



Prevention Newsletter

October 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.

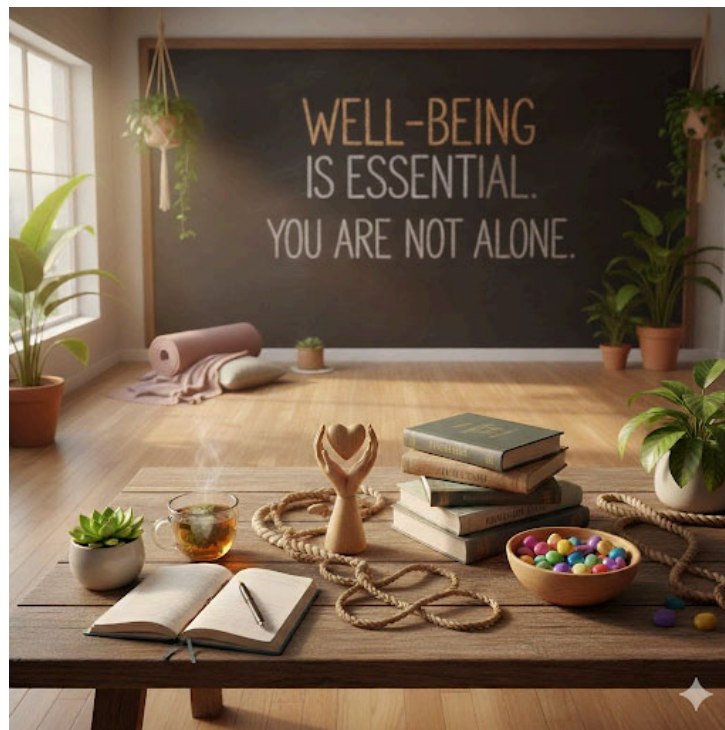


Utah State
Board of
Education

Prevention

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) Prevention Team upholds the Board's Vision to open doors of opportunity for all students by working to identify and decrease risk factors, increase protective factors, and provide students with access to resources in a safe environment that will help them thrive. In collaboration with families, educators, communities the team aims to foster students well-being and success across all stages of life.

Message from the Prevention Coordinator



Created with Gemini Image Creator with the prompt: create an image to represent well-being, community, support, and self-care.

Since the beginning of the school year, the USBE Prevention team has had the wonderful opportunity to provide several trainings for Local Education Agencies

(LEAs) around the state regarding prevention issues and effective prevention approaches. We feel so fortunate to be able to be among those of you doing the work on the front lines, and we always leave so impressed by your hard work and dedication to Utah students. It has made us grateful to be part of a community that shows up with heart, resilience, and a deep commitment to the well-being of our students. In recent months, Utah has experienced several heartbreaking tragedies that have deeply affected our schools and communities. These moments remind us just how critical prevention work is—and how important it is to care for ourselves and each other along the way.

We hope that everyone is taking time to check in with themselves and seek support when needed. You are not alone in this work. Whether through peer connection, professional help, or simply taking a moment to breathe, your well-being matters just as much as the students you serve.

Prevention work is not easy. It requires courage, compassion, and a belief in the power of proactive care. But your efforts, day in and day out, are making a difference. You are helping to build safer, more supportive environments where students can thrive.

Thank you for your dedication, your strength and your unwavering commitment to Utah's youth. We see you. We appreciate you. And we are honored to walk alongside you in this vital work.

Please take care of yourselves. You are changing lives—and you make a difference.

Warm regards,

Tanya Albornoz
USBE Prevention Coordinator

Please reach out to prevention@schools.utah.gov with questions or for help.



Protective Factor Feature

The **Protective Factor Framework** is a research-based approach that strengthens and improves child and family well-being by reducing risks and promoting positive outcomes, even amid adversity. It guides education staff to focus on five key attributes that help reduce student risk, enhance well-being, and support student success. One Protective Factor will be highlighted each month. This month's focus is on **Knowledge of Development**.

As the USBE Prevention team has traveled across the state, we have noticed a consistent gap in professional development around child and adolescent development. Most educators receive only minimal instruction on this topic during their pre-service training, which sometimes means they have only completed one or two instructional hours. However, some LEAs have begun offering ongoing learning opportunities in this area and are seeing meaningful improvements in educator confidence and instructional effectiveness.

Understanding child development is essential for designing age-appropriate learning experiences and fostering student growth. This understanding allows teachers to create supportive environments, tailor lessons, set realistic expectations, identify developmental concerns, and communicate effectively with parents, ultimately contributing to a child's academic success. It empowers educators to:

- Design Effective and Age-Appropriate Instruction
 - Align lessons with students' physical, cognitive, emotional and social abilities
 - Create engaging experiences that match developmental levels
- Create Supportive Learning Environments

- Recognize individual strengths and learning paces
- Foster motivation by tapping into natural interests
- Identify and Respond to Developmental Needs
 - Monitor milestones and detect early signs of concern
 - Support early intervention and collaboration with families
- Enhance Communication and Collaboration
 - Build strong partnerships with parents
 - Develop strategies to support students through challenges
- Build a Foundation for Future Success
 - Support holistic growth across all domains
 - Lay the groundwork for long-term academic and personal success

Importantly, when students are taught about their own development (such as what is typical, what is changing, and why) it can help them feel more confident, less alone, and better equipped to navigate challenges. This self-awareness fosters resilience and empowers students to take ownership of their learning and well-being.

Investing in educators' and students' understanding of development is a powerful way to strengthen prevention efforts and improve outcomes for all. We encourage LEAs to explore ways to integrate this learning into ongoing professional development and classroom instruction.

For more information on the protective factor framework, please visit the [USBE Prevention webpage](#).



Prevention Updates



Every Day Counts Statewide Attendance Campaign Has Begun

USBE has launched a new **statewide attendance campaign, *Every Day Counts***, to spotlight the importance of regular school attendance and help families, schools, and communities reduce chronic absenteeism. According to recent USBE data, nearly 1 in 5 Utah students is chronically absent—a growing concern that spans every grade level, region and demographic group across the state.

The *Every Day Counts* campaign includes outreach resources for families, educator training, data tracking tools, and community partnerships to address transportation, mental health and other challenges that impact student attendance. Additional information and resources can be found on the [Stronger Schools Start with Commitment: Help Build a Culture Where Every Day Counts flyer](#) and in the [Absenteeism and Truancy Prevention section of our webpage](#) under the Attendance Campaign tab.



Announcing the 2025-2026 Do the Write Thing Challenge

We are excited to announce the **2025-2026 Do the Write Thing (DtWT) Challenge**, an initiative aimed at empowering middle school students to discuss and address youth violence through writing. The Challenge is open to all middle school students and offers the opportunity to examine the impact of youth violence on their lives and communicate in writing what they think should be done to change the culture of violence. The Challenge is managed by the USBE Prevention Team in association with the Utah DtWT Committee, which includes USBE staff and educators.

Governor Cox has been vocal about his support of the DtWT Challenge, stating that “the DtWT Challenge ultimately strives to help them (students) break the cycle of violence in their homes, school and neighborhoods. In today’s social media climate, the DtWT Challenge offers the opportunity for students to express their view in a non-threatening manner. Teachers should encourage students to participate.”

A [recording of the webinar about the Challenge](#), classroom lesson plans, resources and guidelines on how to facilitate student-friendly discussion about the topic are available on the DtWT webpage linked below. A copy of the webinar presentation will be available soon.

ACTION: Review the [instructions package](#), [register to participate](#), and forward this message to any junior/middle high school colleagues.

For instructions on how to participate, teachers can visit the [Utah Do the Write Thing Challenge webpage](#) or contact [Cuong Nguyen](#) (cuong.nguyen@schools.utah.gov) for more information.



Created with Gemini Image Creator with the prompt: create a red ribbon week art image with a loop ribbon and simple background.

Red Ribbon Week

Observed annually from October 23rd–31st, Red Ribbon Week is the nation’s largest drug prevention campaign. It is a great time to promote healthy choices, build protective skills and strengthen connections within our school communities. Research shows that students who avoid substance use are more likely to succeed academically and thrive socially. Let’s use this week to start meaningful conversations and provide opportunities for youth to strengthen their commitment to making healthy choices, laying the foundation for a successful future.

For resources on substance use prevention, check out [USBE Substance Use Prevention Resources](#).



Youth Court/Peer Court and Accountability Practices

Youth court is defined in [Utah Code 80-6-901: Juvenile Justice Youth Court Definitions](#) as, "a diversion program offering an alternative resolution for minors who commit minor offenses." A youth court may be established by a sponsoring entity defined as, "any political subdivision of the state, including a school or school district, juvenile court, law enforcement agency, prosecutor's office, county, city, or town" OR by a private nonprofit entity that contracts with a sponsoring entity. In practice, a local government entity such as law enforcement agencies, school districts, city governments, or nonprofit organizations can initiate and sponsor a youth court. Sponsors oversee court formation, certification and training as defined in [Utah Code 80-6-909: Juvenile Justice Youth Court establishing a youth court -- Sponsoring entity responsibilities](#).

In youth court, students take on courtroom roles such as jurors, lawyers, judges, bailiffs, clerks, etc., under the adult supervision of a coordinator. This peer-led model uses reparative principles to address behavior, and is uniquely used as an alternative approach to address students' behaviors as defined in [Utah Code Section 53G-8-211: School Discipline and Conduct Plans Responses to school-based behavior](#). The youth court approach builds protective factors that promote student well-being, offer social support, build resilience and foster emotional and social competence.

Utah currently has 21 certified youth courts: 19 city-run and 2 school-based (in Ogden and Canyons school districts). While not all are school-initiated, many accept referrals from schools and communities. Layton City Peer Court is in its 28th year, and Salt Lake Peer Court began in 1993. Interested entities wanting to know more about youth courts or starting one can visit the [Utah Youth Court Association](#) for more information.

On **November 20, 2025**, from 12:00–1:00 p.m., the USBE Prevention Team will host a panel featuring Canyon School District's Peer Court, now in its sixth year with 453 cases handled. Panelists include Director Charisse Hilton, student judges, and a school resource officer discussing protocols, collaboration and accountability practices. All participants will candidly share their

experiences. [Register via Zoom to attend the panel](#) featuring Canyon School District's Peer Court.



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.



Prevention Funding

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) FY25 Community and Schools Youth Drug Prevention Program

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) supports the delivery of substance use prevention programs for youth in schools and extracurricular settings in coordination with local law enforcement and community coalitions. This program will support communities to implement a range of youth substance use prevention strategies, such as investigations, treatment, and education in coordination with local law enforcement and community coalitions that include but are not limited to the following:

- Developing comprehensive prevention programs for students from preschool to grade 12, covering education, early intervention, mentoring, and treatment referral;
- Integrating family engagement strategies to prevent or address substance use;
- Offering training for school staff, parents, law enforcement, and community members; and
- Supporting "safe zones of passage" for students. 13 awards are expected of up to \$750,000. Nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply.

Application Deadlines:

- October 27, 2025 (Grants.gov)
- November 3, 2025 (JustGrants)

[Visit Grants.gov to learn more.](#)

Supporting Students Through a
Positive Behaviors Plan and Youth
Suicide Prevention Program

Positive Behaviors Plan

[Utah Code Section 53G-10-407: Positive behaviors plan](#) requires Utah schools take a proactive approach to student success and wellness by implementing a [Positive Behaviors Plan](#). These plans contain strategies designed to reduce student use of tobacco, alcohol, electronic cigarettes and other controlled substances by promoting positive behaviors.

Each school principal is tasked with developing a plan that addresses peer pressure, mental health and meaningful relationships with input from students, parents, and staff. Plans must be submitted to the LEA governing board for approval.

To support this initiative, each school will receive **\$4,000** in Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26):

- **\$3,000** for a Positive Behaviors Specialist stipend (up to \$700 of these funds may be used for benefits)
- **\$1,000** to implement the plan

LEAs will receive direct flow-through funding in **October 2025** distributed under the codes 21ECSN, 24ECSN, and 25ECSN.

Schools are invited to carefully consider how to use the \$1,000 implementation funds to best support students in reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors, in alignment with the positive behaviors plan approved by the school's local governing board. Allowable expenses include:

- Evidence-based programs
- Supplies, materials and equipment
- Advertising
- Targeted activities and incentives that build skills and relationships

For more information or to receive feedback on your school's positive behaviors plan, please contact [Clarissa Stebbing](mailto:clarissa.stebbing@schools.utah.gov) (clarissa.stebbing@schools.utah.gov).

Youth Suicide Prevention Programs

[Utah Code Section 53G-9-702: Youth Suicide Prevention Programs](#) is part of Utah's broader effort to address youth suicide prevention and create safer school environments. These programs were developed in collaboration with

USBE and the Department of Health and Human Services. The intent is to address bullying, cyberbullying; youth suicide prevention and intervention; postvention for families, students, and faculty; underage drinking; and strengthening family and peer relationships.

Use of youth suicide prevention funds shall remain consistent with [Board Rule R277-620-3-2: Suicide Prevention Programs](#). An LEA's youth suicide prevention program shall include the components provided in [Utah Code Subsection 53G-9-702 \(2\): Youth Suicide Prevention Programs](#). **Note:** Food is not an allowable expense.

Each school will receive \$1,000 in FY26 to support the selection and implementation of evidence-based practices and programs or emerging best practices and programs for preventing suicide.

LEAs received direct flow-through funding in **September 2025**. Funds were distributed under the codes 26SUPV and 26SAAM.

For more information, please contact [Cathy Davis](#) (cathy.davis@schools.utah.gov).

Child Sexual Abuse and Human Trafficking Prevention

The Utah State Board of Education is pleased to announce a major step forward in child protection efforts. The state preferred provider contract for child sexual abuse and human trafficking (CSA/HT) instruction has been awarded to Prevent Child Abuse of Utah (PCAU).

This partnership ensures that every elementary student in Utah will have access to high-quality instruction designed to equip them with the skills needed to recognize unsafe situations and know where to get support, with no cost to LEAs.

Please contact [Emily Sparks](#) (esparks@pcautah.org), Education Program Administrator, to schedule this essential, no-cost presentation for your school.

While PCAU is the preferred state provider, grant funds are available for LEAs that wish to utilize an alternative approach. The CSA/HT Alternative Provider Choice Grant is open to LEAs that prefer to contract with another organization or train qualified staff to deliver USBE-approved instructional materials.

Interested LEAs can apply for this grant in the Utah Grants Management System. The application is open until **November 11, 2025**.

If you have questions regarding the program, instructional material approval or the grant process, please contact:

[Mindy Elliott](mailto:mindy.elliott@schools.utah.gov) (mindy.elliott@schools.utah.gov), Prevention Specialist,

or

[Tina Morandy](mailto:tina.morandy@schools.utah.gov) (tina.morandy@schools.utah.gov), Executive Secretary.



Prevention Stars



We are pleased to recognize **Ann Jones** as the **Prevention Star for October 2025**.

Ann was nominated by USBE Program Specialist II, Amanda Charlesworth. Ann has supported hundreds of students as a Check & Connect (C&C) mentor and mentor coordinator for Granite School District. She has been a champion of C&C mentoring her entire career. Ann ensured countless students felt seen and valued, and helped reconnect them to learning and their schools. She gave kids hope and helped them find paths to graduate, all while supporting her fellow Youth In Care (YIC) mentors and director. Ann was also one of Utah's first certified C&C trainers and has trained hundreds of new mentors across the state over the past 5+ years. She leaves a legacy of consistency and honest relationships. From the hands-on experiences she shares in training, to allowing mentors and other coordinators to shadow her and learn more about their new roles, she has been instrumental in improving the quality of Utah's C&C training. We celebrate Ann's retirement and wish her well in her new adventures!

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 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 Team Spotlight

This month we would like to put the spotlight on

Becca Rae, Behavior Support/Bullying Prevention Specialist.

Becca is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and Licensed Behavior Analyst (LBA). She brings over a decade of experience in providing behavior support across multiple settings, including residential, day treatment, and schools. Holding a Master of Education with a specialization in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Becca currently serves as a Behavior Support and Bullying Prevention Specialist for USBE. In this role she develops technical assistance and professional learning for LEAs on topics such as bullying and positive behavior supports.



Prior to her current position, Becca worked as a district behavior specialist where she was responsible for conducting functional behavior assessments and creating behavior intervention plans. Her background also includes supervisory roles in private clinical settings where she oversaw behavior interns, assistant

behavior analysts and behavior technicians. Additionally, she served at the New England Center for Children teaching ABA-based programs and designing educational programs for children with autism. Becca is deeply passionate about supporting and advocating for the needs of students throughout the state, particularly those requiring additional assistance. In her spare time she enjoys learning homesteading skills and spending time outdoors.

Becca Rae

Email: becca.rae@schools.utah.gov

Phone: (801) 538-7667

Behavior Support/Bullying Prevention Specialist



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.



2025-2026 Prevention and Student Services Webinar Series

WHAT: The USBE Prevention and Student Services Teams are announcing the 2025-2026 Prevention and Student Services Webinar Series.

Our next webinar in November will feature Canyons School District's youth peer court.

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

WHEN: Dates are listed in MIDAS (see links under "action")

- **November:**
Thursday, November 20, 2025 | 12:00 p.m.
Accountability Practices and Youth Peer Courts
- **December:**
Thursday, December 18, 2025 | 12:00 p.m.
Bullying Prevention
- **January:**
Thursday, January 15, 2026 | 12:00 p.m.
Substance Use Prevention
- **February:**
Thursday, February 19, 2026 | 12:00 p.m.
Understanding and Supporting Student Mental Health
- **March:**
Thursday, March 19, 2026 | 12:00 p.m.
Cybersecurity Gap Analysis & Best Practices

- **April:**

Thursday, April 16, 2026 | 12:00 p.m.

Child Sexual Abuse & Human Trafficking Prevention

- **May:**

Thursday, May 21, 2026 | 12:00 p.m.

Check & Connect Mentoring / Attendance

WHERE: Online on Zoom.

ACTION: [Register for the combined webinars via Zoom](#)

INFORMATION: Reach out to prevention@schools.utah.gov or visit the [USB E Prevention webpage](#) for more information.

Find recording and materials from past webinars on the [USB E Other Prevention Professional Learning webpage](#).

Prevention Workshop for Charter Schools

WHAT: In April and May 2025, the USB E prevention team held a six-hour workshop at various locations across the state. We received a number of requests from attendees for the USB E Prevention team to provide the opportunity specifically for Charter School teams.

This workshop will cover prevention science, implementing protective factors, and developing a comprehensive prevention plan.

WHO: LEAs across the state are invited to submit a request. Ideal attendees include administrators, LEA staff, and prevention teams. We ask that each session includes at least ten participants.

WHEN: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: Granite School District (Auditorium E)

2500 South State Street

Salt Lake City, UT 84111

ACTION: [Register for the Prevention Workshop via MIDAS Course ID 64851](#)

INFORMATION: For more information, please email prevention@schools.utah.gov.

Check and Connect Trainings

Prevention and Youth in Care (YIC) Check & Connect (C&C) Mentor Webinar

WHAT: Review of Utah's 'Check' data collection tools, and an overview of Functional Behavior Assessments (FBA) and Behavior Intervention Plans (BIP) Overview with Melissa Teemant from the Utah Parent Center

WHO: All of Utah's C&C mentors, C&C program coordinators, and any other interested education staff

WHEN: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 | 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

WHERE: Virtual via Zoom

INFORMATION: For more information, please email [Amanda Charlesworth](mailto:amanda.charlesworth@schools.utah.gov) (amanda.charlesworth@schools.utah.gov).

Initial C&C Training Mentors

WHAT: Two-day in-depth training designed to provide staff with the information, competencies, and skills needed to be an effective C&C Mentor. Participants will learn about their role using data to determine interventions and understand how to use the C&C model to meet the needs of the population of students they are mentoring. Including how to build relationships with students, families, and school personnel.

WHO: Designed for staff who are assigned to the role of C&C mentor, as well as those interested in C&C mentoring principles and practices including Education Transition Career Advocates (ETCA) and supervisory staff.

WHEN: October 15-16, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Utah State Hospital located in Provo City, Utah (additional dates in December, February, and March)

WHERE: Utah State Hospital located in Provo City, UT

ACTION: Participants must have a trained and designated local coordinator to participate in this training. To register, email [Amanda Charlesworth](mailto:amanda.charlesworth@schools.utah.gov) (amanda.charlesworth@schools.utah.gov) the following for each participant:

- first and last name
 - email address
 - job title
 - Which at-risk students will the mentor be working with
 - YIC, absenteeism and dropout prevention, Gang Prevention & Intervention (GPIP), or other (e.g., McKinney-Vento).
-

C&C Preparation and Implementation Training

WHAT: The C&C Preparation and Implementation Training provides a step-by-step guide to develop a solid implementation plan. Including a thorough overview of the intervention and how to prepare for implementation with fidelity, and a full outline of the C&C non-negotiable core components and elements of the program. As well as the context and how the program was developed, including the evidence-based theoretical underpinnings.

WHO: Leadership teams exploring interest in implementing C&C mentoring. Administrators who want to implement the program at their school or site. This training content is NOT designed for staff who will be serving as C&C mentors and must be completed before staff may participate in the initial C&C mentor training.

WHEN: November 4, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: Jordan School District offices in West Jordan, UT

ACTION: Participants must have a trained and designated local coordinator to

participate in this training. To register, email [Amanda Charlesworth](mailto:amanda.charlesworth@schools.utah.gov) (amanda.charlesworth@schools.utah.gov) the following for each participant:

- first and last name
- email address
- job title
- Which at-risk students will the mentor be working with
 - YIC, absenteeism and dropout prevention, Gang Prevention & Intervention (GPIP), or other (e.g., McKinney-Vento).

Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) Trainings

WHAT: USBE will be hosting multiple YMHFA trainings throughout 2025 and 2026. 7.5 license renewal hours are available to those who attend and complete this training. This training establishes a foundational understanding of mental health. It is important to note that school-based mental health specialists may possess advanced training that extends beyond the scope of this particular program.

WHO: School personnel supporting students from ages 12-18.

WHEN:

- Friday, October 24, 2025 | 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 19, 2025 | 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 20, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 13, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 15, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: Virtually via Zoom

ACTION: [Register for YMHFA trainings via MIDAS Course ID 65691](#)

Protective Factors Professional Learning Opportunity

WHAT: The USBE Prevention Team is excited to offer an in-depth, in-person professional learning opportunity on the Protective Factors Framework for

LEAs during the 2025–2026 school year. This one-day, six-hour training course built on the foundation introduced during the April 2025 Prevention Workshops. It provides a deep-dive into the Protective Factors Framework—a research-based, evidence-informed approach proven to strengthen child and family well-being and reduce the risk of unhealthy behaviors in students. The training will be held at multiple locations across the state, and participants will earn 5.5 license renewal hours upon completion.

WHO: School administrators, prevention staff, counselors, social workers, school-based mental health staff, behavior specialists, teachers. Anyone will benefit from the information shared.

WHEN/WHERE: Dates and locations are listed below:

- Monday, November 3, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (Session is full; waitlist available)
Canyon School District
Twin Peaks/Superior Rooms
9361 South 300 East
Sandy, UT 84070
- Friday, January 23, 2026 | 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Provo School District Professional Development Center
280 West 940 North
Provo, UT 84604
- Tuesday, March 10, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Carbon School District
Training Room 1
251 West 400 North
Price, UT 84501
- Monday, March 16, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Heritage Center Theater and Festival Hall
105 North 100 East
Cedar City, UT 84720

ACTION: [Register for the Protective Factors opportunities via MIDAS Course ID 65849.](#)

INFORMATION: Visit the [Prevention Other Professional Learning webpage.](#)

Olweus Bullying Prevention Program

WHAT: USBE is partnering with the Center for Schools and Communities to provide a Bullying Prevention Program to 15 schools in Utah. The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP) has over 40 years of research and successful implementation worldwide. This webinar is designed to address questions or concerns your school may have prior to committing to participating.

WHO: All LEAs in the State of Utah

WHEN: October 30, 2025 | 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. MT

ACTION: [Register via Zoom](#)

INFORMATION: Please contact [Becca Rae](mailto:becca.rae@schools.utah.gov) (becca.rae@schools.utah.gov) for additional information.

Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) of Bullying

WHAT: USBE is collaborating with Dr. Berg of Safe and Civil Schools to provide a bullying series for LEAs throughout the state. The primary focus of the series is to increase the capacity of LEAs to reduce bullying incidents by understanding best practices, implementing preventative interventions, investigating and responding to bullying complaints, and making strategic changes that will improve school level culture and climate.

WHO: LEAs in teams of 3-5

- In order to effectively implement the strategies and tools discussed throughout the training, teams will need to collaborate to address the unique individual LEA circumstances. Please register with a **team** in order to fully benefit from this professional learning. Participating LEAs will need to commit all participants to attending 2 days of training.

WHEN: December 2-3, 2025 | 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

ACTION: [Register via MIDAS Course ID 65743](#)

Mandt Trainings

WHAT: USBE is offering free Mandt trainings during the 2025-2026 school year. These trainings offer an option for key identified school employees to receive comprehensive ESI training (see [Board Rule R277-608](#) for more information).

WHO: Key identified school employees.

WHEN: Dates are listed in MIDAS (see links under “Action” below).

WHERE: In-person, specific addresses are listed in MIDAS (see links under “Action” below)

ACTION:

- [Register for a NEW CERTIFICATION via MIDAS Course ID 65715](#)
- [Register for a RE-CERTIFICATION via MIDAS Course ID 65711](#)

INFORMATION: For content questions, please contact [Ashley Lower](mailto:ashley.lower@schools.utah.gov) (ashley.lower@schools.utah.gov). For registration questions, please contact [Millie Mortensen](mailto:millie.mortensen@schools.utah.gov) (millie.mortensen@schools.utah.gov).

Comprehensive Prevention Plan Workshops:

WHAT: This interactive workshop is designed to support Local Education Agency (LEA) teams in developing and implementing a comprehensive prevention plan tailored to their school communities. Participants will explore evidence-based strategies, receive guidance on aligning their efforts with state prevention requirements, and engage in collaborative planning exercises.

While a comprehensive prevention plan is a required component for LEAs applying for Prevention Block Grant funds—with the application scheduled for release in Fall 2026—this workshop is beneficial for all LEA teams, including those not seeking grant funding. Attendees will gain tools and insights to strengthen prevention efforts and improve student outcomes.

WHO: LEA teams that will be implementing a comprehensive prevention plan.

WHEN: All workshops will be held in March | 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the locations shown below.

WHERE:

- Friday, March 6, 2026 | Spanish Fork
- Tuesday, March 10, 2026 | Ogden
- Tuesday, March 11, 2026 | Price
- Tuesday, March 17, 2026 | Cedar City
- Wednesday, March 18, 2026 | Salt Lake City

ACTION: [Register via MIDAS Course ID 65696](#)

INFORMATION: For additional information, please contact prevention@schools.utah.gov.



Utah School Counseling Association (USCA) Annual Conference

November 20-21, 2025 | Davis Conference Center

Join us at the Davis Convention Center for two days of inspiration, learning, and connection. Early bird registration ended September 19, 2025.

[Register now to attend the USCA Annual Conference 2025](#)



Utah Fall Conference on Substance Use: October 22-24, 2025

[Register now to attend the Utah Fall Conference on Substance Use](#)

Trauma Sensitive Schools Courses

Through online coursework via Canvas, the USBE 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 [USBE Trauma Sensitive Schools Courses](#) webpage to learn more and to register.

October Board Meeting

Summary of Highlights

The Utah State Board of Education:

- Created a prioritized list of education-related funding requests for the upcoming legislative session
- Made amendments to R277-407 School Fees
- Approved an emergency instructional time waiver request for Box Elder School District
- [Full agenda](#)



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

- [R277-305, School Leadership License Areas of Concentration and Programs](#). This rule is being amended to align with [Senate Bill \(S.B.\) 66 \(2024\)](#).
- [R277-319, Special Educator Stipends](#). This rule is being continued upon its five year review.
- [R277-407, School Fees](#). This rule is being amended because the definition of non-waivable charge needs to be updated to reflect the legislative

changes from [House Bill \(H.B.\) 344 \(2025\)](#).

- [R277-469, Instructional Materials Operating Procedures](#). This rule is being amended to be in compliance with [H.B. 191 \(2025\)](#) and to include new requirements related to LEAs using the packet method.
- [R277-494, Charter, Online, Home, and Private School Student Participation in Extracurricular or Co-Curricular Activities](#). This rule is being continued upon its five-year review.
- [R277-717, High School Course Grading Requirements](#). This rule is being amended to be in compliance with [H.B. 191 \(2025\)](#) and to include new requirements related to LEAs using the packet method.
- [R277-721, PRIME Pilot Program](#). This rule is being continued upon its five year review.
- [R277-731, Catalyst Center Grant Program Policy](#). This rule is being created as a result of [H.B. 447 \(2025\)](#).

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

USBE Prevention Leaders



Tanya Albornoz is the Prevention Coordinator at 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.

tanya.albornoz@schools.utah.gov

(801) 538-7812



Utah State
Board of
Education

Prevention

Contact Us

[Meet the Prevention Team](#)

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

**250 East 500 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84114**

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

USB E Prevention Website



Copyright © 2025 Utah State Board of Education, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you subscribed to the USB E Fine Arts newsletter.

Our mailing address is:
Utah State Board of Education
250 E 500 S
PO 144200
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).