

UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Subject:

ACTION: School Safety Enhancement Grant Application

Agenda item type:

Action Item

Recommended Action:

That the Board accept the School Safety Enhancement Grant funds, should they be awarded to USBE.

Purpose of Memo:

Staff recommendation

Background:

The School Safety Enhancement (SSE) Grants program provides competitive grants to State educational agencies (SEAs) to develop, implement, and strengthen statewide school safety systems and the physical security of schools consistent with findings outlined in the U.S. Department of Justice January 18, 2024, report, "Critical Incident Review: Active Shooter at Robb Elementary School". The program will support States in implementing evidence-based school safety measures, including improving school infrastructure security, strengthening emergency response planning and coordination, and enhancing training and preparedness exercises for school personnel and school resource officers (SROs).

Consistent with findings in the DOJ report concerning Robb Elementary School, this initiative prioritizes:

- Secured and monitored school entry points;
 - Functional door-locking systems and perimeter controls;
 - Coordinated incident command structures;
 - Clear emergency response protocols;
 - Enhanced training and preparedness exercises for school personnel and School Resource Officers;
- and
- Regular safety drills aligned with best practices.

ED recognizes that school safety requires systemic coordination among schools, law enforcement, and emergency responders. This program focuses on strengthening State-level leadership and oversight to ensure local implementation of evidence-informed safety practices. At the local level, incorporating school safety practices should be done systematically, ideally through adoption into a school emergency operations plan, a widely used planning framework that is updated annually by over 80 percent of LEAs nationwide and provides an established mechanism for integrating and sustaining effective safety practices.

Contact:

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Attachments:

1. School Safety Enhancement Grant Application Request Board Backup
2. USBE_School_Safety_Enhancement_Program_84184A_Project_Narrative