



Dear Weber School District Students and Parents,

We hope you are enjoying your summer and are beginning to look forward to the upcoming school year. There are so many great things on the horizon and we are confident this will be a fantastic school year. To help make sure our students and parents are maximizing their access to Weber School District's great teachers, we are emphasizing the critical role that a student's attendance plays in the success of that student.

Research by the University of Utah shows that a student's academic performance and behavioral and developmental progress are significantly impacted when a student is chronically absent. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10% or more days of school for any reason, which is 18 days in a year or 2 days per month. Chronic absenteeism in elementary school becomes one of the leading indicators that students will drop out of school prior to graduation. Students with just one year of chronic absenteeism have shown a 36.4% dropout rate and students who have two or more years of chronic absenteeism have a greater than 50% dropout rate. Weber School District is committed to working with our students and parents to help fight chronic absenteeism, but we need your help.

Our great teachers want nothing more than students in their classes every day, excited and ready to learn. We understand that absences will occur throughout the school year, but absenteeism reduces even the best teacher's ability to provide meaningful quality learning opportunities. It is critical that students commit to being in class each day and that parents encourage and monitor their student's attendance. Working together we can ensure that all students are set up for long-term success and a bright academic future.

At the start of the 2020-2021 school year and continuing through the 2021-2022 school year, the Weber School Board and Superintendency paused all requirements pertaining to compulsory education as outlined in WSD Policy 4170. This was in response to Utah SB219, which suspended compulsory education laws and expired on June 1, 2022. Weber School District will fully implement the attendance policy 4170 for the 2022-2023 school year. With that said, we encourage students who contract or experience symptoms of COVID-19 (or other contagious illnesses) to stay home. We also ask that parents communicate with school officials when their students are kept home due to illness, or other "valid excuse," so that we may work to support them, academically, during their short stint away from the educational setting.

You may review the full policy by clicking the following link: [Weber School District Policy 4170](#)

Consistent regular attendance is vital to the success and education of our students. Weber School District and our educators are committed to supporting students and their families. Please contact your school's administrator with any questions regarding attendance.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Williams - Director of Elementary Education  
Heather Neilson - Supervisor of Elementary Education  
Brandon Lott - Principal at Freedom Elementary