

Agency: UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Request Title: *USDB School Safety Coordination Amendments*

Purpose Statement:

Clarify the role of State Security Chief as the primary point of coordination for USDB school safety requirements

What is the nature of your request?

Select one:

X POLICY REQUEST – You are seeking changes to Utah State Code to improve your program/services.

FUNDING REQUEST – You are seeking new or additional financial resources to support a program/service for education.

BOTH POLICY and FUNDING – You are proposing a new program or expansion of an existing program that will require new/amended state code and financial resources.

Questions? Please contact:

Greg Connell (Greg.Connell@schools.utah.gov)

Current Funding for FY 2026: *(Provide current year funding differentiating one-time and ongoing funding for the program.)*

FY 2026 Ongoing Funding = \$XXX

FY 2026 One-Time Funding = \$XXX

Projected Results:

- Performance Measure: PVAA Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind - Compliance with federal, state, and USBE administrative rules.

Rationale: In Utah Code Section [53G-8-701.5\(1\)\(b\)](#), all LEAs are required to coordinate with the county security chief to conduct the school safety needs assessment. USDB is unique, however, in that the LEA spans the state and multiple county and jurisdictions. Affirmatively assigning the state security chief to coordinate with USDB for school safety needs assessments ensures that USDB can attend to the safety needs of multiple campuses while still being in compliance with the law.

If not funded/approved: If this change is not made, USDB will need to coordinate with 4 different jurisdictions every three years to complete the school safety needs assessment, unnecessarily increasing the time and cost of completing the assignment. Coordinating with several different jurisdictions may also lead to confusion or a lack of responsibility in ensuring the safety of Utah students.

USBE Lead Point of Contact:

Name: Elisse Newey

Email Address: elisse.newey@schools.utah.gov

Phone Number: 646-280-7839

USBE Section: Policy

Additional USBE points of contact (*as needed*):

Name: Shauntelle Cota

Email Address: shauntelle.cota@schools.utah.gov

Phone Number: 801-538-7502

USB E Section: Student Support Services

Deputy Superintendent Name: *(You must review this request with your chain of command including the Deputy Superintendent in your chain of command.)*

Email Address:

Phone Number:

USB E Section:

POLICY REQUEST

This section only needs to be completed if you are making a policy request (creating or changing existing Utah Code language).

1. Section(s) of State Code to be addressed (if none, insert "N/A"):

Primary: [53-22-102\(3\)](#)

Will need to add a line that gives the state security chief the responsibility to act as safety liaison and fill the county security chief role on behalf of the USDB.

Optional: [53G-8-701.5](#)

May want to clarify that the USDB has an exception to the requirement that LEAs work with county security chiefs and local law enforcement.

2. Summarize the request, the specific problem it will solve, and how it will solve the problem. (Describe the issues or concerns the legislation will address:)

In Utah Code Section [53G-8-701.5\(1\)\(b\)](#), all LEAs are required to coordinate with the county security chief to conduct the school safety needs assessment. USDB is unique, however, in that the LEA spans the state and multiple counties and jurisdictions. Affirmatively assigning the state security chief to coordinate with USDB for school safety needs assessments ensures that USDB can attend to the safety needs of multiple campuses while still being in compliance with the law.

3. Describe the history of the issues or concerns including relevant context and timelines:

The school safety requirements are relatively new and one issue that has not always been considered during the law-making process is how these different LEA requirements will operate for a state-wide LEA such as USDB. This legislative request is an attempt to “get to right” for school safety and USDB.

4. What are the suggested legislative solutions? Include code references and suggested language where possible:

The first suggestion would be to add a line in the “State Security Chief’s duties” in Utah Code Section [53-22-102\(3\)](#). The line should give the state security chief the responsibility to act as safety liaison and fill the county security chief role on behalf of the USDB.

5. Provide details, sources, research, and analysis to which forms evidence-basis for this request or the associated program (e.g, cost benefit analysis, program evaluation, results from pilot program, etc). Include whether this data is currently collected and available or whether new data will be collected:

If you are making a **Policy Request, STOP here** and email Greg Connell (Greg.Connell@schools.utah.gov) to inform him the request is complete and has been reviewed by your Deputy Superintendent.