

# Docketing the Future: Utah's Exemption System Transformation

Modernizing School Health Data through Digital Integration and  
Real-Time Interoperability

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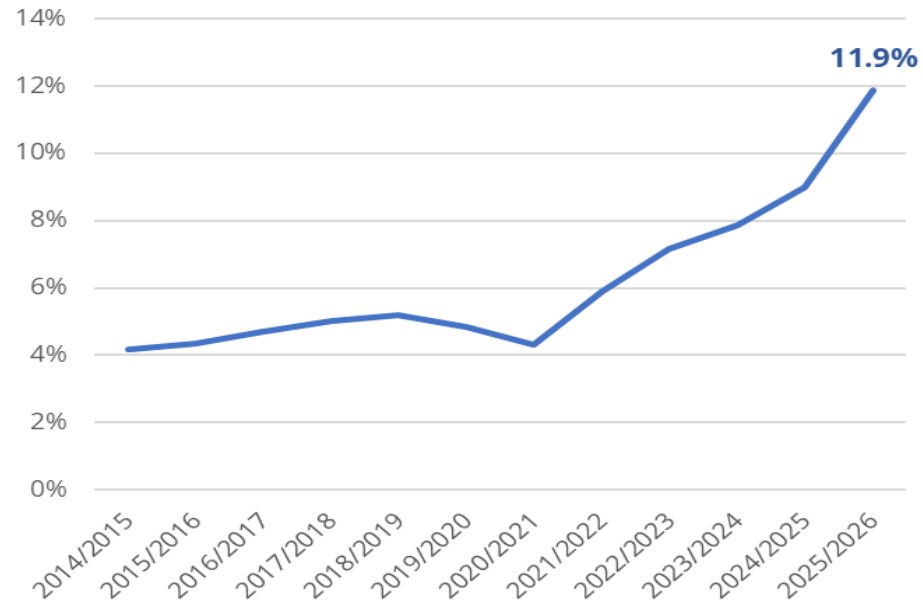
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# The Utah Landscape

- Utah allows medical, religious, and personal exemptions for school-required vaccines.
- Utah's exemption rates are high compared with many states, and recent kindergarten data shows the trend is still rising.
- As exemption volume grows, schools need something more reliable than form chasing and manual verification.

Utah's in-person **kindergarten vaccine exemption rate** has increased dramatically in the last 5 school years.



# The Paper Trail Era (Pre-2018)

- Entirely paper-based exemption forms
- High burden on public health staff and school districts
- Lag in confirming status
- Limited visibility during potential outbreaks

## Why schools feel this first

Status review, parent follow-up, and outbreak response all get harder when exemption data is not easy to verify.



### Personal Immunization Exemption Form

The Utah Department of Health strongly supports immunization as one of the easiest and most effective tools in preventing serious communicable diseases. Vaccine preventable diseases can cause serious illness and even death. The Utah Department of Health recognizes that individuals have the right to an immunization exemption, should they choose not to immunize.

As the parent or legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, I certify that I have strong personal beliefs against the practice of immunization/vaccination. Due to my personal opposition to immunizations, I hereby request that my child be exempted from the Utah Immunization Rule for Students (R396-100) for the following vaccines:

- DTaP (Diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis)
- Polio
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis A
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- Varicella (Chicken Pox)
- Pneumococcal
- Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)
- Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis)
- Meningococcal
- This personal exemption is for all immunizations.

I understand if an outbreak of any vaccine-preventable disease occurs for which my child is exempted, my child for whom this exemption is claimed will be excluded from the school, early childhood program, sports activities, and any other school activities before, during, or after school time. The exclusion will be for the duration of the outbreak and/or threat of exposure. My child will be allowed back only when a health department representative is satisfied that there is no longer a risk of contracting or transmitting a vaccine-preventable disease.

- I HAVE READ THE EXEMPTED CHILD DOCUMENT AND UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT.
- I would like to discuss information regarding vaccine safety, possible side effects and/or other concerns with an immunization nurse.

Parent/Guardian's Signature:		Parent/Guardian Name (Print):	
Parent/Guardian's Date of Birth:	Phone Number:	Email:	
Street Address:		City:	Zip Code:
Name of Child Exempted (Print):		Child's Date of Birth:	Previous State of Residence:
Name of School or Early Childhood Program:			Grade:
Witness (Local Health Officer or Designee):		Title:	Date:

If a student withdraws, transfers, is promoted or otherwise leaves school, the school or early childhood program shall either return the Utah School Immunization Record (USIR) and any exemption form to the parent of a student or transfer the USIR and any exemption form with the student's official school record to the new school or early childhood program. The exemption forms are only needed one time and they are not required to be renewed annually. Exemption forms can only be used for enrollment in early childhood programs or public, private, and parochial schools for grades kindergarten through twelve. Exemptions and exemption forms do not apply to college/university attendance.

# Phase 1: Online Exemption Module (2018)

- H.B. 308 took effect July 1, 2018 and created Utah's online exemption workflow.
- Parents could complete the necessary education-module online and print the exemption form immediately.
- Utah also kept an in-person local health consultation path for families who did not use the online module.
- This solved collection and standardization, but not real-time exchange into school-facing systems.
- If someone lost an exemption, USIIS staff would have to pull exemption from the database

## What changed

Collection became digital, the form became standardized, and the process became easier to scale statewide.

## What did not

Exemption data still sat outside the HL7 query/response path that schools and vendors already relied on.

## Why that matters

Digital intake is not enough if downstream users still need a second manual verification workflow.

# Example Exemption

## VACCINATION EXEMPTION FORM

**Parent/Guardian Name:** Tristin Plendl has completed the online vaccination education module as allowed by Section 53G-9-303.

**Child Name:** Benji Test

**Child Date of Birth:** December 31, 2012 | **Date Completed:** June 09, 2025

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### Exemption Reason:

- Personal**
- Medical**
- Religious**

### Exemptions:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> DTP/DTaP/DT/Tdap/Td | <input type="radio"/> HIB              | <input type="radio"/> POLIO                 |
| <input type="radio"/> MMR                            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> HEP-B | <input checked="" type="radio"/> CHICKENPOX |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> HEP-A               | <input type="radio"/> PNEUMOCOCCAL     | <input type="radio"/> MEN ACWY              |

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# Phase 2: Building the Source of Truth (2024)

## Before

Exemptions were stored in the background, but not visible on the record.



## After

In 2024, exemption information began displaying directly on the USIIS record.

- This was the connection point between the exemption module and the visible IIS patient record.
- USIIS became the place where exemption status could finally be seen alongside immunization data.

## Operational win

Public health and schools could work from one visible source of truth.

# Phase 2 in Practice: Clinics and Schools

## USIIS Portal

Logged in as: JESSICA MCCLELLAN (jessicamcclellan@utah.gov) Logout

Welcome to USIIS Services

Include Global Access

801 - DHHS- USIIS PROGRAM X ▼

Select Service Below:

- [Doses Administered Reporting](#)
- [Facility Reports & Batch Processes](#)
- [Forms and Trainings](#)
- [PIP Exemptions](#)
- [Patient Identity Resolver](#)
- [USIIS Admin](#)
- [USIIS File Manager](#)
- [USIIS Immunize](#)
- [VOMS](#)
- [Vaccine Inventory](#)
- [Vaccine Management](#)

Utah Department of Health & Human Services  
Population Health & Immunization Program

[Submit Support Request](#)  
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# Phase 2 in Practice: Parents/Individuals

## Exemptions

Home [Logout](#)

Logged in as: **Jessica McClellan** (jessicamcclellan@utah.gov) Language English

### Immunization Exemption Introduction

Schools require that immunizations are current for attending students. Follow the steps below to decide if you wish to immunize your child or have your child be exempt.

**Note: You will need to complete the steps below to create an exemption:**

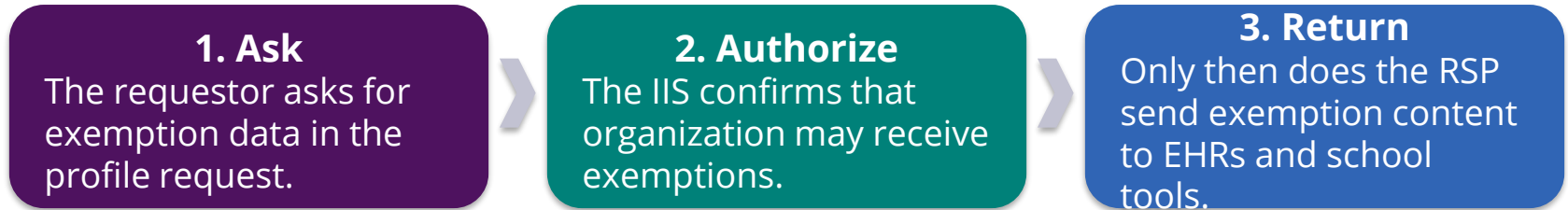
1. To create an exemption, click "Add Child" below.
2. Click "New Exemption" below the person's name.
3. You will need to create an exemption by April 14, 2027. Completed exemptions will be available for print/download beyond this date.

### Exemption Forms

CONTACT INFORMATION	VIEW	EDIT	DOWNLOAD	DELETE
<b>Jessica McClellan</b> (Main User) <a href="#">Edit</a> (801) 538-9450   jessicamcclellan@utah.gov	<a href="#">View</a>	<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>

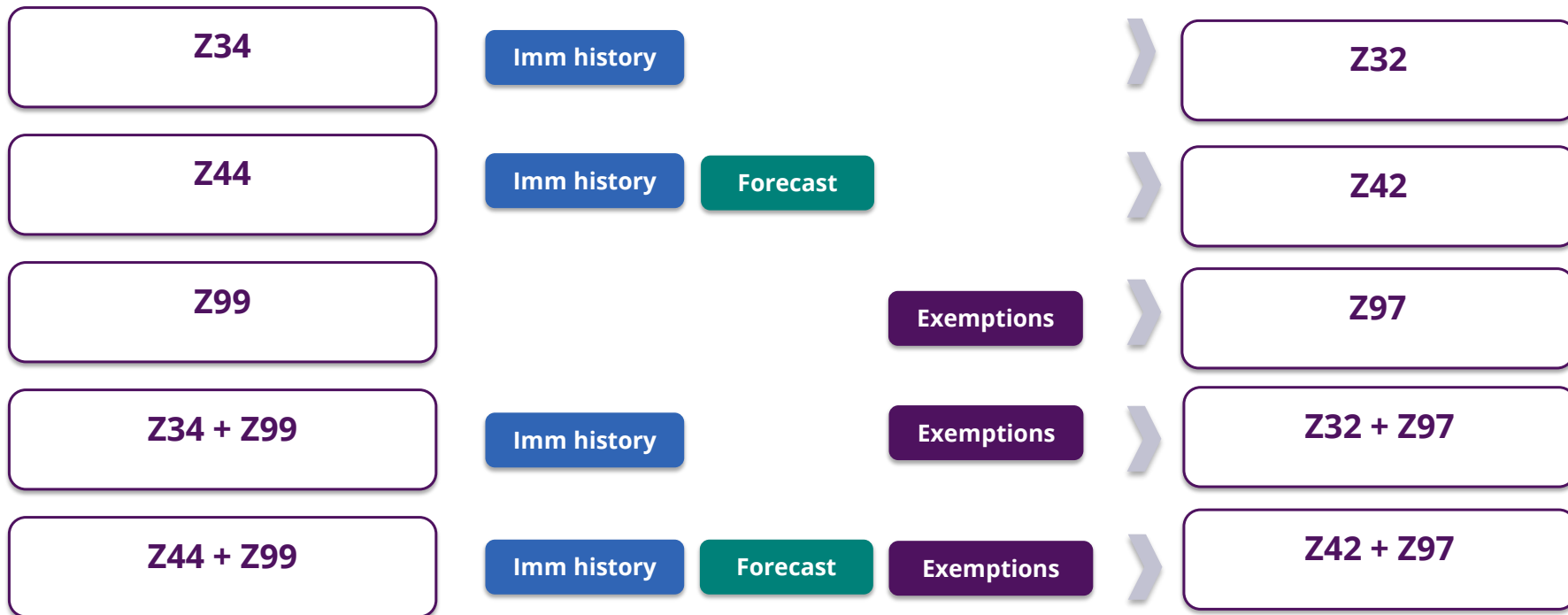
# Phase 3: HL7 Exchange Out of USIIS

- In 2026, Utah worked with AIRA on a Z-profile approach for exemptions in QBP/RSP.
- Now authorized systems can receive exemption data out of USIIS through HL7.



# Z Profiles: Request Only What You Need

The request profile tells USIS which pieces to return.



## Key takeaway

Z99 is the exemption request. It can travel by itself or with the history / forecast profiles schools and vendors already use.

# BENJI Test: What Comes Back

## Response profile

Z99 request returns  
Z42



## Exemption group

Exemption content  
arrives in its own  
RXA/OBX group.



## Personal exemption

The answer value is  
LA27170-2.

```
QAK|528173|OK|Z44^Request Evaluated History and Forecast~  
Z99^Request Immunization Exemption
```

```
MSH response profile: Z42^CDCPHINVS~Z97^CDCPHINVS
```

```
...
```

```
RXA|0|1|20260420095519||998^No Vaccine Administered^CVX|...|NA
```

```
OBX|1|CE|100282-3^Vaccine Exemption Certificate^LN|1|...
```

```
LA27170-2^Philosophical Objection^LN
```

```
OBX|2|CE|30956-7^Vaccine Type^LN|1|45^Hep B^CVX
```

# Decision Made: Medical, Religious, and Personal Use the Same Structure

- The structure stays the same.
- The exemption type in OBX-5 is what changes.
- Medical uses LA27164-5.
- Personal / philosophical uses LA27170-2.
- Religious uses LA27171-0.

## Translation

Same pairing, same vaccine coding, different exemption answer value for medical, personal, and religious exemptions.

### Medical

OBX|1|CE|100282-3^Vaccine Exemption Certificate^LN|1|

**LA27164-5^Medical**

**Contraindication^LN**|||||F|||20260410000000|

OBX|2|CE|30956-7^Vaccine Type^LN|1|45^Hep B^CVX|||||F

### Personal / Philosophical

OBX|1|CE|100282-3^Vaccine Exemption Certificate^LN|1|

**LA27170-2^Philosophical**

**Objection^LN**|||||F|||20260410000000|

OBX|2|CE|30956-7^Vaccine Type^LN|1|45^Hep B^CVX|||||F

### Religious

OBX|1|CE|100282-3^Vaccine Exemption Certificate^LN|1|

**LA27171-0^Religious Exemption^LN**|||||F|||20260410000000|

OBX|2|CE|30956-7^Vaccine Type^LN|1|45^Hep B^CVX|||||F

# Decisions Made: Message Shape

- One exemption order group, even if the patient has many exempted vaccine series.
- Keep exemptions in the standard QBP/RSP response pattern implementers already know.

## **Why this was the choice**

It keeps the message predictable, prevents one patient from generating multiple custom groups, and lets receivers consume exemptions without inventing a separate exchange model.

## **Receiver takeaway**

One place to look for exemption content. One pattern to parse.

# Decisions Made: No Exemption on File

No exemption on file is an explicit response, not a blank response.

## When an Exemption Exists

Return the exemption certificate plus the vaccine type.

```
OBX|1|CE|100282-3^Vaccine Exemption Certificate^LN|1|  
LA27170-2^Philosophical Objection^LN  
OBX|2|CE|30956-7^Vaccine Type^LN|1|  
45^Hep B^CVX
```

## When no exemption exists

Return a single exemption certificate OBX with none

```
OBX|1|CE|100282-3^Vaccine Exemption Certificate^LN|1|  
LA137-2^None^LN
```

# Example: Complete Z97

MSH|^~\&|USIIS|UT0000|1051||20260420095205-  
0600||RSP^K11^RSP\_K11|USIIS20260420095205197|T|2.5.1|||NE|NE||||Z97^CDCPHINVS|UT0000^USIIS^^^^  
UTA^SR^^^^|  
QAK||OK|Z99^Request Immunization Exemption^CDCPHINVS  
QPD|Z99^Request Immunization Exemption^CDCPHINVS||^MR^~^^^UT0000^SR^USIIS|^L|^|  
PID|1||1129^^^801^MR^Provider Medical Record Number~90107562^^^UT0000^SR^USIIS State Registry  
Number||TEST^BENJ|^L|^|2014010100000|M|^|^CDCREC|123 E 321 W^^WEST  
HAVEN^UT^84401^^M^^^|^eng^^ISO6392|||||^CDCREC|||||  
ORC|RE|^|9999^UTA|^|^^^|  
RXA|0|1|20260420095204||998^No Vaccine  
Administered^CVX|999|^|  
OBX|1|CE|100282-3^Vaccine Exemption Certificate^LN|1|LA27170-2^Philosophical  
Objection^LN|||||F||20251217000000|  
OBX|2|CE|30956-7^Vaccine Type^LN|1|45^Hep B, Not Otherwise Specified^CVX|||||F  
OBX|3|CE|100282-3^Vaccine Exemption Certificate^LN|2|LA27170-2^Philosophical  
Objection^LN|||||F||20251217000000|  
OBX|4|CE|30956-7^Vaccine Type^LN|2|17^Hib, Not Otherwise Specified^CVX|||||F

# Phase 3 in Practice: Docket for Schools

The HL7 exemption data becomes school-facing compliance status.

The screenshot shows a 'Student Sheet' interface for a student with ID 12345. The interface includes a navigation bar with 'Overview', 'Engage', 'Controls', and 'IIS Record'. The student's details are listed, including contact information, grade start date, and internal ID. Below this, there are sections for 'Upcoming Requirements' (with a toggle switch) and 'Validity Evaluation Tool' (with an 'Open' button). The 'Compliance' section shows a status of 'No Action Needed' and a list of immunizations with their respective statuses: DTAP (Exempt), HepA (Exempt), HepB (Exempt), MENACWY (Compliant), MMR (Compliant), POLIO (Exempt), TDAP (Exempt), and VARICELLA (Compliant).

Immunization	Status
DTAP	Exempt
HepA	Exempt
HepB	Exempt
MENACWY	Compliant
MMR	Compliant
POLIO	Exempt
TDAP	Exempt
VARICELLA	Compliant

## For school users

- Exempt values appear directly in the compliance list.
- Compliant and exempt statuses are visible together.
- This is what a school user can act on.

## Why it lands

The receiver does not need to interpret raw HL7. The workflow already makes sense to the school user.

# Exemption Detail

This example shows a personal exemption record and points back to the IIS record as evidence.

The screenshot displays the 'Student Sheet' interface for a student named DOCKETAFIZG DOCKETALIZG. The navigation bar includes 'Overview', 'Engage', 'Controls', and 'IIS Record'. Below the navigation bar, there are two main sections: 'Documents' and 'Exemptions'. The 'Documents' section shows 'No documents found.' The 'Exemptions' section features a '+ Create' button and a detailed view of a 'Personal Reasons' exemption. This exemption has 12 series, expires 'Never', and has evidence pointing to an 'IIS Record' created on 04/07/2026. A tooltip provides additional context: 'A vaccine exemption certificate was found in the student's record that was created on 2026-03-26.'

**Student Sheet** ×

**DOCKETAFIZG DOCKETALIZG**

Overview Engage Controls **IIS Record**

**Documents** ⓘ + Create

No documents found.

**Exemptions** ⓘ + Create

**Personal Reasons**

Series	12 series ⓘ
Expires	<b>Never</b>
Evidence	See <i>IIS Record</i>
Created	04/07/2026
Notes	View ⓘ

A vaccine exemption certificate was found in the student's record that was created on 2026-03-26.

+ Create

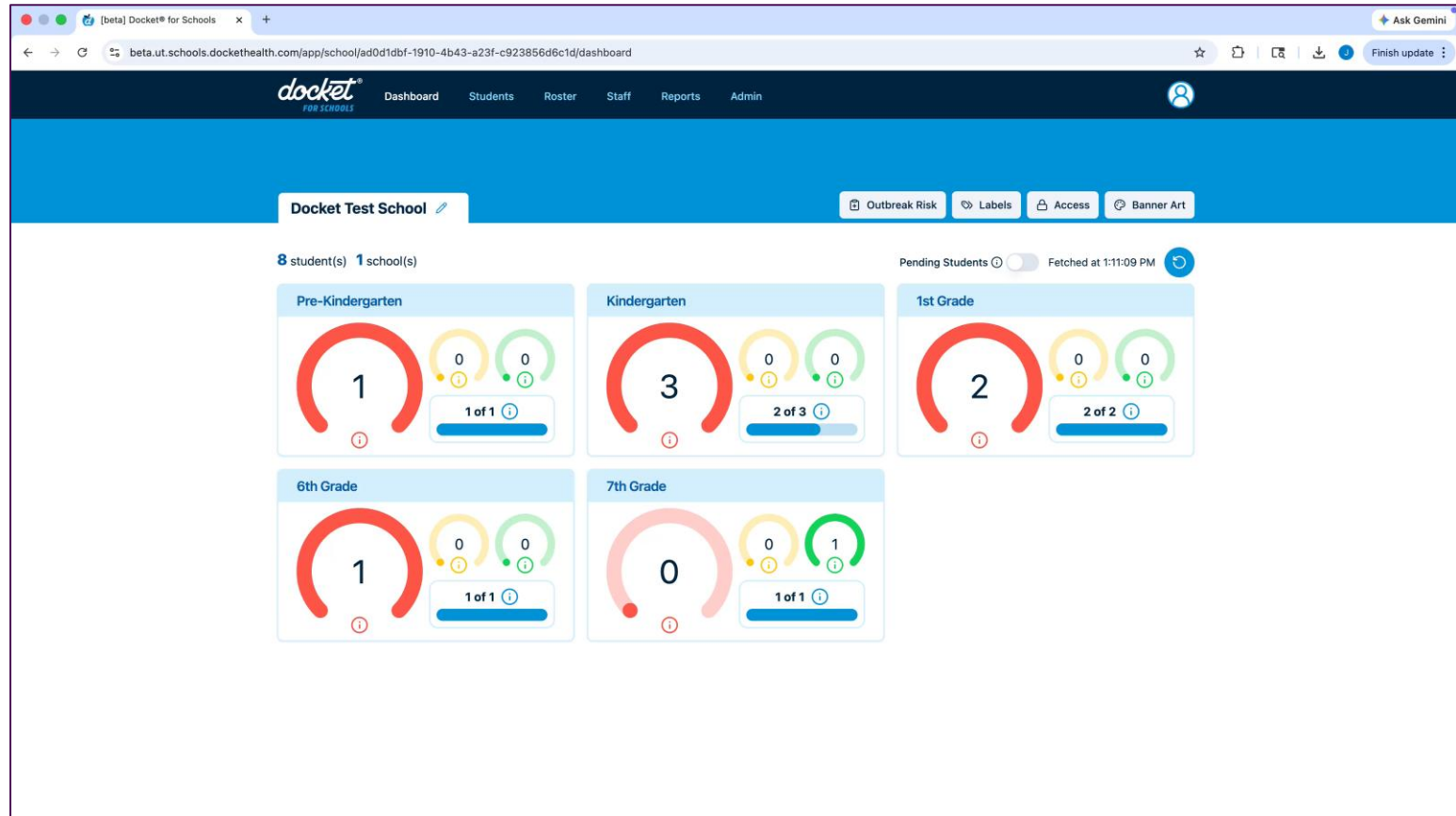
## For school users

- Docket labels this as Personal Reasons.
- Series count is visible. Telling the school how many series are exempt
- Evidence points back to the IIS record.

## Why it lands

The user can inspect exemptions without leaving the workflow or Docket for Schools

# USIIS Docket for Schools User Journey



# Conclusion

**2018**

Utah digitized exemption collection through the online module.

**2024**

Utah displayed exemption information directly on the USIIS record.

**2026**

Utah and AIRA extended that work through HL7 exchange out of USIIS.

- The story and modernization was not complete when the form moved online.
- The real transformation was moving from collection, to visible record, to interoperable exchange.
- That makes exemption data timely, trusted, and usable by the school systems or EHRs.

# Shout outs

## USIIS

Aliz Deppe  
Eric Lemle  
Eric Shipek

## Docket

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Michael Perretta

## AIRA

Eric Larson  
Nathan Bunker  
Erin Roche

# Questions?

