



# School Safety Town Hall

Chief Matt Pennington and School Safety Center

September 11, 2024



508 Compliant: 9/11/2024

# Welcome to the School Safety Town Hall!

## Housekeeping:

- If you are joining us via **Zoom**:
  - Please update your display name to **First Name Last Initial, LEA Name**.
  - Use the “Q and A” feature throughout our training to ask questions.
- If you are viewing through **YouTube**:
  - Please use the Chat feature only for questions (we love to keep track of all questions!).
  - There is no requirement to submit your name.
- Melissa will facilitate all questions.
- Check your SPAM folder for emails from [schoolsafetyprograms@schools.utah.gov](mailto:schoolsafetyprograms@schools.utah.gov).

# USBE Strategic Plan

Our Strategic Plan provides a shared vision for the future of Utah's education system. It identifies a vision for Utah students upon completion and also orients USBE's efforts internally as we focus on our mission of creating the conditions for student success.

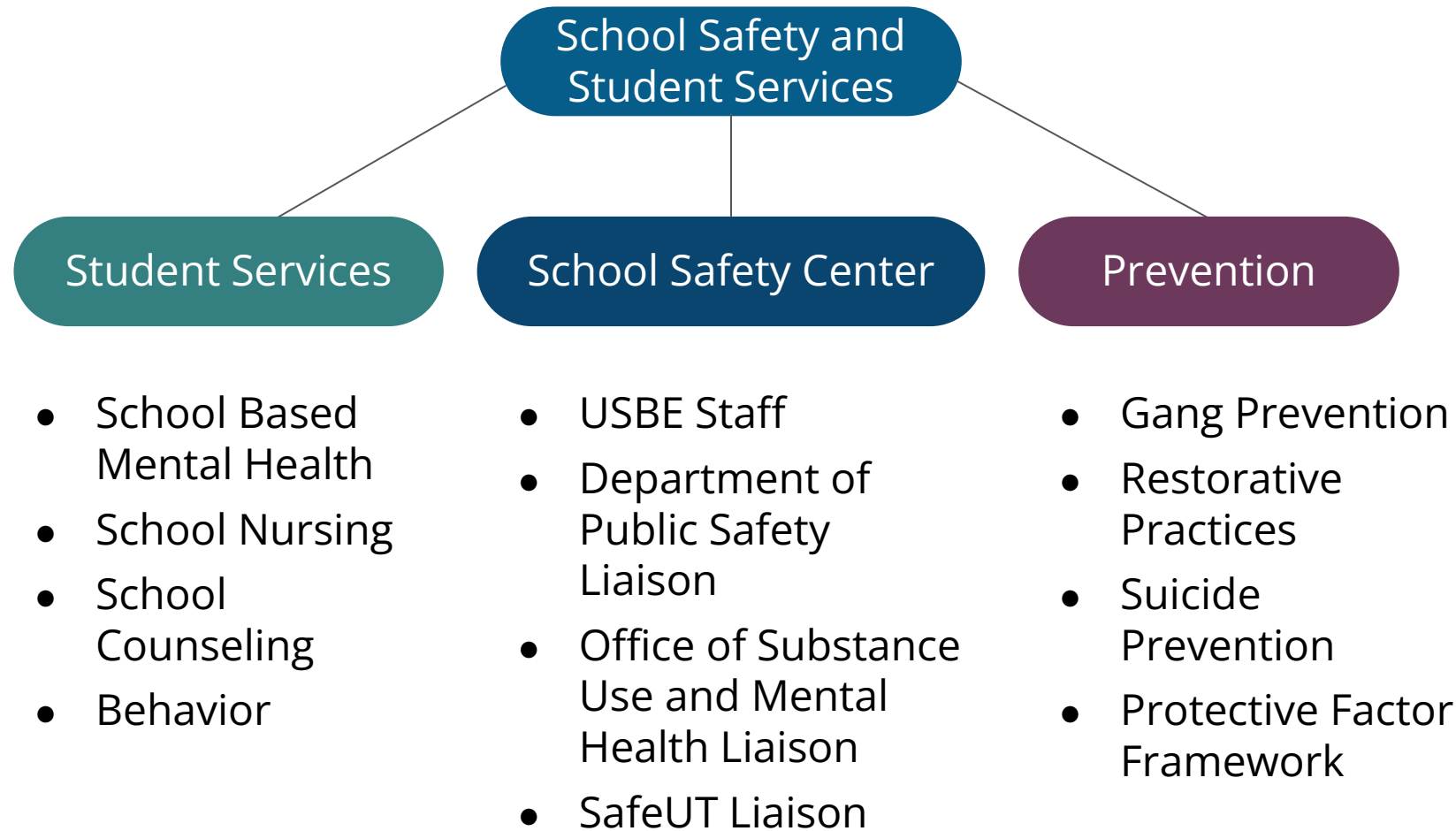
Goal 1: Early Learning

Goal 2: Effective Educators and Leaders

**Goal 3: Safe and Healthy Schools**

Goal 4: Personalized Teaching and Learning

# Director of School Safety and Student Services



# Division of State Security (1)



## About:

- The Division of State Security is tasked with establishing recommendations and best practices regarding school safety and security through partnerships with the State Board of Education, School Safety Center, county sheriffs, local law enforcement, and local education agencies. Through engaged partnerships we will strive to make schools in Utah a safe and secure learning environment.



# Division of State Security (2)



## Vision:

- To provide a safe and secure environment to learn, work, and recreate statewide.

## Mission:

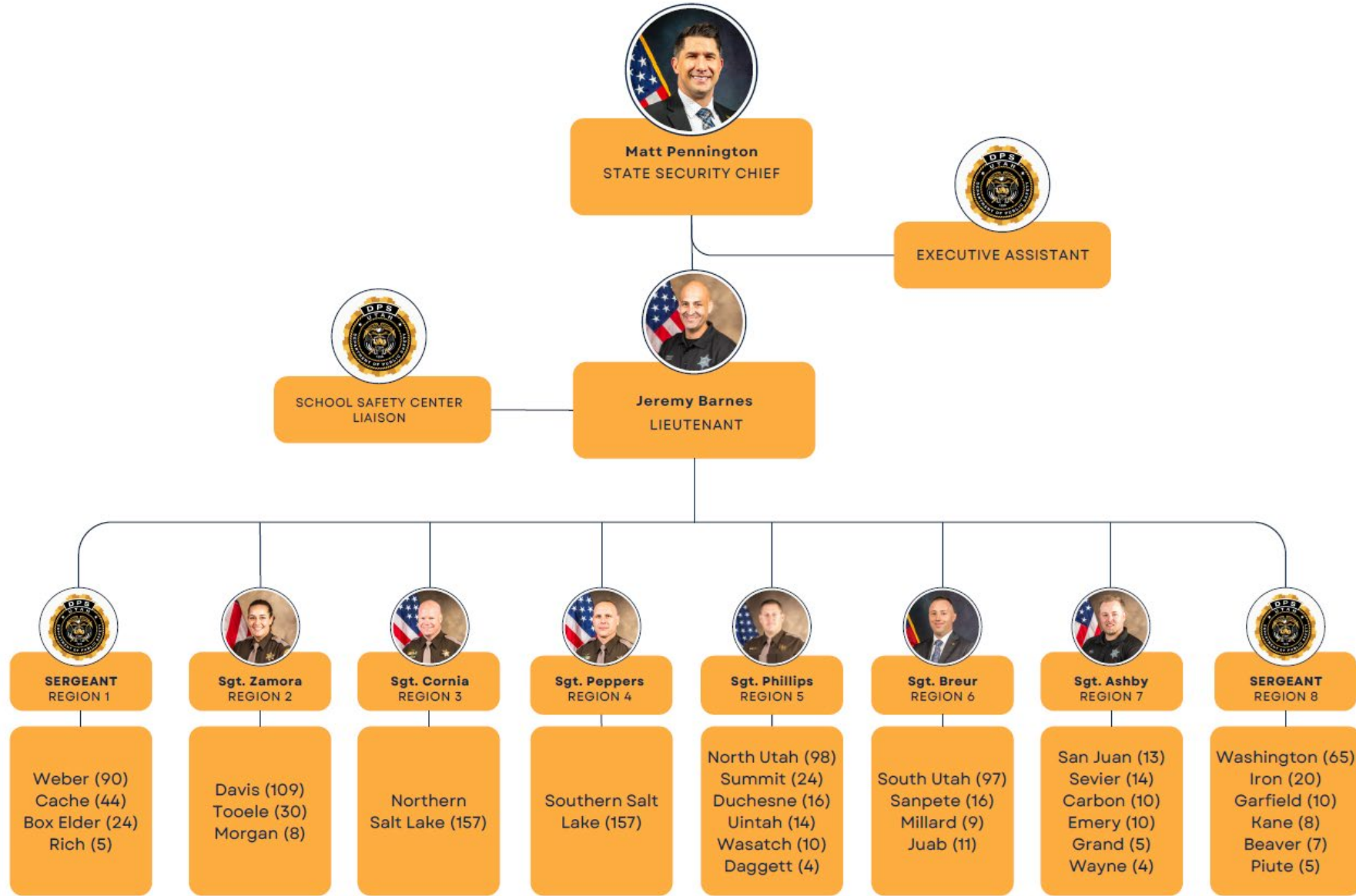
- Providing a safe and secure environment statewide through professional service and engaged partnerships.

## Values:

- Professional
- Collaborative
- Innovative



# STATE SECURITY ORG CHART



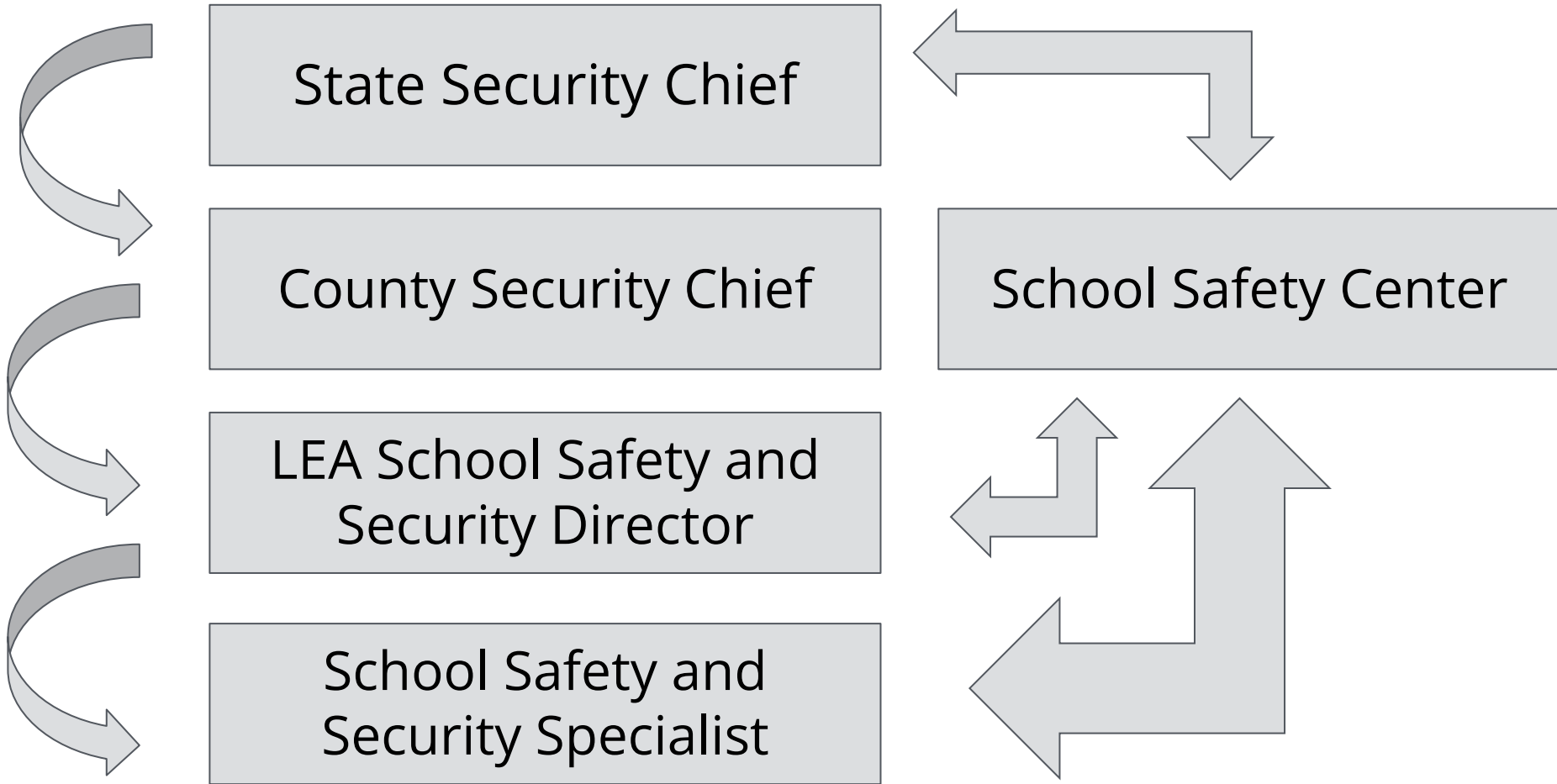
# State Collaboration

- School safety liaison between the Utah Department of Public Safety and the Utah School Safety Center.
- The Division of State Security, consists of the School Safety Liaison, the State Security Chief, and eight regional training specialists.
- Assist local education and law enforcement agencies in collaboratively navigating school safety legislation.
- Technical assistance and support.





# Department of Public Safety Channels of Information Flow



# School Safety Center

- Utah continues to learn with and from other states.
- Provide additional support and resources.
- Legislation
  - H.B. 120 (2019) - Student and School Safety Assessment
  - H.B. 61 (2023) - School Safety Requirements
  - H.B. 140 (2023) - Standard Response Protocol to Active Threats in Schools
  - H.B. 84 (2024) - School Safety Amendments

# School Safety and Security Specialists (1)

*FY25 School Safety and Security Specialist Grant and Qualtrics Steps - LEAs ONLY*

Application Process Now Open!

1. Complete LEA Accountability Report - Qualtrics via Utah Grants:

**Due by October 15, 2024**

- a. LEA School Safety and Security Director contact information and picture
- b. LEA Business Administrator contact information
- c. Superintendent/Charter School Director contact information
- d. Each school's designated School Safety and Security Specialist contact information

2. Complete Utah Grants application: **Due by October 15, 2024**

# School Safety and Security Specialists (2)

## 1. Ongoing funds

- a. \$3,000 per School Safety and Security Specialist

## 2. Trainings

### a. Onboarding

- i. Wednesday, October 16, 2024 from 2:30 - 3:30 PM via Zoom

### b. Remaining training dates shared during Onboarding

# Utah School Safety Playbook



## Utah School Safety Playbook: A Guide For Utah Public Schools

Updated September 2024

Version 1



 Utah State Board of Education

# School Safety Personnel (1)

- School Safety and Security Specialists (SSSS):
  - Every campus within an LEA shall designate a SSSS.
  - May not be the principal.
  - May be the LEA School Safety and Security Director at one campus within the LEA.
  - Report directly to the principal.
  - Ensures adherence to policies and procedures involving school safety.
  - Participation on the school's multidisciplinary team.
  - Will collaborate with the County Security Chief on the annual needs assessment.

# School Safety Personnel (2)

- LEA School Safety and Security Director (SSSD)
  - Each LEA shall appoint an LEA SSSD
    - Serve as the point of contact for the County Security Chief, local law enforcement, and the State Security Chief
  - Must have a valid concealed carry permit and participate in the training requirements for the Guardian Program
  - Ensure adherence to policies, procedures, and regulations relating to school safety
  - May temporarily fill-in for for a guardian
  - Name, contact information, and photograph will be collected by the State Security Chief
    - Information will be readily available for law enforcement needs

# School Guardian (1)

- An LEA shall ensure each school in the LEA has at least **one** of the following:
  - School Resource Officer
  - School Guardian
  - Armed School Security Officer



# School Guardian (2)

- A school guardian is a school employee who volunteers for the role and meets the following requirements:
  - School administrator approves the employee to enter the program.
  - Completes the School Guardian Training Program within six months of taking on the role.
  - Holds a valid concealed carry permit.
  - Successfully completes a mental health screening selected by the State Security Chief in collaboration with Office of Substance Use and Mental Health.

# Guardian Mental Health Assessment (1)

- Guardian Selection Process:

*“New Guardians must pass a ‘fit to carry assessment’ prior to commencing their duties.”*

- Guardian Annual Recertification:

*“Existing Guardians must participate in at least one mental health screening per calendar year as part of the annual recertification requirements.”*

# Guardian Mental Health Assessment (2)

- The term “fit to carry assessment” be defined in state statute as:

*“A series of psychological tests administered by a professional with Level C qualification to include:*

- 1. a personality assessment,*
- 2. a symptoms screener,*
- 3. an in person interview, and*
- 4. a reference check of at least one reference provided by the Guardian.”*

# School Guardian (3)

- The State Security Chief will:
  - Track each school guardian participating in the program
    - Name, contact information, and photograph
  - Make guardian information readily available to local law enforcement in the event of an emergency
  - Provide a one-time stipend of \$500 to each guardian
- Guardian information is private, controlled, and protected
  - May only be known to:
    - State Security Chief
    - County Security Chief
    - School Administrator
    - Local law enforcement
    - Other school safety personnel
  - Individual who knowingly or intentionally provides information is guilty of a class B misdemeanor



# School Guardian Training Program

- School Guardian Training Program;
  - Has been released to the County Security Chiefs



# Application for Alternatives

- LEAs may apply to the State Security Chief for alternatives based upon the following considerations:
  - Population size
  - Staffing needs or capacity
  - Geographic location
  - general demonstration of need for an alternative
- Predetermined exceptions:
  - Enrollment size fewer than 350:
    - Same individual may serve in more than one role
  - Enrollment fewer than 100:
    - “School Employee” may be a teacher or principal

# School Safety Needs Assessment

Utah Code Section 53G-8-701.5 requires:

- Each school to conduct a school safety needs assessment.
- Report the results of the school safety needs assessment for each school to the State Security Chief and the School Safety Center.
- The results will be used to award a grant to an LEA in accordance with 53F-5-220.

# Submitting Results of Your Assessment

- Summarized results of your school safety needs assessment will be submitted through a Qualtrics link provided through your LEA.
- LEAs will be provided training and support to setup the School Safety Needs Assessment Summary Form in their Qualtrics account.
- An application for alternatives will be considered by the State Security Chief.



# Questions