

Meet SB 2103 Requirements and Improve Student Attendance

Fact Sheet **SB 2103 at a Glance**

New legislation requires Mississippi districts to evolve their approach to chronic absenteeism. Beyond stricter tracking, the most significant change is a mandate for proactive intervention and public transparency.

Here is what your district needs to know to stay ahead of the new requirements.

Students must attend at least 66% of the school day to count as present

A significant operational change is the **shift to time-based tracking**. A student is no longer counted as present just for showing up; they must be physically present for at least **66% of the instructional day** to be marked present. This change aims to curb "partial-day absenteeism" which often masks significant learning loss.

Excused absences are capped at 5 days

Students are limited to **five (5) excused absences per semester** with a note from the parent or guardian. Furthermore, any illness-related absence after the third must be documented by a written excuse from a medical provider.

Districts must publish a plan for chronic absenteeism, if applicable

If your chronic absenteeism rate exceeds 10% for any grade level or student subgroup, the district must adopt a written reduction plan. This plan must be submitted to the school board and made **publicly available on the district website**.

Districts are required to submit a family engagement plan by August 1

Each school board must adopt locally tailored policies that establish family engagement protocols and documentation standards. These protocols must include multichannel communications and timely notification of attendance risks.

Districts must implement tiered interventions, starting at three absences

SB 2103 mandates a tiered response system that activates early and escalates based on need. At just three absences, districts must:

- ✓ Provide timely notification to the family,
- ✓ Offer a conference to identify barriers,
- ✓ Connect students to available support services, and
- ✓ Document an individualized attendance success plan.

Key Timelines

-  **August 1, 2026**
Deadline for districts to adopt locally developed student attendance policies and proactive family engagement strategies.
-  **August 15, 2026**
State Department of Education will issue a nonbinding model policy to assist districts.
-  **November 1, 2026**
Final deadline for school boards to formally adopt and implement "locally tailored" policies that include specific documentation standards and engagement protocols aligned with the new law.

How SchoolStatus Attend Simplifies SB 2103 Compliance

SchoolStatus Attend is built to automate the heavy lifting of SB 2103 so your team can focus on the students who need them most.

Automated Time-Based Tracking

We integrate directly with your SIS to calculate attendance based on the new time-based thresholds. You'll have a real-time view of which students are accumulating absences, with no need for manual calculations from your team.



Turnkey Tiered Interventions

Our system automatically triggers the appropriate intervention based on Mississippi's new tiers. When a student hits a threshold, a mailer or digital notification is sent immediately. In fact, **54% of students who receive just one SchoolStatus intervention never need another.**



Barrier Identification & Documentation

SB 2103 requires districts to identify "underlying barriers" to attendance. SchoolStatus Attend includes built-in conference management and tracking, so your team can easily reach out directly and easily. Once families are in the building, staff can document the barriers to attendance to identify both individual needs and school- or district-level trends.



Positive Communication

We help you meet the new "proactive engagement" mandate by automating positive messages to families. By celebrating attendance wins and turnarounds, you build the required culture of engagement without asking teachers to send a single extra email.



SchoolStatus Attend uses **predictive analytics** based on millions of data points to analyze trends in the first 60 days of school. By Thanksgiving you can identify which students are likely to end the year chronically absent. Intervene before patterns become chronic to significantly reduce absenteeism.



Kayla was flagged on 4/22/26 as trending towards chronic absenteeism.

Intervention sent



Ready to ensure your district is compliant before the deadline?

Our team helps districts across the country navigate similar legislative shifts. Let's talk about how you can meet these upcoming mandates and make a real difference in chronic absenteeism.

[Contact us for a Mississippi strategy session >>](#)