



School Safety Updates

USBE Safe and Healthy Schools

USBE Standards and Assessment Committee



Learning Outcomes

01

School Safety Center

- School Safety Center overview
- Highlights

02

Funding Updates

- School Safety Specialist grant
- Firearm Detection Software grant
- School Safety and Support grant program

03

Data Overview

- Overview of data sources
- Review of data gaps



School Safety Center

- Spring of 2019, the Utah State Legislature passed House Bill (H.B.) 120: Student and School Safety Assessment.
- H.B. 120 formed the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) School Safety Center (SSC).
- SSC is a group of professionals from USBE, Utah Department of Public Safety, Utah Office of Substance Use and Mental Health, and SafeUT.
- The SSC works together to strengthen school safety efforts through technical assistance, developing resources, training, and materials for school safety.

School Safety Center



MISSION

“The mission of the Utah State Board of Education School Safety Center is to work collaboratively to provide technical assistance, training, and resources that support Local Education Agencies’ commitment to ensuring school safety and improving the climate of school communities.”



VISION

“The vision of the Utah State Board of Education School Safety Center is that each student learns in a safe and healthy school environment.”



School Safety Highlights

Professional Learning:

- Marjory Stoneman Douglas Site Visit for USBE Staff
- USBE School Safety Specialist onboarding and technical assistance trainings
- School Safety Conference (June 29-30, 2023)



School Safety Highlights

School Safety Conference:

- Sessions Offered:
 - Situational Awareness and Decision Making Under Stress
 - Parkland Shooting Review and Lessons Learned
 - Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG)
 - Emergency Management-From Planning to Reunification
 - School Shooting and Active Threat Review

Attendance	
Type	# of Attendees
School District	113
Charter Schools	55
RESA	2
Law Enforcement	33
State or Federal Agency	20
Other Organization	10



School Safety Highlights

Communication:

- Monthly Newsletters
- Participation in monthly Student Service Director meetings
- Participation at Utah School Superintendent Association meetings
- Participation in School Security Task Force
- Participation in Utah School Safety Collaborative


Continued Areas of Focus:

- Emergency Response Plans
- Interagency communication for enhanced threat response
- Rural areas
- Grant support
- Threat assessment
- Standard Response Protocols
- Reunification



School Safety Specialist Grant

- \$3,000 stipend for every school
- Ongoing webinars
- Threat assessment training
- Standard Response Protocol Training
- 2024 Utah School Safety Conference (June 13-14, 2024)



School Safety Specialist Overview

What is a School Safety Specialist: A school employee (e.g. teacher, school counselor, school social worker, school psychologist) who is responsible for supporting school safety initiatives, including the threat assessment described in Subsection [53G-8-802](#).

<h3>Duties</h3> <p>The School Safety Specialist will be a member of a school's multi-disciplinary team to support school leadership with school safety initiatives by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attending the USBE School Safety Center school safety-related training.• Participating in threat assessment.• Ensuring the school has adopted Standard Response Protocol™.• Participating in the administration of the School Climate Survey, reviewing the data, and implementing plans to address gaps.• Updating the school's Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Response Plan in accordance with R277-400-3.• Communicating with the school community about what the school is doing for school safety.	<h3>Why</h3> <p>Every public primary and secondary school shall designate a School Safety Specialist in accordance with 53G-8-701.5.</p>
<h3>Support</h3> <p>The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) School Safety Center will provide the following training through the Utah School Safety Academy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Webinars• Monthly strategic technical assistance• Standard Response Protocol™• Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG)• Other school safety-related training	<h3>Questions?</h3> <p>Shauntelle Cota (801) 538-7502 shauntelle.cota@schools.utah.gov</p> <p>Rhett Larsen (801) 538-7997 rhett.larsen@schools.utah.gov</p>
<h3>This position DOES NOT</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replace the role of a School Resource Officer (SRO).• Enforce student discipline.	

School Safety Grants

H.B. 61 (2023) School Safety Requirements funding:

- One-time funding for Firearm Detection Software (\$3 million)
- One-time funding for the School Safety and Support Grant (\$72 million)
- Ongoing funds for School Safety Specialists (\$3K stipend and trainings per designated specialist/\$3.6M)



School Safety Grants

Top Safety Needs

1 Campus

- Keypads
- Cameras
- Single point of entry
- Safety film on windows
- Locks, signage, fencing

2 Communication

- Intercoms
- Two-way Radios
- Emergency Apps

3 First Aid

- Stop the Bleed
- AED

4 Professional Learning

- Threat Assessment
- Active Shooter Training

5 Personnel

- Security
- Contract w/local law enforcement



School Safety and Support Grant Program

Timeline:

- June 28, 2023 application process was initiated
- June 2023 Webinars and support resources provided to LEAs
- October/November award notice by USBE staff of application status provided to all applicants
- November/December funding was distributed for basic safety and security needs (a building safety assessment was required)
- Grantees are required to submit an Annual Plan Update by July 31st following the end of each fiscal year

Highlights:

- 210 schools received 100% of their requested amount: \$45,262,904.52
- 494 schools received at least 50% of their total requested amount: \$26,736,746.44

Firearm Detection Software Grant

Timeline:

- *December 2023*: The Board approved the contract
- *January 2024*: Application developed and sent to LEAs
- *January 16, 2024*: Application released
- *January 23, 2024*: (Optional) live webinar for LEAs to receive overview information and Q&A
- *January 30, 2024*: (Optional) live webinar for LEAs to receive IT-specific information and Q&A
- *February 6, 2024*: Application deadline
- *February 9, 2024*: Applications reviewed and approved based on the grant criteria
- *February 12, 2024*: Award notices will be sent to LEAs by the USBE School Safety Center
- *July 31, 2025*: Grantees will send a follow-up summary to the USBE School Safety Center



Data

2023 School Disciplinary and Law Enforcement Action Report

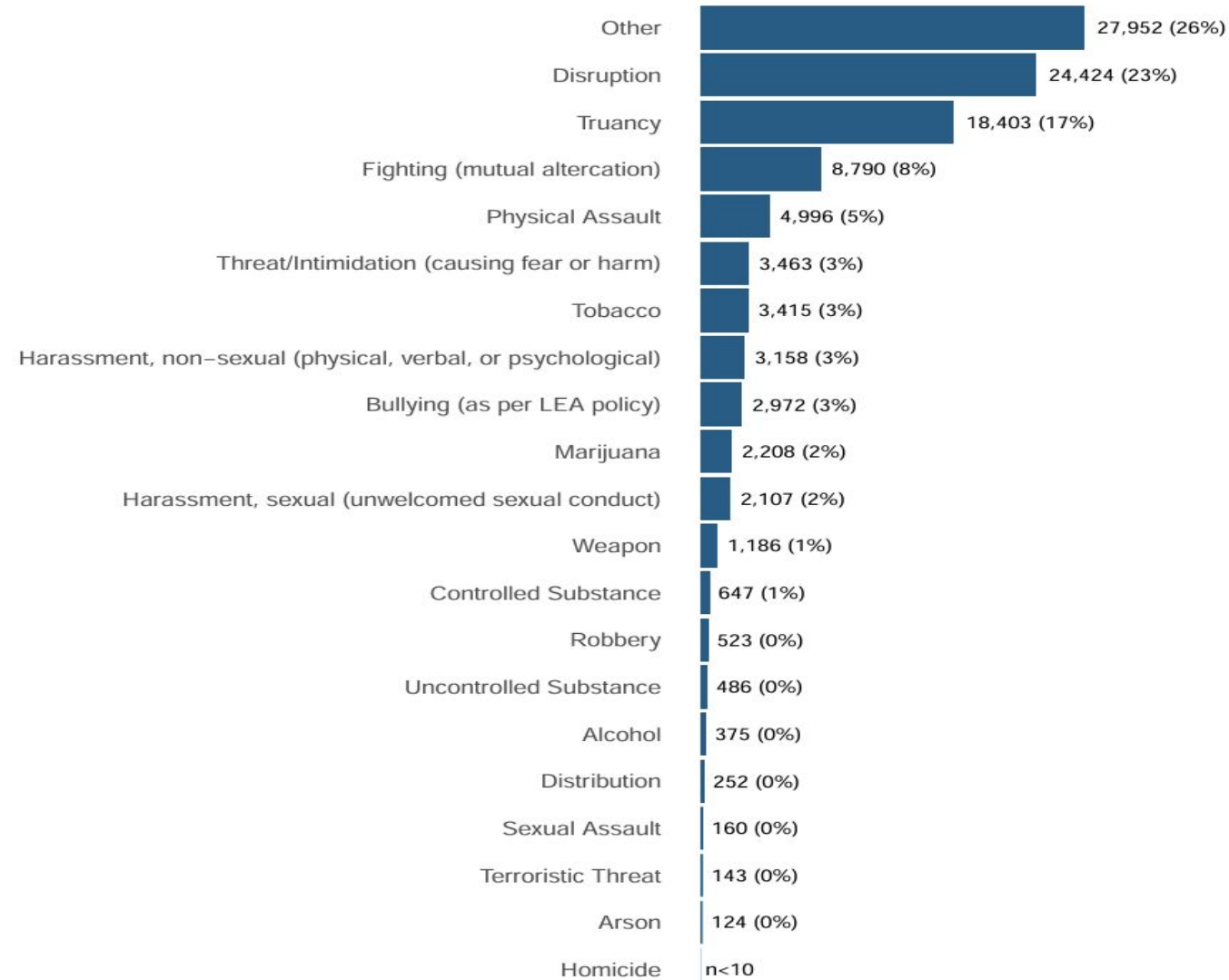
- This report fulfills requirements for the School Disciplinary and Law Enforcement Action Report ([UCA 53E-3-516](#) and [R277-912](#)), and bullying and hazing requirements ([UCA 53G-9-606](#) and [R277-613](#)).
- [The 2023 School Disciplinary and Law Enforcement Action Report](#) can report can be accessed on the USBE website.

School Climate Survey Data

- In accordance with Utah Code [53G-8-802\(2\)](#):
 - The state board shall create a model school climate survey that may be used by an LEA to assess stakeholder perception of a school environment. The state board provides recommendations for survey parameters (e.g. survey questions, distribution method, sample size, etc.

School Discipline and Law Enforcement Action Report

Figure 2. Counts and percentages of incidents by incident type for SY 2023



School Climate Survey

Provides data to support LEAs in:

- Adopting a plan for harassment and discrimination free learning
- Parental outreach
- Sending notice to each student, parent, and LEA staff member stating the LEAs commitment to maintaining a school climate that is free of harassment and discrimination no later than September 1 of each school year.

UCA 53G-8-802 and R277-609

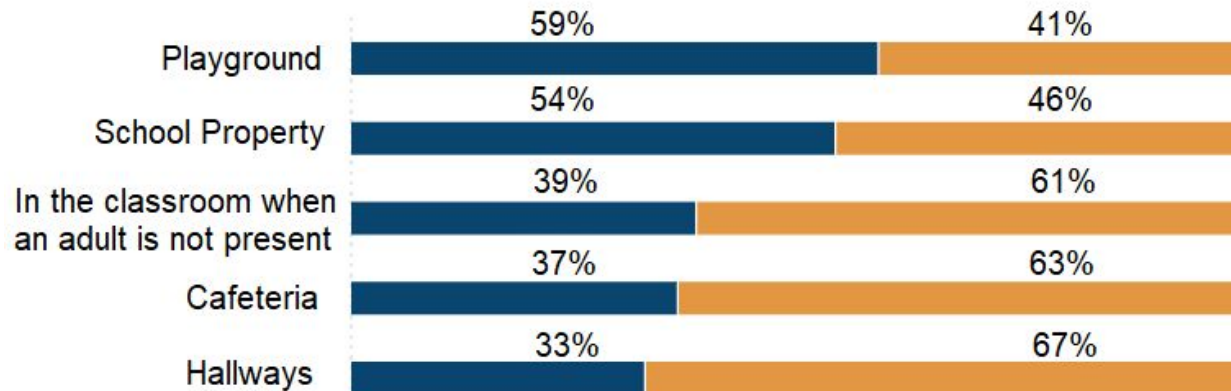


School Climate Survey Data

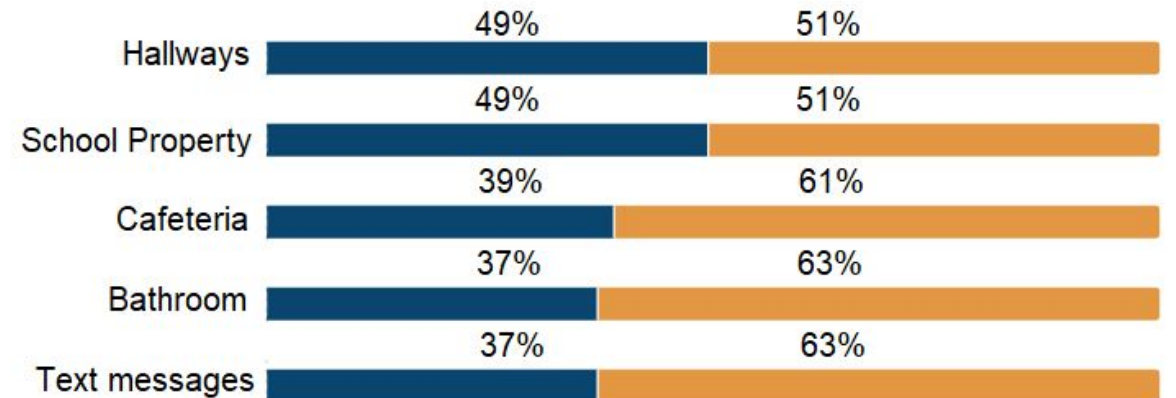
- Top 5 bullying locations for 2023, by grade

“Does bullying take place in any of the following areas in this school?”

3rd-5th grades



6th-12th grades



Yes / No



School Climate Survey

2024 Legislation	HB84 School Safety Amendments Rep. Wilcox	HB182 Student Survey Amendments Rep. Lisonbee	SB93 School Climate Data Amendments Rep. Fillmore
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeks to maintain the use of a school climate survey to inform policies, practices, and training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeks to make school climate survey optional (opt-in) Allows for LEA choice in survey offered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defines school climate, school safety, student engagement, and statistically sound Seeks to provide aggregate state level data on school climate
Potential Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language in this bill would not impact how USBE currently administers the survey Language states LEA may use the model survey, which could impact statewide data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LEAs who do not participate will not have data to revise policies, practices and training for a harassment and discrimination free learning environment (UCA 53G-8-802 & R277-609) This survey is currently the only codified means to collect data on school safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revision of school climate survey by USBE staff based on expanded criteria

Data Gaps

Standardized Incident Definitions

- LEAs have reported a need for technical assistance and support in common incident definitions
- Top reported category is “other”

Standard Response Protocol (SRP)TM

- H.B. 140 (2023)
- Hold; Secure; Lockdown; Evacuate; Shelter
- USBE does not track this data

Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG)

- Transient threats
- Substantive threats
- USBE does not track this data

Conclusion and Next Steps

- Continued technical assistance for LEAs with:
 - Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG)
 - Standard Response Protocol (SRP)[™]
 - Emergency Response Plans
 - Reunification Plans
- Exploration of systems to support interagency communication for enhanced threat response
- Review data sources on school safety in Utah schools
- Review and study local and national best practices for school safety