

EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION



THE UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Report to the Education Interim
Committee

School-Based Mental Health Screening Programs Report

August 2024

Michelle Knight

Threat and Crisis Response Support Specialist, USBE
michelle.knight@schools.utah.gov

Terrakay Bodily

School-based Mental Health Specialist, USBE
Terrakay.bodily@schools.utah.gov

Shauntelle Cota

Director of School Safety and Student Services, USBE
shauntelle.cota@schools.utah.gov

Leah Voorhies

Assistant Superintendent of Student Support, USBE
leah.voorhies@schools.utah.gov

**STATUTORY
REQUIREMENT**

U.C.A. Section 53F-2-522 requires the Utah State Board of Education (USB E) to submit a report on mental health screening programs in participating local education agencies (LEAs). LEAs may implement a mental health screening for participating students using an evidence-based screening program. The State Board is required to report on this program to the Education Interim Committee annually on or before August 30. This year marks the fourth year for this report.

School-Based Mental Health Screening Programs Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Utah Code 53F-2-522 and Board Rule R277-625, *Mental Health Screeners*, sets standards for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to implement approved mental health screening programs for students. The legislature has appropriated a \$1,000,000 for the program in 2024, however prior the allocation was \$500,000.

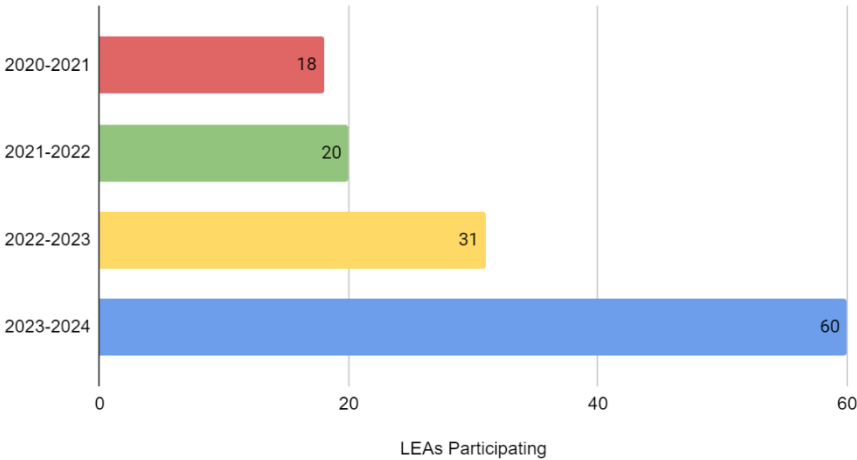
During the 2023-2024 school year, 60 of the 155 LEAs statewide participated in the school-based mental health screening program. Those 60 LEAs screened 10,380 students for the possible presence of symptoms related to anxiety, depression, or suicidal ideation. As a result of the screenings, approximately 2,869 students (or 28%) were then connected to services either within the LEA or as a referral to community resources. Charts within the report provide a comparison from the 2020-2021 school year to the 2023-2024 school year.

MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING PROGRAM

The creation of the list of screeners was approved in February 2021 by the Utah State Board of Education (USBE). The goal of the compiled list was to identify the most comprehensive set of evidence-based tools that specifically targeted mental health conditions. Doing so provides LEAs the best possible selection to choose from allowing for a wide range of choices and thus more control at the local level. Along with the list of screening tools, the Board also approved three mental health conditions for which schools could screen: anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation. These three conditions capture the leading mental health conditions that currently affect youth throughout the state.

The data presented compares the end of year report for the School-Based Mental Health Screening Program since inception to this past year (2023-2024).

LEAs Participating

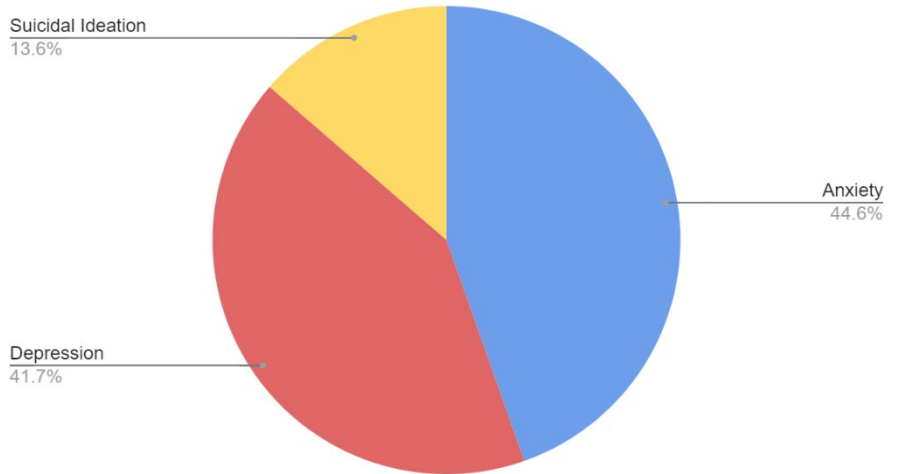


Since the implementation of the School-Based Mental Health Screening Program, participation has increased significantly due in part to H.B. 403 (2023) which required all LEAs to submit a Record of Determination whether the LEA will participate in the screening program or not. In 2020-2021, participation was 18 LEAs. As shown in the chart, participation has increased to 60 LEAs in 2023-2024.

The complete list of LEAs and their participation status can be found in Appendix A.

Participation Status	Number of LEAs
Participating Districts	35
Participating Charters	25
Non-Participating Districts	5
Non-Participating Charters	85
No response	5

Conditions Screened



Of the over 10,000 students screened, approximately 45% were screened for anxiety, 42% for depression, and 14% for suicidal ideation indicated a need for follow up assessments.

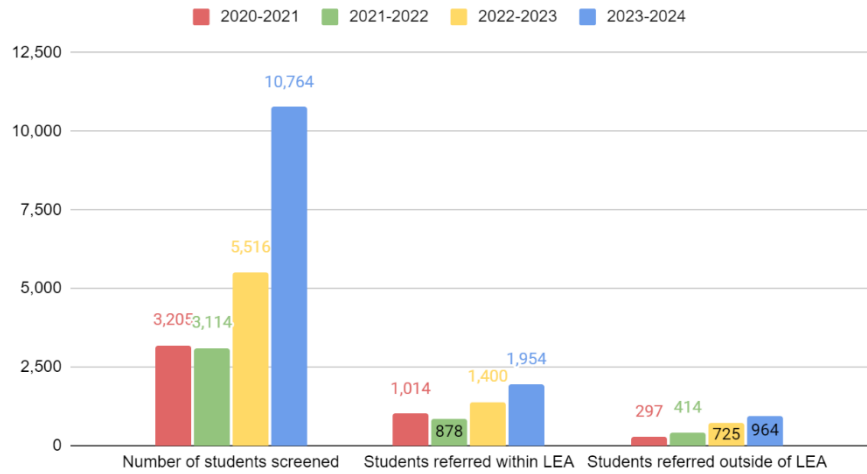
The chart below shows the number of students screened per participating LEA. The LEAs' reasoning for reporting 0 students screened can be found in Appendix B.

LEA Name	Number of Students Screened
Alpine District	43
Beaver District	0
Box Elder District	603
Cache District	63
Canyons District	232

LEA Name	Number of Students Screened
Daggett District	5
Davis District	40
Emery District	0
Garfield District	39
Granite District	46
Iron District	30
Jordan District	245
Juab District	0
Kane District	8
Logan City District	1612
Millard District	0
Murray District	80
Nebo District	67
North Sanpete District	225
North Summit District	0
Ogden City District	37
Provo District	0
Rich District	12
Salt Lake District	232
San Juan District	206
Sevier District	10
South Sanpete District	15
South Summit District	No data reported
Tintic District	0
Tooele District	220
Uintah District	4500
Wasatch District	578
Washington District	78
Wayne District	275
Weber District	61
Channing Hall	53
City Academy	21

LEA Name	Number of Students Screened
Dual Immersion Academy	No data reported
East Hollywood High	4
Edith Bowen Laboratory School	0
Entheos Academy	22
Freedom Preparatory Academy	12
George Washington Academy	51
Intech Collegiate Academy	0
Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy	32
Mountain View Montessori	21
Pinnacle Canyon Academy	94
Promontory School of Expeditionary Learning	No data reported
Ranches Academy	222
Roots Charter High School	0
Salt Lake Center for Science Education	306
Spectrum Academy	83
St. George Academy	0
Success Academy	95
Treeside Charter School	0
Utah International Charter School	0
Utah Military Academy	72
Valley Academy	67
Vista School	23
Wasatch Waldorf Charter School	24

Students Referred After Screening



Since the inception of the program, more students have been screened than ever before. Of the students that need further services, more than double are referred within the LEA than are referred for outside services.

MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING GRANT

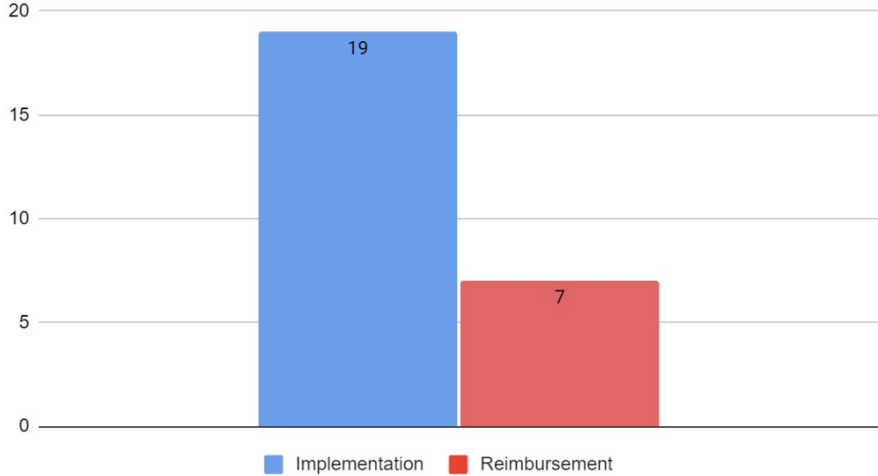
Within H.B. 323 (2023), the Legislature appropriated \$500,000 in ongoing funds for the School-Based Mental Health Screening Program grant. Board Rule R277-625 created a process for an LEA to receive reimbursement for a qualifying parent to receive mental health treatment for the parent's student based on the results of the mental health screening. The rule also clarified which parents constituted as a qualifying parent and allowed an LEA to seek funding for procuring a mental health screening tool.

In 2023-2024, USBE awarded 13 LEAs (eight school districts and five charters) grant funding for their respective School-Based Mental Health Screening Programs. With previous years' carryforward funding, an additional seven LEAs were able to receive funding. The number of LEAs applying for the grant increased from previous years.

The chart below shows the LEA use of funds as reported in 2023-2024. Most LEAs used funds for implementing their screening program. Eight LEAs used funds to reimburse parents – a total of 156 qualifying parents. Appendix C

reports LEAs that responded that funding was not sufficient for their needs.

LEA Funding Utilization



NEXT STEPS

With the requirements set forth by H.B. 403 (2023) *Student Mental Health Amendments*, participation in the program has increased drastically. For the 2024-2025 school year, H.B. 413 (2024) increased the appropriation to \$1,000,000 for the School-Based Mental Health Screening Program. This funding will now be provided to all participating LEAs based on the previous year’s average daily membership count.

Appendix A. LEA Participation Status

LEA Name	Participation Status
Alpine District	Participating
Beaver District	Participating
Box Elder District	Participating
Cache District	Participating
Canyons District	Participating
Carbon District	Non-Participating
Daggett District	Participating
Davis District	Participating
Duchesne District	No response
Emery District	Participating
Garfield District	Participating
Grand District	Non-Participating
Granite District	Participating
Iron District	Participating
Jordan District	Participating
Juab District	Participating
Kane District	Participating
Logan City District	Participating
Millard District	Participating
Morgan District	Non-Participating
Murray District	Participating
Nebo District	Participating
North Sanpete District	Participating
North Summit District	Participating
Ogden City District	Participating
Park City District	Non-Participating
Piute District	Non-Participating
Provo District	Participating
Rich District	Participating
Salt Lake District	Participating
San Juan District	Participating

LEA Name	Participation Status
Sevier District	Participating
South Sanpete District	Participating
South Summit District	Participating
Tintic District	Participating
Tooele District	Participating
Uintah District	Participating
Wasatch District	Participating
Washington District	Participating
Wayne District	Participating
Weber District	Participating
Academy for Math Engineering & Science	Non-Participating
Advantage Arts Academy	Non-Participating
American Academy of Innovation	Non-Participating
American Leadership Academy	Non-Participating
American Preparatory Academy	Non-Participating
Ascent Academies of Utah	Non-Participating
Athenian eAcademy	Non-Participating
Athlos Academy of Utah	Non-Participating
Bear River Charter School	No response
Beehive Science & Technology Academy	Non-Participating
Bonneville Academy	Non-Participating
Bridge Elementary	Non-Participating
C.S. Lewis Academy	Non-Participating
Canyon Grove Academy	Non-Participating
Canyon Rim Academy	Non-Participating
Channing Hall	Participating
City Academy	Participating
Davinci Academy	Non-Participating
Dual Immersion Academy	Participating
Early Light Academy at Daybreak	Non-Participating
East Hollywood High	Participating
Edith Bowen Laboratory School	Participating
Endeavor Hall	Non-Participating

LEA Name	Participation Status
Entheos Academy	Participating
Esperanza School	Non-Participating
Excelsior Academy	Non-Participating
Fast Forward High	No response
Franklin Discovery Academy	Non-Participating
Freedom Preparatory Academy	Participating
Gateway Preparatory Academy	Non-Participating
George Washington Academy	Participating
Good Foundations Academy	Non-Participating
Greenwood Charter School	Non-Participating
Guadalupe School	Non-Participating
Hawthorn Academy	Non-Participating
Highmark Charter School	Non-Participating
Ignite Entrepreneurship Academy	Non-Participating
Intech Collegiate Academy	Participating
Itineris Early College High	Non-Participating
Jefferson Academy	Non-Participating
John Hancock Charter School	Non-Participating
Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy	Participating
Lakeview Academy	Non-Participating
Leadership Academy of Utah	Non-Participating
Leadership Learning Academy	Non-Participating
Legacy Preparatory Academy	Non-Participating
Lincoln Academy	Non-Participating
Lumen Scholar Institute	Non-Participating
Mana Academy Charter School	Non-Participating
Maria Montessori Academy	Non-Participating
Merit College Preparatory Academy	Non-Participating
Moab Charter School	Non-Participating
Monticello Academy	Non-Participating
Mountain Heights Academy	Non-Participating
Mountain Sunrise Academy	Non-Participating
Mountain View Montessori	Participating

LEA Name	Participation Status
Mountain West Montessori Academy	Non-Participating
Mountainville Academy	Non-Participating
Navigator Pointe Academy	Non-Participating
No. UT. Acad. for Math Engineering & Science	Non-Participating
Noah Webster Academy	Non-Participating
North Davis Preparatory Academy	Non-Participating
North Star Academy	Non-Participating
Odyssey Charter School	Non-Participating
Ogden Preparatory Academy	Non-Participating
Open Classroom	Non-Participating
Pacific Heritage Academy	Non-Participating
Paradigm High School	Non-Participating
Pinnacle Canyon Academy	Participating
Promontory School of Expeditionary Learning	Participating
Providence Hall	Non-Participating
Quest Academy	Non-Participating
Ranches Academy	Participating
Reagan Academy	Non-Participating
Real Salt Lake Academy Salt Lake Academy High School	Non-Participating
Renaissance Academy	Non-Participating
Rockwell Charter High School	Non-Participating
Roots Charter High School	Participating
Salt Lake Arts Academy	Non-Participating
Salt Lake Center for Science Education	Participating
Salt Lake School for the Performing Arts	Non-Participating
Scholar Academy	Non-Participating
Soldier Hollow Charter School	Non-Participating
Spectrum Academy	Participating
St. George Academy	Participating
Success Academy	Participating
Summit Academy (& Summit Academy HS)	Non-Participating
Syracuse Arts Academy	Non-Participating

LEA Name	Participation Status
Terra Academy	Non-Participating
The Center for Creativity, Innovation and Discovery	Non-Participating
Thomas Edison	Non-Participating
Timpanogos Academy	Non-Participating
Treeside Charter School	Participating
Uintah River High	Non-Participating
USDB	Non-Participating
Utah Arts Academy	Non-Participating
Utah Career Path High School	Non-Participating
Utah Connections Academy	Non-Participating
Utah County Academy of Science	Non-Participating
Utah International Charter School	Participating
Utah Military Academy	Participating
Utah Virtual Academy	Non-Participating
Valley Academy	Participating
Vanguard Academy	Non-Participating
Venture Academy	No response
Vista School	Participating
Voyage Academy	Non-Participating
Walden School of Liberal Arts	Non-Participating
Wallace Stegner Academy	Non-Participating
Wasatch Peak Academy	Non-Participating
Wasatch Waldorf Charter School	Participating
Weber State University Charter Academy	No response
Weilenmann School of Discovery	Non-Participating
Winter Sports School	Non-Participating

Appendix B: Reasoning for not being able to screen

LEA Name	Reason For Not Screening
Beaver District	<p>Russell Carter: We picked the screeners, and I thought the state would send the screeners or more information back, and it was never followed up on.</p> <p>In response: USBE reached out to Russell and clarified instructions for the program for FY25; USBE does not provide or administer the screeners.</p>
Emery District	<p>Doug Mecham: The district does not have a specific tool for Mental Health Screening. When students show behaviors, etc. of concern, they are typically referred to the local Mental Health agency and or their doctor.</p>
Juab District	<p>Kodey Hughes: The district did not have adequate support staff and understanding to the depth and breath of the program. Additional resources are needed, as well as supports from state agencies to help understand and facilitate.</p>
Millard District	<p>Dave Styler: Millard School District did not participate in the screenings this year because it was lost among the many assignments our staff is dealing with. Personnel changes at the district office left this new item unaccounted for. We will correct that in the future.</p>
North Summit District	<p>Marci Sargent: Mental Health Screening is opt in; since it's our first year we decided to start with our middle school. Parents and students were handed the information as they each met with our counselor. The counselor explained what the screeners were and gave a handout explaining them as well as the opt in form. Not one parent wished to have their student screened.</p>
Provo District	<p>Jason Garisson: We opted not to give a screener as determined by our Board of Education.</p>
Tintic District	<p>Crystal Leuk: We were unable to implement this school year; we have a plan to implement next year.</p>
Edith Bowen Laboratory School	<p>Clint Farmer: We implemented a program by offering screenings to 6th graders but none of them or their families have requested one so far.</p>

LEA Name	Reason For Not Screening
Intech Collegiate Academy	Jason Stanger - Our charter is authorized by Cache District and our students are able to participate in their screening process.
Roots Charter High School	Alisa Muhlestein: The success of a mental health screening program relies on the support and readiness of the entire school community, including students, parents, and staff. Currently, we are researching and meeting as an administration and counseling department to discuss ways to bring in better community support for mental health. Doing the screening without this support is something that we feel would not be beneficial to our school community.
St. George Academy	Jodi Jensen: We were late in applying for the funding and ran out of time.
Treeside Charter School	Eva Calvillo: Our social worker conducted a couple crisis evaluations but no mental health screenings.
Utah International Charter School	Usha Narra: I took over as principal of Utah International mid-year. I did not know that our school was participating in this program otherwise I would have fully utilized it.

Appendix C: Reasoning for funding not being sufficient

LEA Name	Reason For Funding Not Being Sufficient
Box Elder District	We have plan for next year for who we would like to send to outside therapists. We would also like to have a parenting group, so we would like the funding to do it. We would also love another clinician.
Granite District	We used department/district funding to make up the difference in costs for staffing and printing.
Weber District	Cost of a data platform to maintain and track student information exceeds the amount allocated through the grant.
Pinnacle Canyon Academy	We could use more funding to pay for additional therapists to join us on staff as there is usually a waiting list but the waiting lists out in the community are much longer. We had about a six-week period over the past year where we did not have a waiting list.