Education

THE UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Report to the Education Interim Committee

School-Based Mental Health Screening Programs Report

August 2026

Michelle Knight
Suicide Prevention Specialist, USBE
michelle.knight@schools.utah.gov

Terrakay Bodily
School-based Mental Health Specialist, USBE
terrakay.bodily@schools.utah.gov

Shauntelle Cota
School Safety and Student Services Director, USBE
shauntelle.cota@schools.utah.gov

Amy Hunt
Assistant Superintendent of Student Achievement, USBE
amy.hunt@schools.utah.gov

STATUTORY REQUIREMENT

U.C.A. Section 53F-2-522 requires the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) to submit an annual report to the Education Interim Committee regarding the implementation of student mental health screening programs in participating local education agencies (LEAs). Under this statute, LEAs may elect to offer evidence-based mental health screenings to students with appropriate parental consent and in accordance with program requirements. The annual report is due on or before August 30 each year and provides an overview of program participation and implementation across the state. This report represents the seventh year of program reporting.

School-Based Mental Health Screening Programs Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

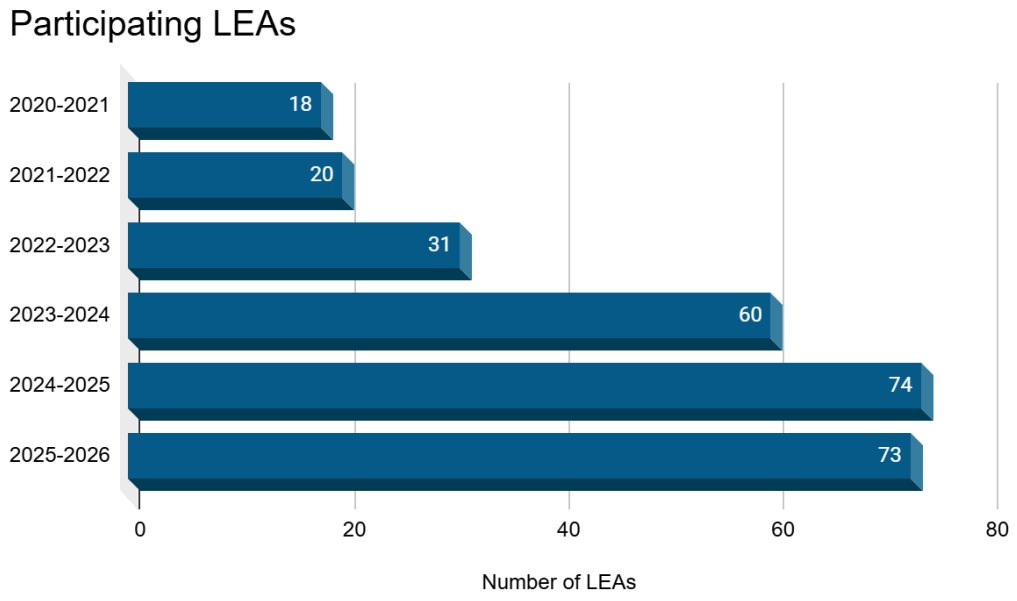
Utah Code § 53F-2-522 and Board Rule R277-625, *Mental Health Screeners*, establish standards for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to implement approved mental health screening programs for students. The legislature appropriated $1,000,000 for the program to support LEAs in implementing evidence-based mental health screenings and connecting students to appropriate supports and services.

During the 2025-2026 school year, 73 of Utah's 156 LEAs participated in the school-based mental health screening program, with 69 submitting the required annual report. Participating LEAs screened 14,526 students across 643 schools for symptoms related to anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation. Screening results identified 7,801 concerns related to anxiety, 7,235 related to depression, and 1,494 related to suicidal ideation. As a result, LEAs made 8,773 referrals for school-based services and 3,276 referrals to community mental health providers. The charts in this report compare program participation and screening outcomes from the 2020-2021 through the 2025-2026 school years.

MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING PROGRAM

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) approved the initial list of mental health screening tools in February 2021. The goal was to provide LEAs with a comprehensive selection of evidence-based screening tools that address student mental health needs while preserving local flexibility in choosing the tool that best fits their community. The Board also approved screening for three mental health conditions: anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation. These conditions were selected due to their prevalence among youth and their significant impact on student well-being and academic success.

The data presented in the graph below compares annual outcomes of the school-based mental health screening program from its inception in the 2020-2021 school year through the 2025-2026 school year.



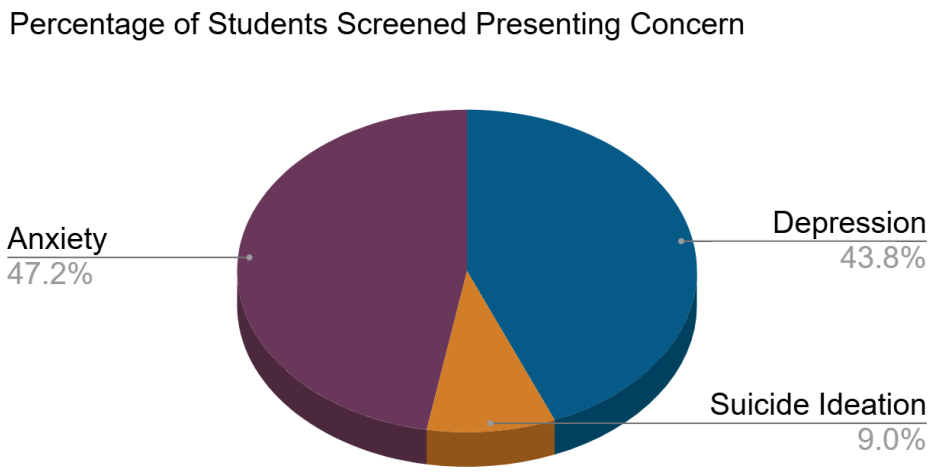
Since the implementation of the School-Based Mental Health Screening Program, LEA participation has increased substantially. This growth is due, in part, to H.B. 403 (2023), which required all LEAs to annually submit a Record of Determination indicating whether they will participate in the program. During the program's first year (2020-2021), 20 LEAs participated. As shown in the chart, participation increased to 73 LEAs during the 2025-2026 school year.

The chart below depicts the totals of participating and non participating districts and charters. The complete list of LEAs and their participation status can be found

in Appendix A.

Participating Districts	32
Participating Charters	41
Non Participating Districts	6
Non Participating Charters	50
No response provided	27

Of the 14,526 students screened, identified concerns included 7,801 instances of anxiety (47%), 7,235 instances of depression (44%), and 1,494 instances of suicidal ideation (9%). Because students may screen positive in more than one category, these figures represent identified concerns rather than unduplicated student counts.



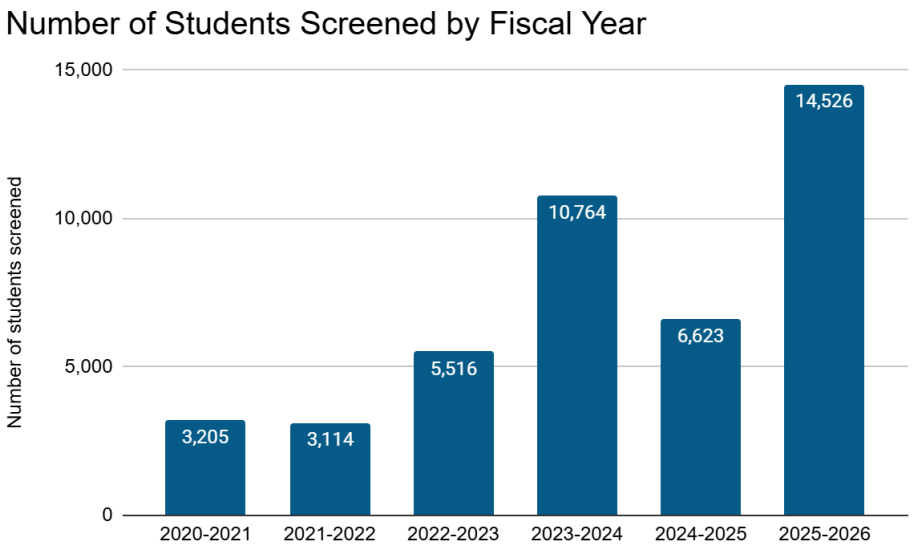
The chart below shows the number of students screened per each participating LEA. The LEAs reasoning for reporting 0 students screened can be found in Appendix B.

Alpine School District	8,297
Box Elder School District	332
Cache School District	63
Canyons School District	154

Daggett School District	5
Davis School District	64
Duchesne School District	30
Emery School District	56
Garfield School District	0
Granite School District	88
Iron School District	115
Jordan School District	225
Juab School District	No Response Provided
Kane School District	54
Logan City School District	18
Millard School District	10
Murray School District	91
Nebo School District	264
North Sanpete School District	79
North Summit School District	74
Ogden School District	95
Provo School District	3
Rich School District	2
Salt Lake City School District	916
San Juan School District	13
Sevier School District	16
South Sanpete School District	12
Tintic School District	0
Tooele School District	No Response Provided
Wasatch School District	70
Washington School District	1
Weber School District	946
Bear River Charter School	0

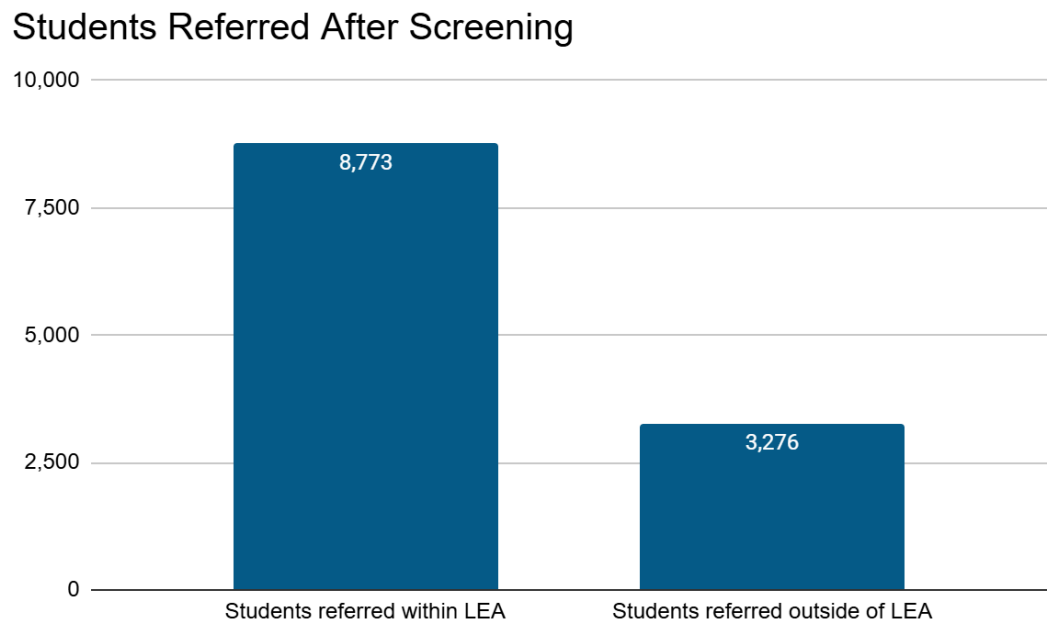
Beehive Science & Technology	80
Canyon Rim	333
Channing Hall	No Response Provided
City Academy	13
Dual Immersion Academy	30
East Hollywood High	0
Edith Bowen Lab School	0
Entheos Academy	23
Freedom Preparatory Academy	20
George Washington Academy	43
Guadalupe Charter School	22
Hawthorn Academy	0
Karl G Maeser Prep Academy	73
Mana Academy Charter School	50
Merit College Prep Academy	0
North Star Academy	143
Ogden Prep Academy	20
Open Classroom	0
Pacific Heritage Academy	25
Pinnacle Canyon Academy	158
Promontory School of Expeditionary Learning	10
Ranches Academy	92
Renaissance Academy	0
Rockwell Charter High School	22
Roots Charter High School	0
Salt Lake Center for Science Education	14
Spectrum Academy	63
St. George Academy	31
SUCCESS Academy	No Response Provided

The Center for Creativity, Innovation, and Discovery (CCID)	95
Treeside Charter School	6
Uintah River High	0
Utah Career Path High School	0
Utah International Charter School	11
Utah Military Academy	950
Valley Academy	62
Vanguard Academy	0
Vista Charter School	44
Wasatch Waldorf Charter School	0
Weber State University Charter	No Response Provided
Weilenmann School of Discovery	0



Since the program's inception, the number of students screened has increased substantially, reflecting growing participation and implementation across Utah LEAs. In 2025-2026, participating LEAs screened 14,526 students, more than double the number screened during the previous reporting year. Following screening, LEAs made 8,773 referrals for school-based assessment, intervention, or support services and 3,276 referrals to community mental health resources. Consistent with prior years, students with identified concerns were more likely to be referred for support within the LEA than to outside providers. This data does not represent unduplicated

students, as some students may have received both school-based and community referrals.



MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING GRANT

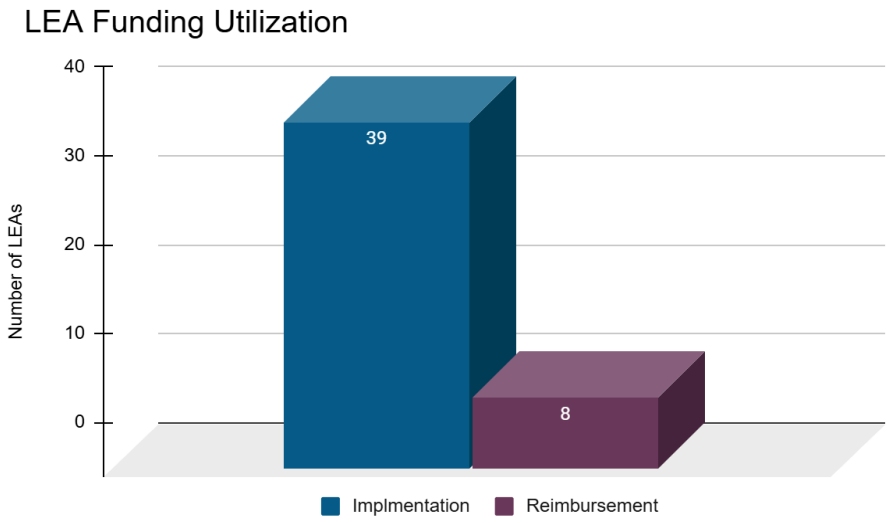
House Bill 413: *Student Mental Health Amendments* increased the annual appropriation for the School-Based Mental Health Screening Program to $1,000,000. Pursuant to Utah Code 53F-2-522 and Board Rule R277-625, 90% of available funding was distributed to participating LEAs through a formula allocation, while the remaining 10% was reserved for LEAs demonstrating additional financial need through a competitive grant process.

During the 2025-2026 school year, 46 LEAs received formula funding totaling $900,000. The competitive funding pool, combined with carryforward funds from previous years, totaled $558,540. Nine LEAs applied for additional funding, and seven qualified to receive grant awards.

LEAs used funding primarily to support the implementation and administration of their school-based mental health screening programs. Of the participating LEAs, 39 reported using funds for program implementation, while 8 reported using funding to reimburse qualifying parents for mental health treatment services related to a student's screening results. These uses were not mutually exclusive, and some LEAs

utilized funding for both purposes. A total of 169 qualifying parents received reimbursement during the 2025-2026 school year.

The chart below summarizes how participating LEAs reported using program funds during the 2025-2026 school year. Appendix C includes responses from LEAs that reported available funding was insufficient to meet local needs.



Appendix A: LEA participation status

LEA Name	Status
Alpine District	Participating
Beaver District	Non-Participating
Box Elder District	Participating
Cache District	Participating
Canyons District	Participating
Carbon District	Non-Participating
Daggett District	Participating
Davis District	Participating
Duchesne District	Participating
Emery District	Participating
Garfield District	Participating
Grand District	Non-Participating
Granite District	Participating
Iron District	Participating
Jordan District	Participating
Juab District	Participating
Kane District	Participating
Logan City District	Participating
Millard District	Participating
Morgan District	No Response Provided
Murray District	Participating
Nebo District	Participating
North Sanpete District	Participating
North Summit District	Participating
Ogden City District	Participating
Park City District	Non-Participating
Piute District	No Response Provided

Provo District	Participating
Rich District	Participating
Salt Lake District	Participating
San Juan District	Participating
Sevier District	Participating
South Sanpete District	Participating
South Summit District	Non-Participating
Tintic District	Participating
Tooele District	Participating
Uintah District	Non-Participating
Wasatch District	Participating
Washington District	Participating
Wayne District	No Response Provided
Weber District	Participating
Academy for Math Engineering & Science	Non-Participating
Advantage Arts Academy	Non-Participating
American Academy of Innovation	Non-Participating
American Leadership Academy	No Response Provided
American Preparatory Academy	Non-Participating
Ascent Academies of Utah	Non-Participating
Athenian eAcademy	Non-Participating
Bear River Charter School	Participating
Beehive Science & Technology Academy	Participating
Bonneville Academy	Non-Participating
Bridge Elementary School	Non-Participating
C.S. Lewis Academy	No Response Provided
Canyon Grove Academy/Salt Lake School for the Performing Arts	No Response Provided
Canyon Rim Academy	Participating
Career Academy of Utah	No Response Provided

Channing Hall	Participating
City Academy	Participating
Davinci Academy	Non-Participating
Dual Immersion Academy	Participating
Early Light Academy at Daybreak	Non-Participating
East Hollywood High	Participating
Edith Bowen Laboratory School	Participating
Endeavor Hall	No Response Provided
Entheos Academy	Participating
Esperanza School	Non-Participating
Excelsior Academy	Non-Participating
Fast Forward High	No Response Provided
Franklin Discovery Academy	No Response Provided
Freedom Preparatory Academy	Participating
Gateway Preparatory Academy	Non-Participating
George Washington Academy	Participating
Good Foundations Academy	Non-Participating
Greenwood Charter School	No Response Provided
Guadalupe School	Participating
Hawthorn Academy	Participating
Highmark Charter School	Non-Participating
Ignite Entrepreneurship Academy	Non-Participating
InTech Collegiate Academy	Non-Participating
Itineris Early College High	No Response Provided
Jefferson Academy	Non-Participating
John Hancock Charter School	Non-Participating
Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy	Participating
Lakeview Academy	Non-Participating
Leadership Academy of Utah	No Response Provided

Leadership Learning Academy	Non-Participating
Legacy Preparatory Academy	Non-Participating
Lincoln Academy	No Response Provided
Lumen Scholar Institute	Non-Participating
Mana Academy Charter School	Participating
Maria Montessori Academy	Non-Participating
Merit College Preparatory Academy	Participating
Moab Charter School	No Response Provided
Monticello Academy	Non-Participating
Mountain Heights Academy	Non-Participating
Mountain Sunrise Academy	No Response Provided
Mountain View Montessori	Non-Participating
Mountain West Montessori Academy	Non-Participating
Mountainville Academy	No Response Provided
Navigator Pointe Academy	Non-Participating
No. UT. Acad. for Math Engineering & Science	No Response Provided
Noah Webster Academy	Non-Participating
North Davis Preparatory Academy	Non-Participating
North Star Academy	Participating
Odyssey Charter School	Non-Participating
Ogden Preparatory Academy	Participating
Open Classroom	Participating
Pacific Heritage Academy	Participating
Paradigm High School	Non-Participating
Pinnacle Canyon Academy	Participating
Promontory School of Expeditionary Learning	Participating
Providence Hall	Non-Participating
Quest Academy	Non-Participating
Ranches Academy	Participating

Reagan Academy	Non-Participating
Renaissance Academy	Non-Participating
Rockwell Charter High School	Participating
Roots Charter High School	Participating
Salt Lake Academy High School/Athlos	No Response Provided
Salt Lake Arts Academy	Non-Participating
Salt Lake Center for Science Education	Participating
Scholar Academy	Non-Participating
Soldier Hollow Charter School	No Response Provided
Spectrum Academy	Participating
St. George Academy	Participating
Success Academy	Participating
Summit Academy	Non-Participating
Syracuse Arts Academy	No Response Provided
Terra Academy	No Response Provided
The Center for Creativity Innovation and Discovery	Participating
Thomas Edison	Non-Participating
Thrive Point Academy	No Response Provided
Timpanogos Academy	Non-Participating
Treeside Charter School	Participating
Uintah River High	Participating
Utah Arts Academy	Non-Participating
Utah Career Path High School	Participating
Utah Connections Academy	No Response Provided
Utah County Academy of Science	Non-Participating
Utah International Charter School	Participating
Utah Military Academy	Participating
Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB)	Non-Participating
Utah Virtual Academy	No Response Provided

Valley Academy	Participating
Vanguard Academy	Participating
Venture Academy	Non-Participating
Virtual Horizons	No Response Provided
Vista School	Participating
Voyage Academy	Non-Participating
Walden School of Liberal Arts	No Response Provided
Wallace Stegner Academy	Non-Participating
Wasatch Peak Academy	Non-Participating
Wasatch Waldorf Charter School	Participating
Weber State Charter School	Participating
Weilenmann School of Discovery	Participating
Winter Sports School	Non-Participating

Appendix B: Reasoning for not screening

Garfield School District	During the reporting period, Garfield School District established referral processes and expanded access to mental health services for all students. The district intends to implement a more systematic mental health screening program as the next phase of its efforts to identify student needs and connect students and families with appropriate supports.
Tintic School District	Struggle to receive parent permission to screen students.
Bear River Charter School	Lack of Funding
East Hollywood High	Changes to partnerships with providers for therapy.
Edith Bowen Lab School	We had the screener available but did not have any parent requests to administer it.
Merit College Prep Academy	At the time this report was completed, the individual completing the survey was not involved in the implementation of the School-Based Mental Health Screening Program and was unable to verify that the program was implemented during the reporting year. The staff member who coordinated school-based mental health services is no longer employed by the LEA, and the relevant information was not available before the reporting deadline.
Open Classroom	Our counselor did not identify any students to screen.
Renaissance Academy	Decided not to participate in program *emailed after the FY26 August 1 deadline
Roots Charter High School	Unable to decide on a screening tool that would assess our population.
Uintah River	We have to go through the tribe's resources and outsource to them.
Vanguard Academy	It was discussed at the board level and decided that because we partner with a health clinic to offer a full physical and mental screening that all parents can opt

	into, we don't conduct the screening at a school level. Most parents do opt in to the screening done by the health clinic.
Wasatch Waldorf	We incorrectly stated that we would participate and should have marked the LEA not participating section. We decided that our many other student supports and referral processes are more comprehensive than a screening that many parents will not opt-in to have the student do.
Weilenmann School of Discovery	We have a formal MTSS referral program where any students identified are referred to our school counselor who determines next steps. Rather than utilizing a formalized screener, WSD relies on our MTSS team, student observations and a more streamlined process that allows students to access our school counselor and mental health supports.

Appendix C: Reasoning for insufficient funding

Box Elder School District	We could use more LCSW support
Cache School District	We are wanting to increase our contracted services with our local mental health authority, as well as other approved providers
Kane School District	With the growing rate of mental health issues in today's youth, it is hard to keep up with the costs of increased service needs.
Salt Lake City School District	The funding only covers a small portion of what is needed to screen and provide response interventions.
Weber School District	Additional funds could have been utilized for personnel salaries and benefits to administer screeners
Guadalupe Charter School	like to receive further funding to continue these screenings
Mana Academy	We needed more funding
Pinnacle Canyon	We have had a waiting list within the Pinnacle Counseling Department for over a year. We calculated that we need an additional $8,000 to cover the full costs of additional services and interventions due to the results of the screeners.
St. George Academy	We received $412