

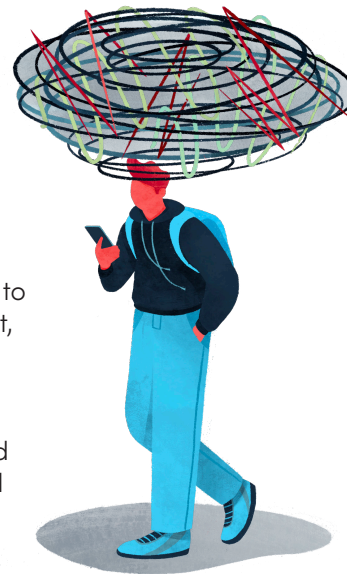
SafeUT and School Safety Commission

Suicide is the leading cause of death for youth and young adults, ages 10-24, in Utah. The SafeUT smartphone app is Utah's innovative approach to addressing this crisis by leveraging technology, behavioral health clinical best practices, and collaborative advocacy to keep Utah's youth and schools safe.

SafeUT is available 24/7 for Utah students, parents/guardians, and educators and connects users to master's level mental health counselors at no cost. The app allows users to 1) start a real-time chat, 2) submit a school safety tip, and 3) start a phone call to the Utah Crisis Line.

In 2014, School Safety Tip Line Commission (S.B. 232) legislation was introduced and passed to explore solutions to both the mental health crisis and school safety threats. In 2015, the SafeUT and School Safety Commission (S.B. 175) legislation established the framework for the SafeUT app and created the SafeUT Commission as it exists today, composed of the following members:

- Office of the Attorney General (Chair)
- Utah System of Higher Education (USHE)
- Utah House of Representatives
- Huntsman Mental Health Institute (HMHI)
- Members of the Public
- Utah State Board of Education (USBE)
- Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- Utah Senate
- Law Enforcement



Section 53A-11-1505 of S.B. 175 outlines the duties of the SafeUT and School Safety Commission:



The commission shall coordinate:

- (1) statewide efforts related to the School Safety and Crisis Line; and*
- (2) with the State Board of Education and the State Board of Regents (Higher Education) to promote awareness of the services available through the School Safety and Crisis Line.*

The SafeUT and School Safety Commission meets monthly and reviews prior month app utilization trends, school safety tip submissions and categories, marketing and outreach strategies, stakeholder feedback and opportunities for improvement, as well as policy and funding priorities.

The SafeUT and School Safety Commission has made a measurable impact on the lives of Utahns. In FY23, SafeUT's outcomes for K-12 and Higher Education included:



29,534

Total chats started with HMHI mental health counselors

- 1,118,602 back-and-forth message threads



536

Lifesaving interventions completed

- 269 included law enforcement and/or emergency medical services (EMS) response to save the SafeUT user's life
- 267 were de-escalated by counselors and involved collaboration with the student's school and parent/guardian



9,204

Tips Submitted about School Safety Concerns

Top 5 Tip Categories:

- Suicide (1,585)
- Crisis (1,239)
- Bullying (1,080)
- Potential school threats or acts of violence (791)
- Mental health (525)

July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023



Available 24/7/365 | Always confidential | Call, chat, or submit a tip

Download the App or Call 833-3SAFEUT(833.372.3388)

[SafeUT.org](https://www.safeut.org)

The SafeUT and School Safety Commission is collaborating with the recently formed School Security Task Force, established in the 2023 legislative session (H.B. 61).

The School Security Task Force is focused on addressing school safety and security issues in Utah and includes a member of the SafeUT and School Safety Commission to facilitate collaboration and better leverage existing (SafeUT) and new state resources. Below is a comparison of the two bodies:



SafeUT and School Safety Commission

- Established by S.B. 175 (2015)
- 11 members
- Commission sunset under current review
- Ongoing school safety coordination in alignment with USBE, USHE, and law enforcement standards
- Ongoing suicide prevention, crisis intervention, and behavioral health collaboration with HMHI and DHHS
- Ongoing outreach and community engagement efforts to increase awareness and utilization of SafeUT
- Ongoing mental health and school safety policy recommendations based on Utah suicide data, school safety tip trends, and community feedback

School Security Task Force

- Established by H.B. 61 (2023)
- 18 members
- Task force expires December 31, 2023
- Required to develop qualifications, duties, and scope of authority of the State Security Chief (within Department of Public Safety)
- Create statewide standardized training requirements, hiring policies, and process standards for School Resource Officers (SROs) and School Security Specialists
- Develop, review, and revise active threat and emergency response training standards and critical incident training
- Recommend safety and security protocols for the design, construction, and reconstruction of new and existing schools



“ SafeUT has not only been a lifeline for me but has also empowered me to extend a helping hand to those around me. ”

- Shelby McDonald, student



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