

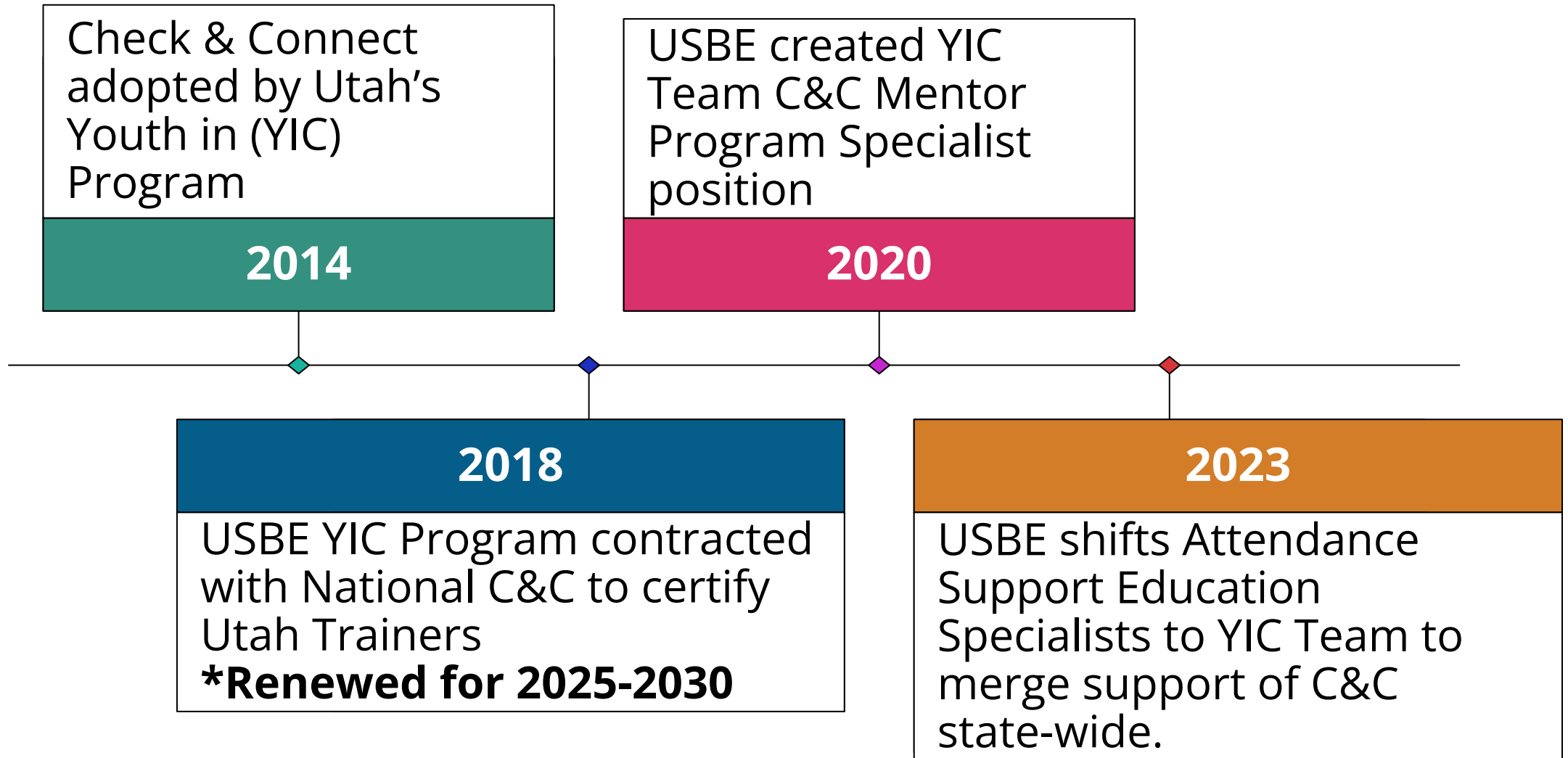


Utah's Check & Connect® Mentor Program

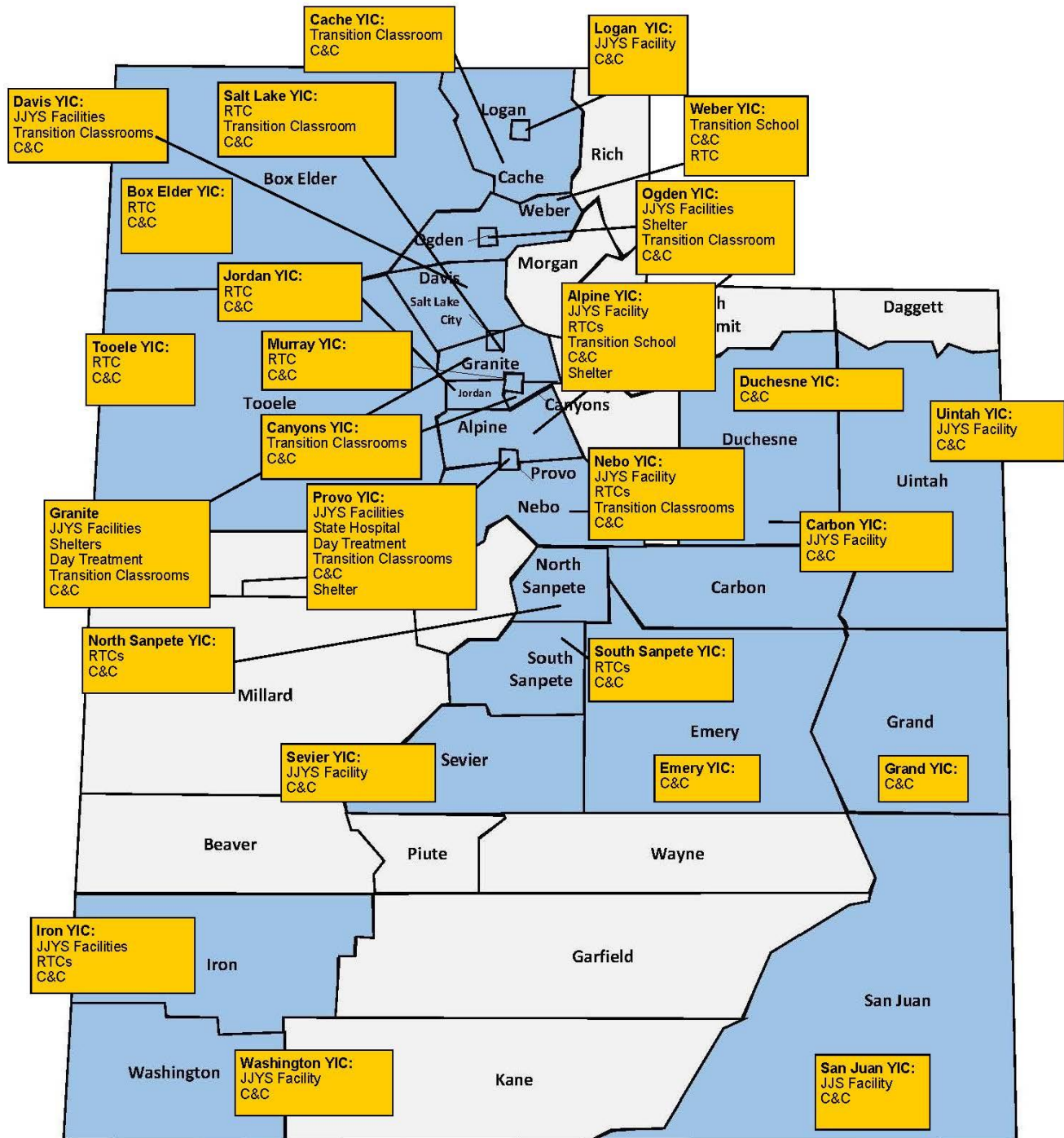
Youth in Care and Prevention

Presented by Amanda Charlesworth and Garrett Russell
Utah State Board of Education
Youth in Care and Attendance Support Team

Utah's Check & Connect® Implementation



Who does C&C® Serve in Utah's Schools?





Utah's C&C® Prevention Program

- Box Elder School District
- Cache School District
- Canyons School District
- Jordan School District
- Morgan School District
- Murray School District
- Ogden School District
- Provo School District

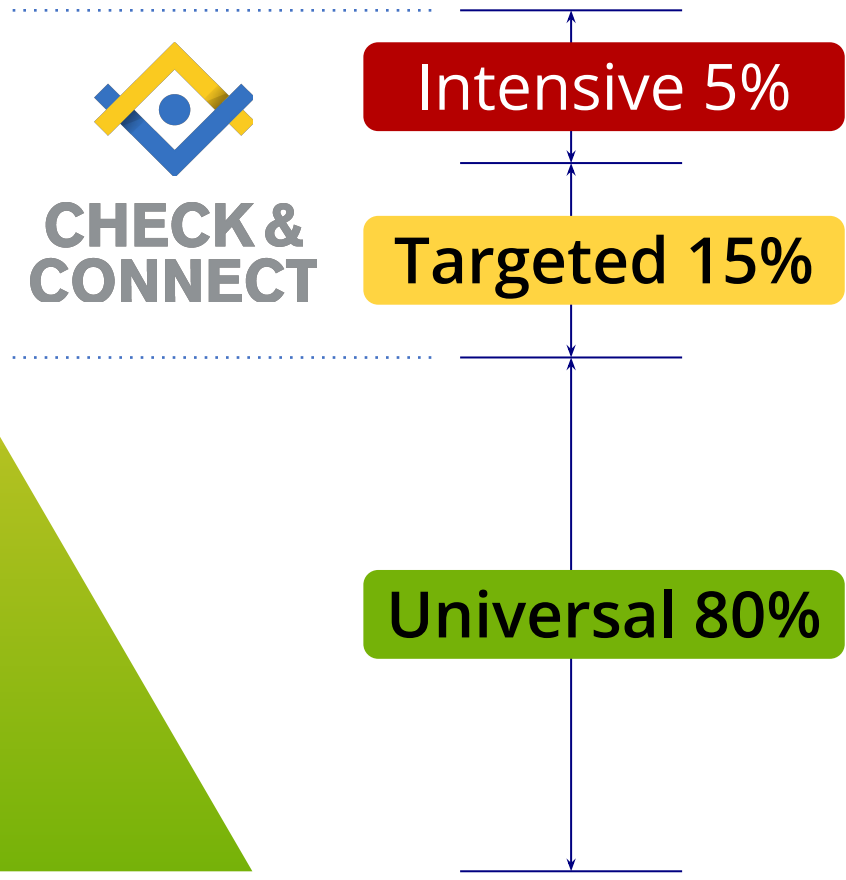
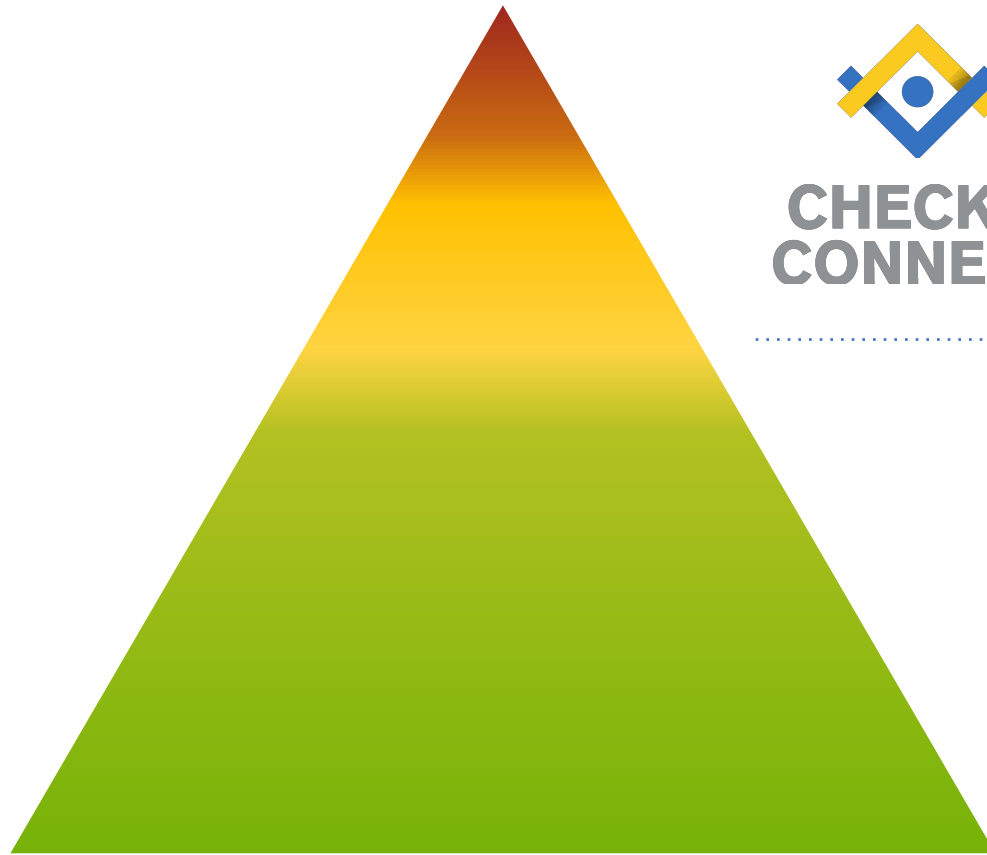
What is Check & Connect®?

- Data driven structured mentoring intervention
- Promotes student engagement
 - At school
 - With learning
- Focus on school completion
- C&C Mentors provide evidence-based interventions

Check & Connect Core Components®

- **Mentor-** A dedicated staff member who works with students and families (for two years) and focuses on promoting a student's educational success
- **Check-** Mentors regularly check data schools already collect on students' attendance, behavior, and educational progress
- **Connect-** Mentors provide timely interventions, driven by data, to re-establish and maintain students' connection to school
- **Engagement with families** – Mentors engage with parents/guardians regularly and strive to foster parents'/guardians' active engagement in their child's education

C&C® Fit With Existing Initiatives



Evidence-Based Intervention

Check & Connect® has met the evidence standards of the What Works Clearinghouse (2006, 2015):

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>

- » C&C is the only dropout prevention intervention to show positive effects for staying in school



C&C® Core Belief

**Student
Disengaged from
School**

+

**Mentor Intervenes
with C&C**

+

**Student
Re-engages**

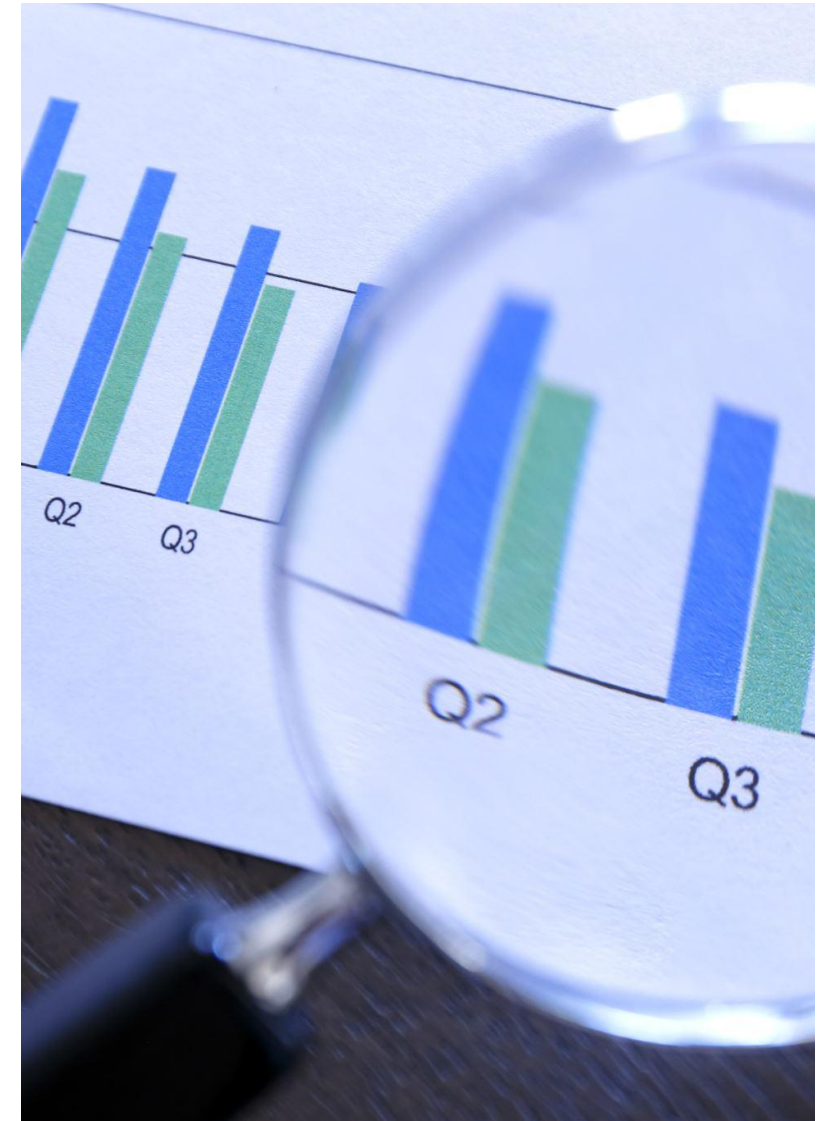
C&C Defines Student Engagement as:

"Commitment to and investment in learning, identification and belonging at school."

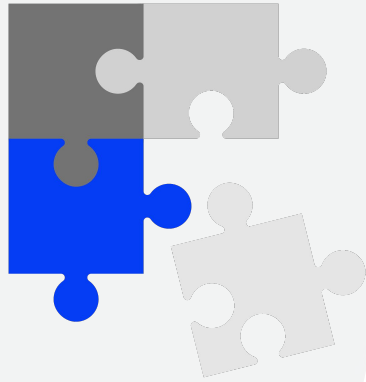
“Check” Data®






“Check” is the systematic monitoring students level of engagement and educational progress.

- A non-negotiable core component of C&C
- Essential for monitoring student engagement
- Weekly recording and sharing of **Attendance, Behavior, and Course performance data**



“Connect” Procedures®



-  **Intentional meeting:** Set specific time and location for consistency.
-  **Data-Informed Intervention:** Weekly review of “Check” data to tailor support.
-  **Strategic Communication:** Share progress with students, parents, and teachers.
-  **Collaborative Growth:** Focus on goal setting and proactive problem solving.
-  **Resource Connection:** Link families with school and community resources.

C&C® Mentors Task and Time Per Student

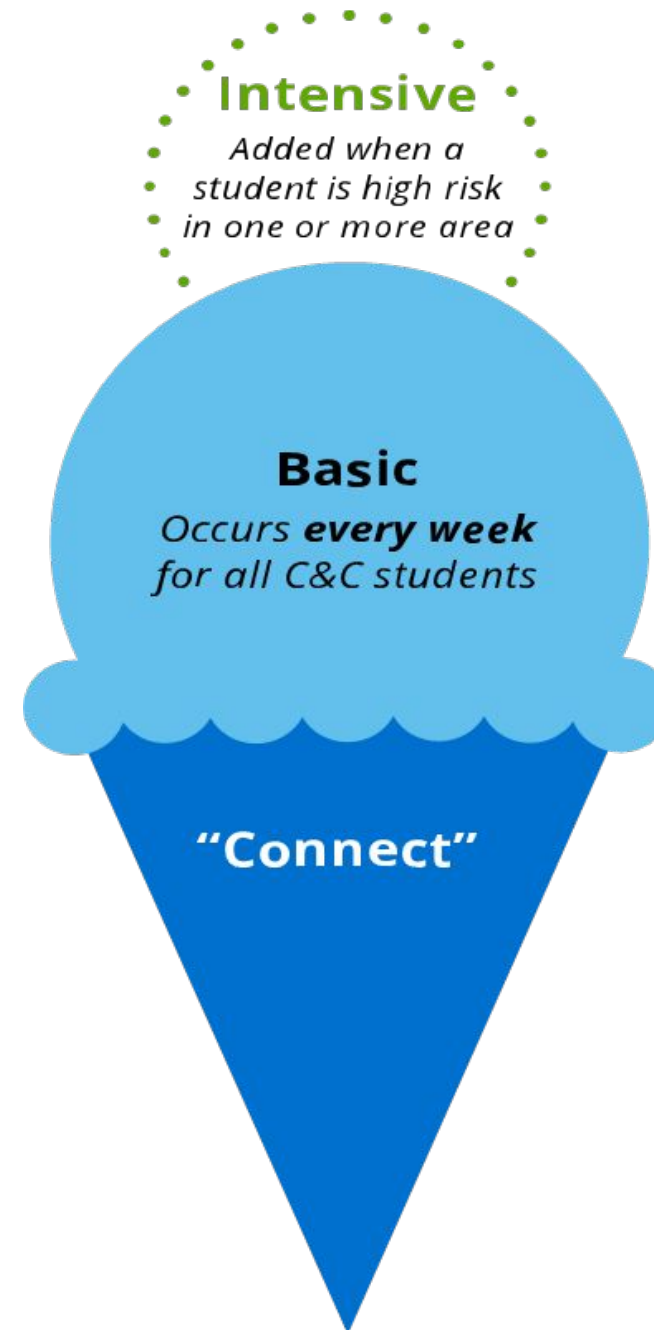
Mentors, on average, spend 1 hour per week/per student on C&C related tasks.
However, time required can vary based on student need.

Mentors need time to:

- Collect and Document 'Check' data; Attendance, Behavior and Course Performance on a weekly basis
- Weekly 'Connect' meeting with students
- Document 'Connect' meeting take-a-ways, and/or implement intensive interventions
- Communicate with student's adults (parent/guardian, teachers, caseworkers, etc.)

Levels of “Connect” Interventions®

- **Basic:** C&C Mentor shares “Check” data, provides feedback, discusses staying in school, problem solves about risk and communicates with adults
- **Intensive Interventions:** Targeted, time-bound, fixes a skill gap, progress-monitored, change what or how students build skills



C&C® Family Engagement Strategies:

- Enhancing home-school communication
- Conducting home visits
- Responding to parents' questions or concerns in a timely manner
- Encouraging home support for learning



Check in/Check Out (CICO) Vs. Check & Connect® (C&C)

Check-in/Check-out

- Improves mild-moderate problem behavior
- Short-term (2-4 months)
- Staff person
- Daily point report
- Based on immediate feedback and positive reinforcement
- Family participation

Check & Connect

- Improves attendance, behavior, and/or grades
- Long-term (1-2 years)
- Mentor
- Weekly monitoring form
- Based on **relationship** building through ongoing connections
- Family engagement
- Problem-solving and capacity building



Attendance and C&C®

Protective Factor Focus: Concrete Supports; Social Connections; Cognitive, Emotional, and Social Competence

Check & Connect is best utilized as a Tier 2 Intervention for Attendance.

- **Identifying students based on attendance it is best to look for students that are missing up to 20% of school (Chronic Attendance is 10% or more)**
 - **more than 20% it is hard to engage the student and they should look at a more intensive Tier 3 option to decrease the absences before recommending for Check & Connect**



USBE's Support to LEAs



Attendance Toolkit

The Toolkit includes:

1. Attendance Teaming
2. Stakeholder Engagement
3. Data
4. MTSS
5. Reflect, Adjust, Celebrate
6. Board Rule and Legislation



2026-2027 Upcoming Attendance Webinars

- July 14, 2026
- September 15, 2026
- November 10, 2026
- January 12, 2027
- March 16, 2027
- May 4, 2027

*All webinars are recorded and available on our USBE Attendance Team Channel and the slides are available on our USBE Absenteeism and Truancy Prevention [website](#).



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Monthly Attendance Newsletter

USBE Attendance Specialists are sending out information to LEA Attendance Leads each month with important updates, research, articles, resources, and Utah success stories.

Please reach out to Megan Menlove at megan.menlove@schools.utah.gov to be added to the mailing list.

Statewide Attendance Campaign

Utah State Board of Education | 2025



***Every
Day
Counts***

Why a Statewide Attendance Campaign?

Absenteeism Is Rising

Chronic absenteeism in Utah has nearly **doubled** in 10 years, from 12.2% in 2014 to 23.8% in 2024.

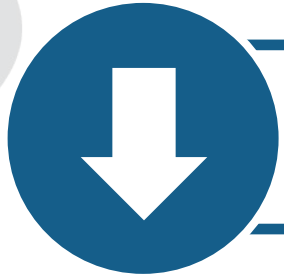
Messaging Works

States using clear, positive attendance messages have seen chronic absenteeism go down.

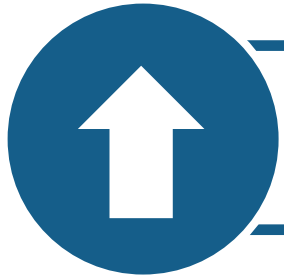
Everyone Plays a Role

Students, families, schools, and communities must partner together to improve attendance.

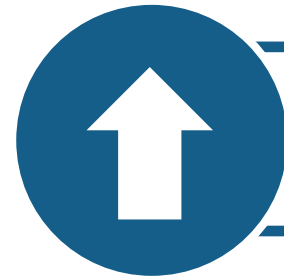
Goals



Reduce chronic absenteeism rates



Increase daily attendance rates



Raise awareness of attendance's impact

Fueling the Attendance Campaign

- Statewide Attendance Challenge
- Attendance Ambassadors & Support Network
- Monthly messaging: newsletter & social media
- LEA/school resources & implementation tools
- Attendance Toolkit with customizable posters and fliers
- Ongoing webinars and professional learning





Join the Statewide Attendance Challenge

Be part of Utah's movement to
boost attendance, because
Every Day Counts.



Complete this quick form to get started:
forms.gle/56FekqvYnmijQcwd9



LEA and School Resources

Monthly Newsletter/Email Messages
We will send you a scripted message for each month that you can include in your monthly newsletter/email home to parents focused around attendance.



Sample Social Media Posts

These posts can be “reposted” or you can post as original posts to your own social media accounts.



Posters/Fliers/Postcards Examples

2 Days a Month

Makes a Big Impact.



Every Day Counts

Keep Showing Up for Your Future!

Join Our School
in the State-Wide Attendance Challenge!







Attendance Calendar 2025-2026

Month	M	T	W	T	F
August					1
	5	6	7	8	9
	12	13	14	15	16
	19	20	21	22	23
	26	27	28	29	30
September	2	3	4	5	6
	9	10	11	12	13
	16	17	18	19	20
	23	24	25	26	27
	30				
October	1	2	3	4	
	7	8	9	10	11
	14	15	16	17	18
	21	22	23	24	25
	28	29	30	31	
November					1
	4	5	6	7	8
	11	12	13	14	15
	18	19	20	21	22
	25	26	27	28	29
December					1
	4	5	6	7	8
	11	12	13	14	15
	18	19	20	21	22
	25	26	27	28	29
January					1
	6	7	8	9	10
	13	14	15	16	17
	20	21	22	23	24
	27	28	29	30	31
February					1
	3	4	5	6	7
	10	11	12	13	14
	17	18	19	20	21
	24	25	26	27	28
March					1
	3	4	5	6	7
	10	11	12	13	14
	17	18	19	20	21
	24	25	26	27	28
April					1
	7	8	9	10	11
	14	15	16	17	18
	21	22	23	24	25
	28	29	30		
May					1
	5	6	7	8	9
	12	13	14	15	16
	19	20	21	22	23
	26	27	28	29	30
June					1
	2	3	4	5	6
	9	10	11	12	13
	16	17	18	19	20
	23	24	25	26	27
	30				



Make Every Day Count!
Going to school today? Check it off! See how your effort adds up over time. Try to keep your streak going all year long!

Make a Transportation Plan
Driving to school? Check the start time and add time for traffic.
Taking the bus? Know the schedule and get to the stop early.
Need a ride? Talk to your family and friends to make a back-up transportation plan.


Create a Routine and Stick to It!

- Set a regular schedule for bedtime.
- Lay out clothing and pack lunches the night before.
- Set your alarm 30 minutes early if you need more time.

Why Does Showing Up Matter?
Every day in class builds on the last. Even missing one day can make it harder to keep up. Being there every day helps you stay connected, confident, and ready to succeed.

Too Sick for School?

A quick guide to help you decide when to keep your child home



Going to school every day helps your child learn and build strong routines. But when kids are sick, it's important they rest and feel better before returning to the classroom.

Can My Child Go to School Today?

Yes, if they...


- Have a runny nose or light cough with no fever
- Have not had a fever in the last 24 hours and haven't taken medicine
- Had a stomachache without vomiting
- Have a light rash with no other problems
- Have watery eyes, but are not red, swollen, or painful

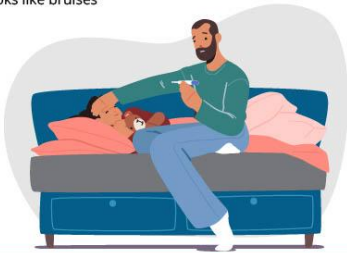
No, if they...

- Have a fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher
- Threw up two or more times in the last 24 hours
- Have watery diarrhea or had an accident, or may be prone to one
- Are too tired or sick to join class or play
- Have red, swollen or painful eyes or they had an eye injury

Call the Doctor If Your Child:

- » Has a fever and pain (like earache, sore throat, stomachache, toothache or headache)
- » Has blood in their stool is dehydrated or hasn't peed in 8 hours
- » Has a cough that won't go away or trouble breathing
- » Has eye pain, swelling, or injury
- » Has a rash that is painful, has blisters, or looks like bruises





If you are not sure whether to send your child to school, have specific concerns regarding your child's physical or mental health, or are worried about spreading illness, contact your child's health care provider, urgent care or the school nurse. These tips are not meant to take the place of local health department guidance.

Utah State Board of Education | June 2025



Statewide Attendance Google Drive

- Incentive Ideas
- Interventions
- Letter Examples
- Messaging
- Policy Examples
- Teaming/Agenda Examples
- Campaign Information
- USBE Attendance Toolkit



Attendance Ambassadors



An attendance ambassador is someone who:

Is working hard to promote students attending school.

Knows about the campaign and helps spread the word within their school or community.

Ambassadors, continued

Cares about students and their success in school
and out of school

Supports others by sharing tools and pointing them to
helpful attendance resources

Want to Be an Attendance Ambassador?

It's easy to get involved!

- Commit to the ambassador actions shared earlier
- Email Megan Menlove at megan.menlove@schools.utah.gov
- Include a headshot and let us know you'd like to be counted as an Attendance Ambassador for Utah **OR**
- Fill out this simple [google survey](#)



Everyone is welcome!

The more voices we have working together, the stronger our impact—because *Every Day Counts*.

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Julia Armstrong – YIC Education Specialist
Julia.Armstrong@schools.Utah.gov

Garrett Russell – Attendance Support Specialist
garrett.russell@schools.Utah.gov

Megan Menlove – Attendance Support Specialist
megan.menlove@schools.utah.gov

YICA Website: <https://www.schools.utah.gov/yic>

Utah State Board
of Education –
Youth In Care and
Absenteeism
Team (YICA)