



Prevention Newsletter

April 2025

This newsletter is intended for educators and other stakeholders who have a role in providing school-based prevention activities. Any information contained is to provide updates to the field on prevention matters. This newsletter should not be forwarded.



Utah State
Board of
Education

Prevention

In collaboration with families, educators, and communities, the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) Prevention Team works to identify and decrease risk factors, increase protective factors, and provide students with equitable access to resources in a safe environment that will help them thrive. This collective effort aims to foster student well-being and success across all stages of life.



Five Protective Factors

Focus on Protective Factors

Prevention Webinars and Workshop Updates

The USBE Prevention team is proud to announce the successful conclusion of the Prevention Webinar series for the 2024-2025 school year. This year, the Prevention team held monthly webinars, starting in October 2024, to discuss the evidence-informed Protective Factor Framework. Each month, we featured one of the protective factors and how to operationalize it in schools. We are grateful to the many guest speakers that willingly joined us to share their work implementing protective factors at the ground level in schools. We are also

thankful to everyone who attended the webinars, and for the overwhelmingly positive feedback. Though the webinars have concluded for the 2024-2025 year, you can find all the recordings and presentations on the [USB E Prevention website](#) under [Other Prevention Professional Learning](#). We invite you to watch the recordings, especially if you were unable to attend. We think that you will find them well worth your time.

Instead of a webinar in April 2025, the Prevention team will be coming to YOU. We are providing prevention workshops at key areas around the state to give us an opportunity to connect with you, as you further your prevention work to achieve positive outcomes for students. We also wanted to provide the opportunity for collaboration with your colleagues and hear about their good work. This will be a time to really dig deeply into the science of implementation, the Protective Factor framework, the prevention block grant, and how to leverage all of those in your comprehensive prevention plans. Multiple prevention team members will be present for interaction and questions. We are looking forward to the workshops and collaborating with you, and we hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity. For more information, refer to the Professional Learning section for details and registration in MIDAS, Course 64851.

The webinar series will resume in October 2025 in partnership with the USB E Student Services Team. We welcome your feedback and topic suggestions for future webinars. Please reach out to [Tanya Albornoz](mailto:tanya.albornoz@schools.utah.gov) (tanya.albornoz@schools.utah.gov) with your input. Look for information in future newsletters that will announce the dates and the topics for each future webinar. We hope you will consider participating.

Thank you for your dedication to Utah's students. We are looking forward to seeing you at the April 2025 workshops. We also hope you have a wonderful and restful summer, and we look forward to seeing you on future Prevention webinars!



Prevention Stars



**CHECK &
CONNECT**

We are pleased to recognize **Tammy Bullock**, Check and Connect Mentor, Morgan High School, Morgan School District as the **Prevention Star for April**.

Tammy's nominator remarked: "Tammy has taken on the challenge of building a program for our most at risk students. She has already found and helped so many students in such a short time!" Tammy has been at Morgan High School in various roles for over twenty years, and everything she does is done with passion and care for students and families.

Congratulations to Tammy! We are so grateful for all you do to support students.

The USBE Prevention Team would like to celebrate with you! We would like to recognize successful prevention work happening across the state that has demonstrated promising outcomes for students. Please submit any success

stories, excellent practices, or examples of exemplary prevention work that is happening in your Local Education Agency (LEA) (school district or charter school). We will be including these in future newsletters so we can share your work with your colleagues statewide. We may also be including them in statewide prevention webinars as well as other professional learning opportunities.

Feel free to nominate a school district, charter school, program, school, or an individual. We may follow up with you if we need more information. We look forward to receiving your nominations.

Please fill out this [Qualtrics form](#) to nominate a Prevention Star.



Prevention Updates

Child Abuse Prevention Month

This month, keep an eye out for blue and silver pinwheel gardens around your community. Since 2008, these pinwheels have served as the national symbol for child abuse prevention, reminding us



that every child deserves a safe and healthy childhood. It also reminds us that we have a collective responsibility to foster supportive environments for children and positive childhood experiences.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness and take action to protect children in Utah. This month serves as a reminder of the importance of creating safe and nurturing environments for all children. It's an opportunity for schools, families, communities, and organizations to come together to educate, support, and advocate for the well-being of Utah's youth. By acknowledging the issue and working collectively, we can strive to prevent child abuse.

USBE promotes prevention efforts through increased awareness and resources, aiming to build a stronger network of support for children and families by fostering a culture of safety and protection. For learning opportunities, visit the [USBE Prevention website](#).

Alcohol Awareness Month

April is also Alcohol Awareness Month, which reminds us that underage drinking can have a negative impact on the developing brains of youth. Encouragingly, according to the 2023 [Statewide SHARP Survey Report](#), 88.8% of Utah's youth have never tried alcohol. This positive statistic reflects the dedicated efforts of parents, educators, and communities across the state who are committed to helping Utah's kids make healthy choices and stay alcohol-free.

To support this mission, Utah has implemented the Botvin LifeSkills Training program, a required underage drinking and substance use prevention initiative for students in grades 4 or 5, 7 or 8, and 9 or 10. This evidence-based program focuses on skill-building, which research has shown to effectively reduce the risk of underage drinking. Additionally, each school is tasked with developing and implementing a positive behaviors plan, addressing mental health, peer pressure, and fostering meaningful relationships — all of which contribute to reducing the risk of underage drinking.

For more tips on how parents and educators can support this effort, visit

ParentsEmpowered.org or "[Talk. They Hear You.](#)"® Underage Drinking Campaign.



Utah's *Do the Write Thing* Challenge

2025 marks the 24th annual *Do the Write Thing* (DtWT) Challenge in Utah, a collaboration with the National Campaign to Stop Violence. This program gives 7th and 8th graders the opportunity to reflect on youth violence and propose solutions through writing. It emphasizes personal responsibility and encourages students to take positive steps toward change. The goal is to break the cycle of violence in homes, schools, and communities.

This year, 16 schools participated, with over 1,000 students participating in-classroom discussion, and nearly 350 writings submitted for evaluation. In April, the Utah DtWT Committee hosts an award ceremony honoring the top two student writers from each participating school. These students receive scholarships deposited into a My529 Utah Education Savings Account. One national finalist, named an "Ambassador of Peace," represents Utah in Washington, D.C., where they meet with Utah's Congressional delegation and attend a reception hosted by the Kuwaiti Ambassador to the U.S. Their writings are also archived in the Library of Congress.

Beyond awards, DtWT empowers youth to take an active role in combating violence. By addressing issues where they occur and engaging local communities, the program fosters meaningful and lasting change.

For more information visit [Do the Write Thing \(DtWT\) Challenge](#).



A message from SafeUT

SafeUT and USBE want to provide assurance that we continue to carefully monitor all potential school threat tips submitted to the SafeUT app. With any tips SafeUT receives, its team of licensed counselors works with school administrators and law enforcement as necessary.

Immediately reporting concerns to SafeUT through the "Submit a Tip" feature on the app or [SafeUT's website](https://SafeUT.org) (SafeUT.org), ensures that the information gets to the proper authorities, who can then investigate it. Sharing posts on social media does not guarantee the concern will be received by authorities and likely increases the community's anxiety.

Trauma Sensitive Schools Courses

Through online coursework via Canvas, the Trauma Sensitive Schools Professional Learning follows a Trauma Skilled Schools Model (National Dropout Prevention Center, 2018) and is delivered in the following three courses.



- Course 1: Becoming Trauma Informed Learning Modules
 - Informs all school personnel (certified and classified) about the prevalence and impact of trauma and toxic stress in the lives of Utah students.
 - Builds capacity for individuals and schools who support students Pre-K through Grade 12
- Course 2: Trauma Informed Practices Learning Modules
 - Equips all school personnel (classified and certified) with trauma informed educational practices.
 - Builds capacity for individuals and schools who support students Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12.
- Course 3: Trauma Sensitive Schools Implementation and Maintenance Learning Modules
 - Intended specifically for LEA leaders and building administrators.

- Builds capacity for administrators in moving towards a sustainable, systemic approach for trauma sensitive school practices.

If you are interested, please visit the [USB E Trauma Sensitive Schools Courses](#) webpage to learn more and to register.



Prevention Team Spotlight



This month we would like to put the spotlight on **Cuong Nguyen, Prevention Specialist!**

Cuong Nguyen has been a Prevention Specialist at the USB E since 2020, focusing on restorative practices and supporting LEAs under the School Safety and Student Services section. He manages the annual *Do the Write Thing* Challenge, a youth violence prevention initiative for 7th and 8th graders, and oversees the Juvenile Gang Prevention Grant.

Additionally, he serves as the superintendent's designee on the Utah Youth Court Board and is a member of the USB E 3C Strategic Planning Committee, working to enhance educators' capacity to address students' mental, emotional, and social needs.

Before joining USB E, Cuong spent 12 years shaping juvenile justice policy at the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) within the Governor's Office. In 2008, he became Utah's first Disproportionate Minority Contact

Coordinator, leading efforts to reduce minority overrepresentation in the juvenile justice system. In 2014, he was promoted to State Juvenile Justice Specialist, overseeing the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice (UBJJ) and ensuring compliance with federal juvenile justice standards. In 2017, he was appointed Director of the [Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee \(JJOC\)](#), tasked with implementing [House Bill \(H.B.\) 239 \(2017\)](#), a major juvenile justice reform. Cuong is a fourth year Ph.D. student, University of Utah - Educational Leadership and Policy. He also volunteers as the program director for a nonprofit organization.

Originally from Vietnam, Cuong immigrated to the U.S. in 1991 as a 6th grader. He has lived in Utah ever since and currently resides in Salt Lake County with his wife of 18 years and their two sons, who play travel hockey. In his free time, he enjoys gardening, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

Cuong Nguyen, MSW

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Phone: (801) 538-7790

Prevention Specialist - Restorative Practices, Gang Prevention, DtWT Challenge

April Board Meeting

Summary of Highlights

The Utah State Board of Education:

The Utah State Board of Education:

- Updated its internal audit plan
- Approved the LEA Annual Assurances Document
- Approved an interagency data-sharing agreement with Utah State University's Center for School of the Future
- [Full agenda](#)



The Utah State Board of Education approved, amended, or repealed the following administrative rules:

- [R277-317, Incentive for National Board Certification](#)

This rule is being updated to optimize timelines for bonus payments for educators while a new system for the National Board Certification bonus payments is being implemented to replace the Teacher Salary Supplement Program.

- [R277-121, Board Waiver of Administrative Rules](#)

This rule is being updated following legislative requests to add more detail to the USBE waiver process for schools and LEAs applying for a waiver from board rule.

- [R277-801, Services for Students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, Visually Impaired, and Deaf-Blind](#)

This rule is being amended to allow the Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind (USDB) to charge fees for services provided to LEAs following legislative changes.

See the [full agenda](#) or visit the [USBE website](#) for more information.



Professional Learning

The USBE Prevention Team offers many professional learning opportunities. You can find the details in the Professional Learning sidebar menu on the [Prevention webpage](#).

For customized professional learning or training requests please use the [Student Services Training Request Portal \(TRP\)](#).

Remember to put the following dates on your calendars.

2025 Prevention Workshops

UPDATE:

We are pleased to inform you that the USBE Prevention team has decided to add an additional prevention workshop in Salt Lake City on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. This new session will provide an opportunity for those on the waitlist to attend the workshop near your original sign-up preferences.

WHAT: The USBE Prevention Team invites LEAs to attend an in-person prevention workshop.

WHO: School administrators, prevention staff, behavior specialists, school counselors, school social workers, teachers, school mentors, and staff who work directly with students.

WHEN: All workshops will be held in April and May 2025 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. See the schedule below for details.

WHERE: Six locations throughout the state. See the schedule below for details.

ACTION: [Register in MIDAS, Course 64851](#)

Choose the location and date that you prefer and register for the corresponding section.

April 22, 2025 (Tuesday)

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Ogden School District

1950 Monroe Blvd

Ogden, UT 84401

April 23, 2025 (Wednesday)

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location: Granite School District
2500 South State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84115

April 24, 2025 (Thursday)

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location: Uintah School District
826 South 1500 East
Naples, UT 84078

April 25, 2025 (Friday)

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location: Nebo School District
350 South Main
Spanish Fork, UT 84660

April 28, 2025 (Monday)

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location: Moab Arts and Recreation
111 East 100 North
Moab, UT 84532

April 30, 2025 (Wednesday)

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location: Festival Hall Conference Center
96 North Main Street
Cedar City, UT 84720

Newly Added Salt Lake City Workshop

May 14, 2025 (Wednesday)

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location: Utah State Board of Education Office
Basement West
250 East 500 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

2025 Promising Youth Pre-Conference Session

WHAT: Restorative Practices: Cultivating Connection and Accountability. The Utah State Board of Education Prevention Team, in partnership with the Utah Promising Youth Conference Committee, and the Restorative Justice Collaborative of Utah, is pleased to announce a one-day pre-conference session on restorative practices. This event is designed for professionals across various sectors to learn how to effectively use restorative practices to support youth. We invite professionals from human services, juvenile courts, education (including teachers, counselors, social workers, behavior specialists, and administrators), mental health, law enforcement, and other community programs to join us. Participants will gain foundational knowledge and strategies for building positive relationships with youth and promoting accountability.

WHO: Professionals working in human services, juvenile courts, education (teachers, school counselors, social workers, behavior specialists, school administrators), mental health, law enforcement, and community programs serving youth.

WHEN: May 7, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Cliff Lodge at Snowbird Mountain Resort, 9320 S. Cliff Lodge Dr., Snowbird UT 84092.

ACTION: Register online [HERE](#). Registration is \$35 plus fees, and includes lunch.

INFORMATION: For more details, please visit the [Promising Youth Conference website](#). The 2025 Promising Youth Conference will follow on May 8 - 9, 2025, at The Cliff Lodge at Snowbird Mountain Resort. Lodging discounts for the conference are available until April 7, 2025 via Snowbird Central Reservations at 1 (800) 232-9542.

Positive Childhood Experiences Workshop

WHAT: The USBE Prevention Team is partnering with the Utah Prevention Coalition Association (UPCA) to hold a one-day in-person pre-conference workshop in conjunction with the annual UPCA Summit at Bryce Canyon focused on Positive Childhood Experiences. The cost of the workshop is \$150 + \$14.30 in

processing fees, which includes accommodation at Ruby's Inn, as well as breakfast and lunch. Participants can attend the UPCA Summit June 11 - 13, 2025 for an additional charge, which also covers hotel accommodations, breakfast, and lunch.

WHO: Student Services Directors, District/School Prevention Specialists, School Counselors, Administrators, Community Coalition Leaders, Community Prevention Coordinators.

WHEN: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (one day prior to the annual UPCA Summit held June 11-13, 2025)

WHERE: Best Western Plus-Ruby's Inn - 26 S. Main St., Bryce Canyon City, UT 84764

ACTION: Register [HERE](#). There are multiple ticket types, so please review carefully before selecting. Due to limited availability, early registration is highly recommended.

INFORMATION: For more information, please contact [Clarissa Stebbing](mailto:clarissa.stebbing@schools.utah.gov) (clarissa.stebbing@schools.utah.gov).



Tanya Albornoz is the Prevention Coordinator at the Utah State Board of Education (USBE). In this role she oversees the implementation of prevention programs such as suicide prevention, substance use prevention, gang prevention, bullying prevention, child sexual abuse and human trafficking prevention, trauma-informed practices in education, and more.

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Contact Us

[Meet the Prevention Team](#)

To contact the Prevention Team, email prevention@schools.utah.gov.

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Subscribe to join the [School-based Prevention Services Listserv](#) using the Utah Education Network (UEN) Mailing List

Subscribe to join our [Suicide Prevention Listserv](#) using the UEN Mailing List

USBE Prevention Website



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