

High School Rodeo Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Michael K. McKell

House Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill includes rodeo as a valid excuse for a student to be absent from school.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- amends the definition of "valid excuse" to include a student that competes in a rodeo sanctioned by certain organizations; and
- makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53G-6-201, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 464

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53G-6-201** is amended to read:

53G-6-201 . Definitions.

As used in this part:

- (1)(a) "Absence" or "absent" means the failure of a school-age child assigned to a class or class period to attend a class or class period.
- (b) "Absence" or "absent" does not mean multiple tardies used to calculate an absence for the sake of a truancy.
- (2) "Educational neglect" means the same as that term is defined in Section 80-1-102.
- (3)(a) "Home-based microschool" means an individual or association of individuals that:
 - (i) registers as a business entity in accordance with state and local laws; and
 - (ii) for compensation, provides kindergarten through grade 12 education services to

- 31 16 or fewer students from an individual's residential dwelling, accessory dwelling
32 unit, or residential property.
- 33 (b) "Home-based microschool" does not include a daycare.
- 34 (4) "Instructor" means an individual who teaches a student as part of a home-based
35 microschool or micro-education entity.
- 36 (5)(a) "Micro-education entity" means a person or association of persons that:
- 37 (i) registers as a business entity in accordance with state and local laws; and
38 (ii) for compensation, provides kindergarten through grade 12 education services to
39 100 students or fewer.
- 40 (b) "Micro-education entity" does not include:
- 41 (i) a daycare;
42 (ii) a home-based microschool;
43 (iii) a private school; or
44 (iv) a school within the public education system.
- 45 (6) "Minor" means an individual who is under 18 years old.
- 46 (7) "Parent" includes:
- 47 (a) a custodial parent of the minor;
48 (b) a legally appointed guardian of a minor; or
49 (c) any other person purporting to exercise any authority over the minor which could be
50 exercised by a person described in Subsection (7)(a) or (b).
- 51 (8) "School day" means the portion of a day that school is in session in which a school-age
52 child is required to be in school for purposes of receiving instruction.
- 53 (9) "School year" means the period of time designated by a local school board or charter
54 school governing board as the school year for the school where the school-age child:
55 (a) is enrolled; or
56 (b) should be enrolled, if the school-age child is not enrolled in school.
- 57 (10) "School-age child" means a minor who:
- 58 (a) is at least six years old but younger than 18 years old; and
59 (b) is not emancipated.
- 60 (11)(a) "Truant" means a condition in which a school-age child, without a valid excuse,
61 and subject to Subsection (11)(b), is absent for at least:
- 62 (i) half of the school day; or
63 (ii) if the school-age child is enrolled in a learner verified program, as that term is
64 defined by the state board, the relevant amount of time under the LEA's policy

- 65 regarding the LEA's continuing enrollment measure as it relates to truancy.
- 66 (b) A school-age child may not be considered truant under this part more than one time
- 67 during one day.
- 68 (12) "Truant minor" means a school-age child who:
- 69 (a) is subject to the requirements of Section 53G-6-202 or 53G-6-203; and
- 70 (b) is truant.
- 71 (13)(a) "Valid excuse" means:
- 72 (i) an illness, which may be either mental or physical, regardless of whether the
- 73 school-age child or parent provides documentation from a medical professional;
- 74 (ii) mental or behavioral health of the school-age child;
- 75 (iii) a family death;
- 76 (iv) an approved school activity;
- 77 (v) an absence permitted by a school-age child's:
- 78 (A) individualized education program; or
- 79 (B) Section 504 accommodation plan;
- 80 (vi) competition in a rodeo sanctioned by an international, non-profit organization
- 81 dedicated to the development of sportsmanship, horsemanship, and character in
- 82 youth through the sport of rodeo;
- 83 [~~(vi)~~] (vii) an absence permitted in accordance with Subsection 53G-6-803(5); or
- 84 [~~(vii)~~] (viii) any other excuse established as valid by a local school board, charter
- 85 school governing board, or school district.
- 86 (b) "Valid excuse" does not mean a parent acknowledgment of an absence for a reason
- 87 other than a reason described in Subsections (13)(a)(i) through [~~(vi)~~] (vii), unless
- 88 specifically permitted by the local school board, charter school governing board, or
- 89 school district under Subsection [~~(13)(a)(vi)~~] (13)(a)(viii).

90 Section 2. **Effective Date.**

91 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.