

ATTENDANCE STRATEGIES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Educators from seven Utah schools across four districts and one charter school detailed their efforts to increase and maintain high levels of student attendance through semi-structured interviews.

Albert R. Lyman Middle School
San Juan School District
Gennera Blake, Student Advocate

Dual Immersion Academy
Public Charter School
Shannon Sanchez, Social Worker

Glendale Middle School
Salt Lake City School District
Keslie Green, Assistant Principal

Hawthorne Elementary
Salt Lake City School District
Cody Colvin, Principal

Monument Valley High School
San Juan School District
Coerina Fife, Principal
Ryan Carlson, Vice Principal

South Jordan Middle School
Jordan School District
Spencer Young, Counselor
Kami Taylor, Assistant Principal

Water Canyon High School
Washington County School District
Steve Showalter, Principal
Brad Garrett, Learning Coach

THEMES

Qualitative interview analysis illuminated four critical components of an effective attendance plan including:

1. relationship building with students and families

2. accurate attendance tracking

3. timely communication, and

4. parent education

There is no one practice that comprehensively accounts for each of these four components. Instead, participants discussed

various strategies for bolstering these attendance system needs and practices work in concert to produce results. Included in this report are examples of strategies from each practice site.

All sites use multiple instances of relationship building outside of the attendance system in addition to focused efforts.

Each of the **school leaders stressed the importance of building consensus with parents on *why* school attendance is important** for their students and provided frequent, personal, and timely opportunities and incentives leading to a positive culture around attendance.

The main limitation of cited practices is time for dedicated attention to attendance concerns, tracking, training, and personal connections, however; schools that have prioritized the time needed have seen positive outcomes in student attendance.

The full report is available for download at <https://bit.ly/3RYtA94>