

**Priorities, Recommendations, and Potential Legislative Asks
From the Utah School Safety Advisory Committee
2019**

Mental Health Supports and Preventive Programs
<p>Priority #1: Increase on-site resources for mental health services.</p> <p>Recommendation: The current ratios of some mental health professionals as well as the amount of student need, and lack of current training and resources makes it important to increase funding in this area. Definitions of each mental health service professional is listed in the Rationale below (counselors, nurses, psychologists, mentors, etc.). Considerations should be made to replace the access to family and student supports removed by HB 239, through reallocation of funding to LEA's. Decreasing the student to counselor ratio will increase personalized education and mental wellness assistance. It is recommended there may be a change in statute to include third party professionals in previous counselor funding.</p> <p>Potential legislative ask: \$30,000,000 for mental health and school safety professionals</p>
<p>Priority #2: Mental health training for teachers and all school staff.</p> <p>Recommendation: Training must be provided to all stakeholders to increase awareness and gatekeeper intervention skills across the state. This training may include de-escalation strategies, coping and self-care skills, signs and symptoms of mental illness, and crisis response strategies.</p> <p>Potential legislative ask: (part of Threat Assessment Teams) \$65,000</p>
<p>Priority #3: Threat Assessment and Student Support Teams implemented at the school and/or local level.</p> <p>Recommendation: Threat Assessment Teams will be created at the school and/or community level in which school counselors, administration, law enforcement, and mental health personnel identify at-risk students and provide resources to the student and family. These teams will increase community collaboration, information sharing, and student supports.</p> <p>Potential legislative ask: This program would include the following priorities: DPS Public Safety Liason (listed below 1.0 FTE), USBE Data Analyst (listed below), and a School Mental Health Specialist through DSAMH (1.0 FTE)</p>
<p>Priority #4: Collect and analyze student risk and protective factors and school climate.</p> <p>Recommendation: Student data and assessment personnel (FTE) to develop and distribute an annual survey, disaggregate data and assist in fulfilling data collection requirement regarding school incidents, and school safety initiatives.</p> <p>Potential legislative ask: \$180,000 FTE for USBE Program and Data Analyst</p>

Public Safety and Law Enforcement
<p>Priority #1: Public Safety Liaison position created by USBE to coordinate inter-agency collaboration between public safety and education entities.</p> <p>Recommendation: Due to legislative mandates to train School Resource Officers, a Public Safety Liaison position will act as the coordinator in developing state-wide uniformity in training, resources, and programs for law enforcement and education partnerships.</p> <p>Potential legislative ask: \$150,000 on-going funds</p>
<p>Priority #2: Tier 1 retirement alterations for law enforcement and certified educators.</p> <p>Recommendation: Statutory changes are needed to allow retirees to rejoin the workforce and curtail current teacher and law enforcement shortages.</p> <p>Potential legislative ask: Statutory change</p>
<p>Priority #3: A law enforcement recommendation, in coordination with Public Safety, Police Chiefs, and Sheriff's departments statewide, may coordinate additional training to school staff who carry weapons or guns on school property.</p> <p>Recommendation: Possible training for teachers who legally carry fire arms on how to safely use it and intervene in a school incident.</p> <p>Potential legislative ask: Possible legislative change to existing concealed carry program considered.</p>

Technology and Facilities
<p>Priority #1: Increase on-site school protection resources through construction, updates, and design.</p> <p>Recommendation: Hardening facilities, cameras, single entry point, locking mechanisms, and increasing infrastructure to support mitigation, supervision, response, and reporting of safety incidents. Costs estimated at \$150,000 for each school building state-wide (1,098 schools). The needs vary drastically for each LEA, and in order to provide local control and the best options for building-specific improvements, \$66,000,000 one-time funds.</p> <p>Potential legislative ask: \$66,000,000 one-time funds</p>
<p>Priority #2: Create or increase the ability of an existing tool for uniform documentation and identification of at-risk schools.</p> <p>Recommendation: Establish common language for state-wide definitions of safety incidents/violations, and a tool for uniform data collection state-wide. This tool will help LEA's establish resources or strategies for restorative practices dependent on the incident type, which will assist in the mitigation of future harm. Furthermore, a school climate survey, as procured by USBE, will be completed by each LEA, gathering information on protective factors within each school. This will, in turn, provide information on the gaps in interventions at the individual school site on a yearly or alternating year basis. Given the comprehensive picture provided through incident and protective factor data, prevention monies, as previously designated through grant application, will then be determined through the identification of at-risk schools through this process and funds will be distributed from USBE.</p> <p>Potential legislative ask: \$1,055,000 ROM to procure or create tool. Separate from USIMS. To meet existing state and federal reporting requirements. \$255,000 (plus \$180,000 for data analyst listed below for a total of \$435,000 ongoing funds) for maintenance and iteration of the tool.</p>
<p>Priority #3: Building construction receives input from fire department and public safety.</p> <p>Recommendation: Code written to strengthen communication and consultation in building construction and design.</p> <p>Potential legislative ask: Changes to statute</p>

Crisis Response and Emergency Planning

Priority #1: Common language, an all-hazards approach, and uniformity in all drills.

Recommendation: An all-hazards plan is created in which consultation will take place with the following organizations: local school board, law enforcement, fire marshal, and mental health. Continuous implementation and effectiveness of the plans are at the local and state level. This will increase response-time and communication in the event of an emergency.

Potential legislative ask: Fire Marshall will request flexibility within fire code, followed by an update of board rule.