

Increasing Student Attendance

January 14, 2025 - Attendance Webinar

Agenda for Webinar

1. Utah State Board of Education's (USBE's) Supports to LEAs
2. Utah Best Practices
3. Murray School District Presentation
4. Next Steps
5. Resources
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 focus of each cohort changes each year depending on the individual needs.

Engagement and Attendance (2)

Year 1 - LEA Level Teaming, Systems, Stakeholder Messaging, Data, MTSS

Year 2 - Stakeholder Surveys, Community Engagement, Pilot Schools, Attendance Campaign, MTSS

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](mailto:megan.menlove@schools.utah.gov) at megan.menlove@schools.utah.gov to be added to the mailing list.

Check and Connect for Prevention (1)

Check and 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.

Check and Connect for Prevention (2)

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

Utah Best Practices

What is being done in Utah? (1)

LEAs across Utah are doing incredible work to curb their Chronic Absenteeism and working with students and families to re-engage in schools.

- Community Resources: This is the #1 thing that is moving attendance in a positive direction. Connecting schools to resources throughout the community can promote positive attendance conversations with a variety of stakeholders.

What is being done in Utah? (2)

- District Level/LEA Level and School Level Attendance Teams- These should have multiple stakeholders from various departments and even community representatives.
- Monthly Tier 1 Attendance Meetings- These should be for 1 hour total (can be monthly, bi-monthly, or weekly) with an agenda and action items that are being worked on with assignments given across the team members.

What is being done in Utah? (3)

- Attendance Specialists at the district level and school level- this provides top down support and dissemination of information and resources.
- Consistent Stakeholder Messaging- monthly communication specific to attendance (i.e. goals, data, current campaign, impact on missed days, how sick is too sick, etc...).

What is being done in Utah? (4)

- Stakeholder Surveys- these help to gauge climate around attendance and also address barriers to attendance specific to the LEA/School where the survey is being conducted.
- Attendance MTSS Structure- Tier 1 Universal Practices for all students, Tier 2 target supports for at-risk students, Tier 3 intensive supports for families and students.

What is being done in Utah? (5)

- Revised Policy and Procedures- policies should be revised every 5 years and many have not done this post Covid. Procedures help all stakeholders access and understand policy and expectations.
- Attendance Matrix- this identifies the steps and who is responsible for them while handling attendance. (i.e. 3 absences teacher makes a phone call, 5 absences a friendly letter goes home, etc...).

What is being done in Utah? (6)

- Family Engagement Nights- bring identified (at-risk for attendance) families together for an educational opportunity to teach about the impacts of attendance.
- Student and Family Education Videos/ Classes- Students that reach a certain attendance level and their families can take a course to learn about attendance impacts, supports, and ideas for improvement.

What is being done in Utah? (7)

- Teachers being the first contact for parents- studies show that teachers are the more trusted contact for families, their communication could be the difference.
 - Support teachers with scripts and times to call.
 - Help teachers be part of the process and explain where they fit in and why, for more buy-in.

Breakout Session #1

In your Breakout room discuss:

1. Does your LEA have an LEA Attendance Team and what departments and staff are represented on it?
2. What is your attendance messaging strategy for all stakeholders?

Murray School District Presentation (1)

- Landscape
 - District Wide
 - School Level (Mentors)
 - Funding
 - Policy and Procedure

Murray School District Presentation (2)

- Data Driven Attendance Efforts
 - Example: Friday Attendance Campaign
- Pilot Schools
- Evidence Based Practices (Menu)
- Attendance Matters Class
- [Community Mapping](#)

Next Steps

Looking Forward to 2025-2026...

- USBE will be releasing their “Toolkit” to support LEAs for the start of the 2025-2026 school year
- USBE is working to create a Statewide Attendance Campaign to support LEAs attendance growth goals with multiple stakeholders
- USBE will be partnering with LEAs across Utah that are leading in attendance work to highlight success throughout the state and to share positive impacts

Breakout Session #2

In this Breakout Session discuss:

1. What attendance supports are you looking for to help address your attendance needs?
2. What strategies have you been trying to address Chronic Absenteeism in your LEA?

Resources

Attendance Resources (1)

Step 1 Create an Attendance Team

Step 2 Take a Self-Assessment

- [LEA team self-assessment](#) (Attendance Works)
- [School team self-assessment](#) (Attendance Works)

Attendance Resources (2)

Teaming

- [LEA- level team best practices](#)- team functions, members, roles and responsibilities, and common pitfalls (Attendance Works)
- [School- level team best practices](#)- sample agenda, team members, functions (Attendance Works)

Attendance Resources (3)

Calendaring

- [Sample LEA Calendar](#) and [Blank LEA Calendar](#) (Attendance Works)
- [Sample School Calendar](#) and [Blank School Calendar](#) (Attendance Works)

Attendance Resources (4)

Matrix

- School Level Absence Continuum- [Sample](#) and [Blank](#) (Attendance Works)

Community Resources

- [Resource Mapping](#) (Harvard Graduate School of Education)
- [Review Available Resources](#) (Attendance Works)

Attendance Resources (5)

Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and Court Referrals

- [DCFS Referral Document](#)
- [Court Referral](#)
- [Habitual Truancy Services](#)

Attendance Resources (6)

MTSS

- [Examples of Tiered Practices](#) (Attendance Works)

Evidence Based Practices

- [Check and Connect](#) - Tier 2 Mentoring program for prevention and YIC
- [3 Tiers of Intervention](#) (Attendance Works)
- [Attendance Playbook](#) (FutureEd and Attendance Works)

Attendance Resources (7)

Updated Attendance Legislation

[Senate Bill \(S.B.\)177](#): Absenteeism Prevention Amendments

[House Bill \(H.B.\) 362](#): Habitual Truancy = 20 days (starts at line 204)

Surveys

- [Scan of Environment and Attendance Tool \(SEAT\)](#)
(Attendance Works)

Scripts

- [Phone Call Script](#) (Attendance Works)

Questions

Exit Survey

We appreciate your attendance and
would love your feedback!



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