

Prevention Newsletter

June 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.

Message from the Prevention Coordinator

As we wind down the 2024-2025 school year, we want to extend our deepest gratitude for everything you do for our students. Your dedication, hard work, and passion have made a significant impact on their lives and learning experiences.

We hope that you are able to find some time to relax, perform self-care, and rejuvenate yourself for the coming year. Your well-being is essential, and you deserve a well-earned break after all your efforts.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer break. May it be filled with joy, relaxation, and memorable moments. We look forward to seeing you refreshed and ready for another successful year ahead.

Warm regards,

Tanya Albornoz
Prevention Coordinator



Prevention Stars



We are pleased to recognize **Principal Adam Huffaker** as the Prevention Star for June 2025.

Principal Adam Huffaker led Mountain Trails Elementary's turnaround by implementing a comprehensive behavior support system. His focus on teaching expectations and re-teaching skills improved student behavior, school climate, and access to learning for all. Mr. Huffaker's vision and dedication have not only improved student behavior but have transformed the culture and climate of Mountain Trails Elementary. Amie Sisam wrote: "His work exemplifies the impact

of research-based, systemic approaches to student support and is deserving of recognition by the Utah State Board of Education.”

Nominate a Prevention Star

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

School Safety and Student Services Webpage Updated

WHAT: The School Safety and Student Services webpage has been updated to reflect the changes in our section and teams.

WHO: All Local Education Agency (LEA) staff who participate in the work of prevention, school safety, and student services (behavior, school-based mental health, school nursing and wellness, and student and family services), parents, stakeholders, and community members.

WHEN: Updated content is live and available for use.

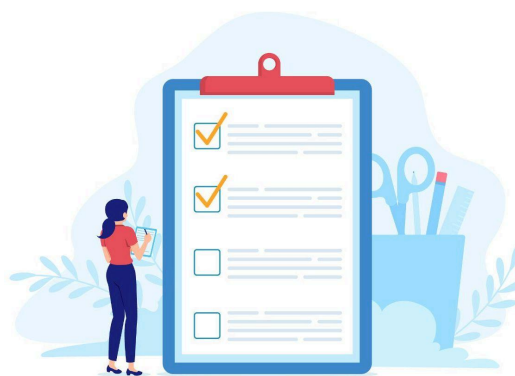
WHERE: Meetings will take place over Zoom. Link to be provided at a later date.

ACTION: Visit our [School Safety and Student Services](#) webpage to learn more about available resources and technical assistance.

INFORMATION: Please visit the [School Safety and Student Services Contacts](#) page to connect with personnel who can support the work of your LEA.

School Climate Survey

LEAs that are interested in administering the model School Climate Survey for the 2025-2026 school year should begin preparing to collect parent consent during 2025-2026 student registration. Parent consent must be collected annually for the model School Climate Survey per [Utah Code Section 53E-9-203](#). LEAs can access the [2026 LEA Resources folder](#).



As a reminder, LEAs that do not collect parent consent during student registration cannot administer the model School Climate Survey for the corresponding school year. LEAs can administer other school climate surveys per [Utah Code Section 53E-9-203](#).

For questions, email SchoolSafetyPrograms@schools.utah.gov.

Incident Data

“Other” was the most reported infraction category the past two years in the annual School Disciplinary and Law Enforcement Action Report. USBE has incorporated LEA Feedback from the Fall 2024 Discipline Data Infraction Codes Workgroup for the creation of new infraction codes to better understand incident data. Senate Bill (S.B.) 170: School Discipline Amendments (2025) passed and requires additional data to be collected for emergency safety interventions (ESIs). See Lines [262-267](#) and [326-335](#) for additional information. LEAs should work with the appropriate personnel (e.g. IT, student service directors) to collect and report these data. Stay tuned for more information. For questions, email datastatistics@schools.utah.gov or SchoolSafetyPrograms@schools.utah.gov.



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, the 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 (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 **Michelle Knight, Prevention Specialist!**

Michelle began her career in mental health in 2016 at the University of Utah's Neuropsychiatric Institute (now known as the Huntsman Mental Health Institute). During that time, she played a key role in the statewide implementation of SafeUT, Utah's crisis and tip line app providing 24/7 support to students, educators, and parents.

In 2019, she brought that experience to the Utah State Board of Education (USBE), where she oversaw the federal Project AWARE grant. In this role, Michelle led initiatives to build sustainable school-based mental health systems, guided district teams through Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), and supported the implementation of trauma-informed practices across multiple Utah LEAs. She also played a pivotal role in developing collaborative partnerships with community mental health providers and helped expand Youth Mental Health First Aid training statewide.

Since 2023, Michelle has served as a Threat & Crisis Response Support Specialist at USBE. In this position, she supports Local Education Agencies (LEAs) across the state in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from crises. Michelle

assists with coordination during school-based critical incidents, helps LEAs strengthen their emergency operations plans, and provides guidance on evidence-based threat assessment processes. She is an active member of USBE's Crisis Response and Support Team and contributes to statewide training initiatives focused on school safety and mental wellness.

Michelle holds a Master's degree in Health Administration and a Master's degree in Business Administration. Her master's capstone project, "Managing the Merger of Mental Health CrisisLine Resources," involved overseeing a \$3.4 million budget and positioned Utah as the national pilot for the 988 crisis line initiative. She is certified in PREPaRE, Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA), the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (C-STAG), and the Protective Factors Framework, and is also a Master Instructor in Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR). With a background rooted in both clinical practice and systems-level strategy, Michelle is passionate about empowering schools to create safe, connected learning environments for all students.

Michelle shared,

"Working in crisis response has deepened my belief in the power of relationships. Our most important work is helping people feel seen, heard, and supported — especially in their most difficult moments."

She has presented on school mental health, crisis recovery, and interagency collaboration at both state and national conferences.

Outside of work, Michelle enjoys spending time with her husband and two daughters, exploring new places, traveling, eating good food, and camping.

Michelle Knight, MHA & MBA

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Prevention Specialist - USBE Crisis Response and Support Team, School Safety Center

June Board Meeting

Summary of Highlights

The Utah State Board of Education:



The Utah State Board of Education:

- Swore in Dr. Molly Hart as Utah's Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- Elected Amanda Bollinger as vice chair, succeeding Dr. Hart in the Board's leadership structure.
- Approved the updated Least Restrictive Behavior Intervention manual and corresponding rule.
- Released draft math standards and draft PE standards for public comment.
- [Full agenda](#)

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

- [R277-632, Funding for At-Risk Students and Students Learning English.](#)
This rule is being created to establish requirements for the At Risk Add-On Funding Report and be in compliance with state law.
- [R277-480, Charter School Revolving Account.](#)
This rule is being updated to remove references to the code that was sunsetted and set procedures for charter school revolving loans and the associated committee.
- [R277-609, Standards for LEA Discipline Plans and Emergency Safety Interventions \(Incorporated Document\).](#)
This rule is being amended to align with the corresponding rule and require LEAs to document 504 plans with intent to distribute to relevant personnel.
- [R277-609, Standards for LEA Discipline Plans and Emergency Safety Interventions.](#) This rule is being amended to add the updated Least Restrictive Behavioral Intervention (LRBI) incorporated document.
- [R277-100, Definitions for Utah State Board of Education Rules.](#)
This rule is being reviewed prior to its five-year review and update the definition of cumulative file to include documentation of a student's

exemption from immunization requirements, add a definition of "success sequence" consistent with [2025 House Bill \(H.B.\) 281](#), and add clarification to the definition of suspension to highlight that the UPPAC rules have a separate definition for the term.

- [R277-123, Process for Members of the Public to Report Violations of Statute and Board Rule.](#)

This rule is being amended at the request of several board members to improve this rule by adding a system to handle public complaints submitted through the hotline and outline the process to address noncompliance.

- [R277-303, Educator Preparation Programs.](#)

This rule is being amended to add a provision allowing a consortium of private schools to create an APPEL program.

- [R277-313, Student Support Licensing Areas of Concentration.](#)

This rule is being amended to add definitions and clarify the scope of practice for student support license areas consistent with [2025 House Bill \(H.B.\) 281](#).

- [R277-631, Student Toilet Training Requirements.](#)

This rule is being amended after recommendations by staff to clarify requirements for enrolling students with disabilities.

- [R277-476, Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program.](#)

This rule is being continued upon its five-year review.

- [R277-700, The Elementary and Secondary School General Core.](#)

This rule is being amended to clarify credits for classes.

- [R277-707, Enhancement for Accelerated Students Program.](#)

This rule is being continued upon its five-year review.

- [R277-736, Juvenile Court or Law Enforcement Notice and Information Dissemination.](#)

This rule is being continued upon its five-year review.

- [R277-406, Early Learning Program and Benchmark Assessments \(Incorporated Document\).](#)

This document is being amended to be in compliance with [House Bill \(H.B.\) 76](#).

- [R277-406, Early Learning Program and Benchmark Assessments.](#)

This rule is being amended to be in compliance with [House Bill \(H.B.\) 76](#).

- [R277-326, Early Learning Professional Learning Grant Program.](#)

This rule is being continued upon its five-year review.

See the [full agenda](#) or visit the [USBE Website](#) for more details.



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.

K-12 Cybersecurity Practices Focus Group

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) is hosting a cybersecurity focus group to gain a deeper understanding of cybersecurity practices of Local Education Agencies (LEAs). This focus group is the first step in developing minimum cybersecurity standards for LEAs to implement per House Bill (H.B.) 40 (2025): School Safety Amendments. Please see below for more information regarding joining the *K-12 Cybersecurity Practices Focus Group*.

WHAT: *K-12 Cybersecurity Practices Focus Group*, a focus group that will complete an initial *K-12 Cybersecurity Practices Questionnaire*, and then attend two follow-up workshops to review, discuss, and provide feedback on the proposed findings.

WHO: A group of 10-15 stakeholders who are involved in the Local Education Agency (LEA) cybersecurity practices and implementation at either the organization or school level, including LEA Administrators, School Administrators, and Information Technology (IT) Administrators.

WHEN: Participants of the *K-12 Cybersecurity Practices Focus Group* will need to attend, or assign an alternative designee to attend, two workshops. Each workshop will have two options for attendance.

- Workshop 1:
 - Monday, June 23, 2025 | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. OR
 - Thursday, June 26, 2025 | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Workshop 2:
 - Monday, June 30, 2025 | 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. OR
 - Wednesday, July 2, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Meetings will take place over Zoom. Link to be provided at a later date.

WHY: The Utah School Safety Center is working towards establishing minimum cybersecurity standards for LEAs. Please join us to share your current cybersecurity practices, as input from the field is crucial to ensure the standards are effective and practical.

INFORMATION: For questions or additional information, please contact [Michelle Knight](mailto:michelle.knight@schools.utah.gov), (michelle.knight@schools.utah.gov) and [Ashley Pistello](mailto:ashley.pistello@schools.utah.gov), (ashley.pistello@schools.utah.gov).



Tanya Alborno 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



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