

# Child Sexual Abuse and Human Trafficking Prevention Instruction in Utah Schools

**Mindy Elliott, MS**

*USBE Prevention Specialist*

Prevention webinar, March 19, 2026

# Learning Intentions

- Identify the legal requirements for child sexual abuse and human trafficking prevention instruction in Utah.
- Understand the framework for partnership, including parental rights and age-appropriate content.
- Recognize the process for implementing child sexual abuse and human trafficking prevention trainings in Utah schools.

# Why Should We Teach Child Sexual Abuse and Human Trafficking Abuse Prevention in Schools?

# Deondra Brown

*Prevention & Policy Advocate*  
Prevent Child Abuse Utah



Child safety advocate shaped by lived & policy experience

# Why Prevention Education Matters in Every Community

- Most child sexual abuse is committed by someone the child knows.
- Children often do not have the language to describe what is happening.
- Without clear conversations about body safety, abuse can remain hidden for years.

Prevention education helps children recognize harm and seek help sooner.

# A Framework for Partnership in Prevention

- 2014 - HB 286
  - Utah authorized child sexual abuse prevention instruction in schools
- 2024 - SB 205
  - Funding attached to support implementation

## Utah's Approach to Prevention Education

- Reinforces parental involvement
- Notifies parents about what is being taught and invite their participation
- Requires age-appropriate instruction
- Creates shared responsibility for child safety

# Prevention Works. So Do You.

- Students are building confidence and boundaries
- Harm (or risk) is interrupted sooner
- Families are supported in meaningful ways
- Communities grow safer and more connected
- Ripple effects of prevention last for generations
- For many children, a trusted adult is already in this room (YOU!)

**1 in 7**

Utah  
children will  
be sexually  
abused by  
age 18.

**91%**

of the time,  
children are  
sexually  
abused by  
someone they  
know and  
trust

**3.3 million**

children are  
being exploited  
in sex and labor  
trafficking at  
any given  
moment  
worldwide.

**Education is  
Key**

Participation in  
prevention  
education  
halves the  
likelihood of  
childhood  
sexual abuse

# Child Sexual Abuse and Human Trafficking in Schools: Utah Laws

# Utah Code Section 53G-9-207

Required training every 3 years for:

- Adults serving youth (elementary and secondary)
- Parents/guardians of elementary students

Instruction is optional for Elementary Students.

All instructional materials must be State-Board approved.

# Minimum Standards

- Required topics and criteria must be met for instructional materials in child sexual abuse and/or human trafficking aimed at:
  - adults serving youth
  - parents/guardians
  - elementary students
- All changes to the standards must be approved the the State Board.
- Instructional materials submitted for approval must include a rubric to demonstrate alignment with the standards.

# Adults Serving Youth trainings include:

- Responding to a disclosure in a supportive, appropriate manner
- Identifying children who are victims or may be at risk of becoming victims
- Mandatory reporting requirements
- Appropriate responses and connecting victims with support services

## Parent / Guardian trainings include:

- Recognizing the warning signs of a child who is a victim or may be at risk of becoming a victim
- Effective, age-appropriate, methods for discussing the topic of child sexual abuse and human trafficking with a child
- Resources available for victims and families

# Elementary Student “age-appropriate instructional materials” (1)

## Teach Students:

- That adults are responsible for the safety of children
- How to recognize uncomfortable inner feelings
- How to say no and leave an uncomfortable situation
- How to set clear boundaries
- The risks of sharing intimate images or personal information
- The importance of discussing uncomfortable situations with parents and other trusted adults

# Elementary Student “age-appropriate instructional materials” (2)

- DO NOT invite a student to share personal experiences about abuse during instruction
- DO NOT give instruction regarding consent (as described in Utah Section 76-5-406)
- DO NOT include sexually explicit language or depictions.



# Parent Notification

Parents must be:

notified in advance of the:

- instruction and the content of the instruction
- parent's right to have the student excused from the instruction

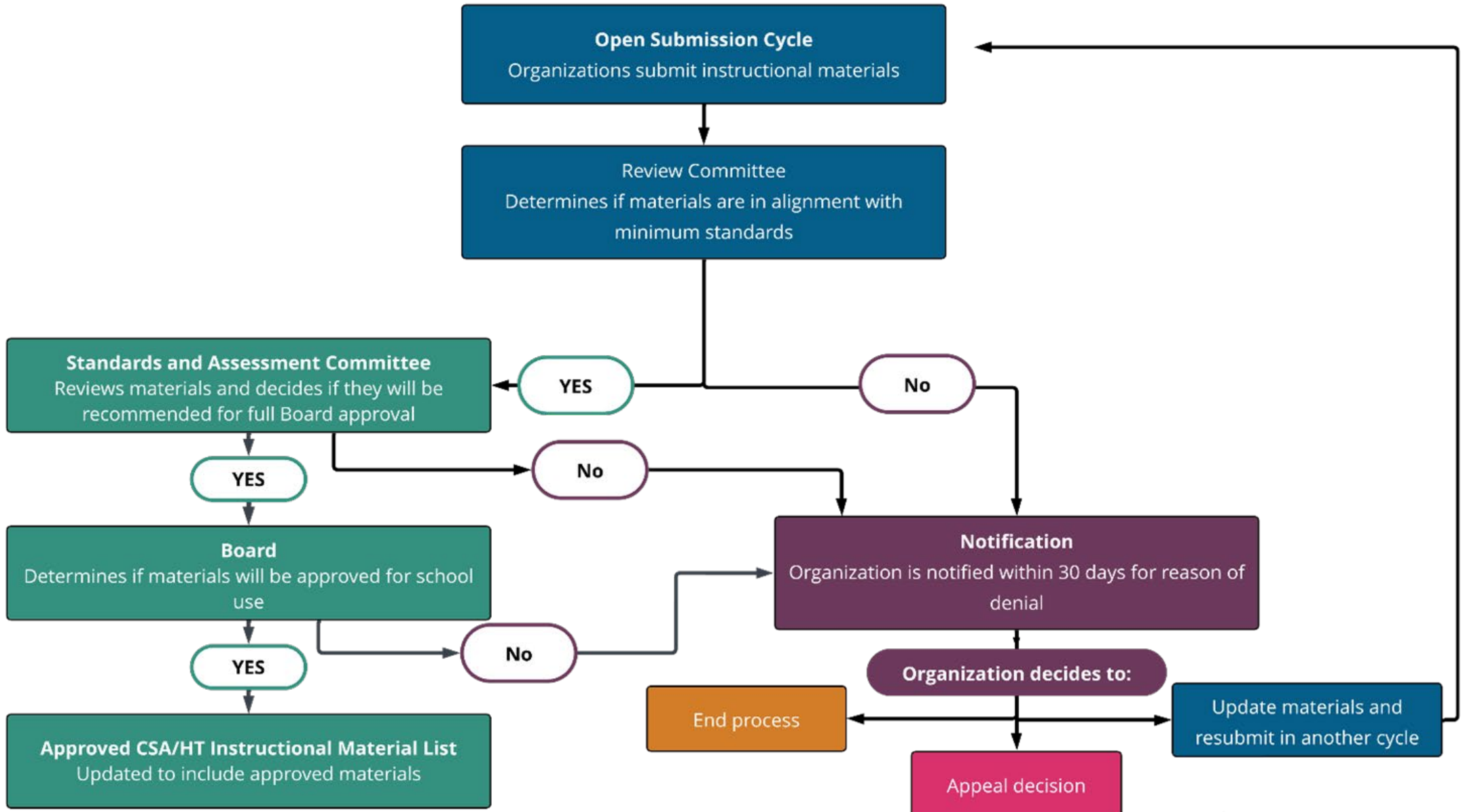
given an opportunity to review the instructional materials before the instruction occurs

allowed to be present when the instruction is delivered

Upon written request of a parent, their student shall be excused from the instruction.



# CSA/HT Instructional Material approval process



# Approved Child Sexual Abuse and Human Trafficking Prevention Instructional Material List

- The list is located on the USBE Prevention Website.
- It is updated twice per year after each submission cycle.
- Materials are approved for a 3-year period.
- Materials on the list include a variety of delivery methods and must be used in accordance with the delivery plan and instructional process under which they were approved.

# Senate Bill 205 - The Safe Child Project

- Championed by The Policy Project
- Took effect on July 1, 2024
- Created
  - Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Grant Program for \$500,000
  - State Preferred Provider Contract \$1,000,000
  - Helped to clarify “age-appropriate instructional material” for CSA/HT prevention

# Prevent Child Abuse Utah

PCAU is contracted as the state preferred provider for elementary student CSA/HT prevention instruction.

Deliver K-6  
classroom  
presentations at  
no cost to the  
LEA

Conduct train-  
the-trainer  
cohorts for  
qualified  
educators

Emily Sparks  
Education Program Administrator (801)  
386-1718  
[esparks@pcautah.org](mailto:esparks@pcautah.org)  
[www.pcautah.org/school-and-community](http://www.pcautah.org/school-and-community)

# CSA/HT Alternative Provider Choice Grant (1)

## Elementary Students Only

Due May  
29, 2026

Funding  
Deadline  
July 15,  
2026

\$500,000  
per year

Apply  
through  
Utah Grants

### Reporting Requirement - Due October 1, 2026

- Dates that classroom instruction was delivered
- How many sessions were provided
- Number of parents that opted out of the training
- How many students participated in the training

# CSA/HT Alternative Provider Choice Grant (2)

## Elementary Students Only

Awarded funds may be used for:

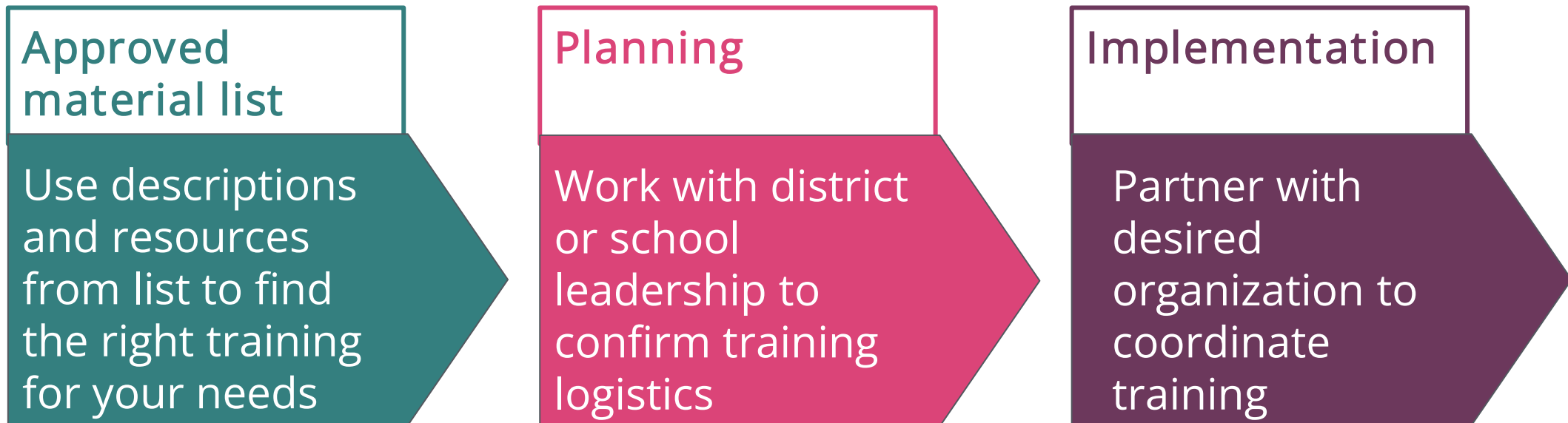
- Paying for approved instructional materials for K-6 students
- Stipends for educators to become trainers or to provide approved lessons to students
- Paying an approved organization to provide lessons to students (other than Prevent Child Abuse Utah)
- Costs for printing or other associated costs

Awarded funds may **not** be used for:

- Food or other incentives for students to participate
- Assemblies
- Computer equipment
- FTEs to provide the instruction

# Child Sexual Abuse and Human Trafficking Prevention LEA Process

Adult Serving Youth and Parent/Guardian Trainings  
Required every 3 years



\* LEAs may also create their own instructional materials and submit them for Board approval during an open submission cycle.

# Child Sexual Abuse and Human Trafficking Prevention LEA Process for Elementary Students

Instructional materials (IMs) are chosen from Board-approved list

Alternative Provider

Prevent Child Abuse Utah (PCAU)

Organization provides lessons

LEA Educators Provide lessons  
(train-the-trainer)

PCAU presents lessons

Choice Grant

All content in IMs  
**must** be covered!

# Elementary Student Training Items to Consider (1)

Choose training from approved list. Pay attention to the method of delivery and amount of time required.

Contact organization of choice to coordinate instructional material implementation. Organizations vary on implementation method and support.

Notify faculty of date/time and procedure. Teachers must be present for lessons. Make a plan for classes with a substitute or classroom management concerns.

# Elementary Student Training Items to Consider (2)

**Send home parent notification.** Put process in place for parents who have questions, would like to view the content, or opt their student out.

**Clear counselor schedules.** Counselors and/or social workers should be available to offer support and be present for lessons as available.

**Send home resources.** Reinforce student learning by sending home resources so parents understand how to support lesson concepts.

**Report student concerns.** Review school policy and state law on mandated reporting requirements and procedure.

# Reflect

What will you

Start

Stop

Continue

# Please share your feedback with us



[Scan QR Code to share your feedback with us](#)



# Thank you!

Mindy Elliott

*USBE Prevention Specialist*

801-538-7913

[mindy.elliott@schools.utah.gov](mailto:mindy.elliott@schools.utah.gov)