

R277. Education, Administration.

R277-607. Truancy Prevention.

R277-607-1. Definitions.

A. "Absence" means a student's non-attendance at school for one school day or part of one school day.

B. "Habitual truant" means a school-age minor who:

(1) is at least 12 years old;

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

(3)(a) is truant at least five times during one school year; and

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

C. "Habitual truant citation" is a citation issued only consistent with Section 53G-6-203.

D. "IEP team" means an local education agency representative, a parent, a regular and special education educator, and person qualified to interpret evaluation results, in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

E. "LEA" means a local education agency, including local school boards/public school districts and charter schools.

F. "Truant" means absent without a valid excuse.

G. "Unexcused absence" means a student's absence from school for reasons other than those authorized under the LEA policy.

H. "USOE" means the Utah State Office of Education.

I. "Valid excuse" means an excuse for an absence from school consistent with Subsection 53G-6-201(9)(9).

R277-607-2. Authority and Purpose.

A. This rule is authorized by Utah Constitution Article X, Section 3 which vests general control and supervision of public education in the Board, Subsection 53E-3-401(4), which permits the Board to adopt rules in accordance with its responsibilities, and Section 53G-6-206 which directs educational entities and parents working on behalf of children to

make efforts to resolve school attendance problems of school-age minors who are or should be enrolled in LEAs.

B. The purpose of this rule is to direct LEAs to establish procedures for:

- (1) informing parents about compulsory education laws;
- (2) encouraging and monitoring school attendance consistent with the law; and
- (3) providing firm consequences for noncompliance.

C. This rule encourages meaningful incentives for parental responsibility and directs LEAs to establish ongoing truancy prevention procedures in schools especially for students in grades 1-8.

R277-607-3. General Provisions.

A. Each LEA board shall develop a truancy policy that encourages regular, punctual attendance of students, consistent with this rule and Title 53G, Chapter 6, Part 2, Compulsory Education, and shall review the policy annually.

B. LEA boards shall annually review attendance data and consider revisions to policies to encourage student attendance.

C. LEAs shall make truancy policies available for review by parents or interested parties.

D. LEAs may issue habitual truant citations to students consistent with Section 53G-6-203.

R277-607-4. LEA Responsibilities.

A. LEAs shall:

(1) establish definitions not provided in law or this rule necessary to implement a compulsory attendance policy;

(2) include definitions of approved school activity under Section 53G-6-201(9)(c) and excused absence to be provided locally under Subsection 53G-6-201(9)(e);

(3) include criteria and procedures for preapproval of extended absences consistent with Section 53G-6-205; and

(4) establish programs and meaningful incentives which promote regular, punctual

student attendance.

B. LEAs shall include in their policies provisions for:

- (1) notice to parents of the policy;
- (2) notice to parents as discipline or consequences progress; and
- (3) the opportunity to appeal disciplinary measures.

C. LEAs shall establish and publish procedures for use by school-age minors or their parents to contest notices of truancy.

KEY: compulsory education, truancy

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