

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill establishes chronic absenteeism data requirements and a study.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- establishes chronic absenteeism data requirements and a study.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

ENACTS:

**53G-6-213**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **53G-6-213** is enacted to read:

**53G-6-213 . Chronic absenteeism study.**

- (1) As used in this section, "Chronic absenteeism" means a student missing ten percent or more of school days in an academic year, regardless of whether the absences are excused or unexcused.
- (2) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, an LEA shall annually collect and report to the state board the following data regarding chronic absenteeism:
  - (a) the total number of students enrolled in each school within the LEA; and
  - (b) disaggregated by grade level, the total number and percentage of students in each school within the LEA who are chronically absent; and
  - (c) for each chronically absent student:
    - (i) the total number of days absent; and

- 30           (ii) the number of days absent that were excused.
- 31   (3) The state board shall:
- 32       (a) develop a standardized reporting template for an LEA to use in submitting this data;
- 33           and
- 34       (b) annually publish aggregated, anonymized data on chronic absenteeism statewide on
- 35           the state board's website.
- 36   (4)(a) The state board shall conduct a study of chronic absenteeism in the state.
- 37       (b) The state board shall ensure the study required in Subsection (4)(a):
- 38           (i) analyzes the data an LEA reports pursuant to Subsection (2) to identify trends and
- 39               patterns of chronic absenteeism across the state;
- 40           (ii) researches and identifies evidence-based interventions and best practices for
- 41               addressing chronic absenteeism, including strategies for:
- 42               (A) prevention;
- 43               (B) early intervention; and
- 44               (C) student re-engagement;
- 45           (iii) examines the root causes of chronic absenteeism, including
- 46               (A) socioeconomic factors;
- 47               (B) transportation related issues;
- 48               (C) mental health factors;
- 49               (D) accessibility to healthcare;
- 50               (E) family issues; and
- 51               (F) general student disengagement; and
- 52           (iv) consults stakeholders in conducting the study, including:
- 53               (A) educators;
- 54               (B) school and LEA level administrators;
- 55               (C) other state entities as the state board determines;
- 56               (D) parents and students;
- 57               (E) community organizations; and
- 58               (F) and other relevant stakeholders as the state board determines.
- 59   (5)(a) No later than September 15, 2026, the state board shall submit a report to the
- 60           Education Interim Committee detailing the findings and recommendations from the
- 61           study described in Subsection (4).
- 62       (b) The stat board shall include in the report:
- 63           (i) a summary of the data collected and analyzed;

- 64           (ii) an analysis of the root causes of chronic absenteeism;
- 65           (iii) a description of evidence-based interventions and best practices for addressing
- 66                 chronic absenteeism connected to the root causes, including specific
- 67                 recommendations for an LEA;
- 68           (iv) if any, proposed legislation or policy changes needed to address chronic
- 69                 absenteeism and the root causes effectively; and
- 70           (v) recommendations for professional development and training for educators and
- 71                 school level administrators on addressing chronic absenteeism.

72           Section 2. **Effective Date.**

73           This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.