

The Open Classroom

134 D Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84103
Office Phone: 801-578-8144/Fax: 801-578-8218

Open Classroom Prevention Plan 2023-2024

Our School's Mission and Vision:

The Open Classroom is a parent-cooperative learning environment in which teachers and parents collaborate to educate the whole child and empower lifelong learners.

The Open Classroom inspires authentic learning by engaging everyone in dynamic and evolving practices in a welcoming environment.

- Every person in the learning community plays a role in creating and maintaining a meaningful, purposeful learning environment.
- Parents assist ("co-op") in the classroom, which gives students more individualized attention from both parents and teachers.
- Every child is treated as an individual.
- Every child is treated as a whole child, with their social, emotional, creative, cognitive, and physical growth and development being considered and nurtured, while state academic expectations are being met.

The Open Classroom philosophy is that students learn most effectively when they are immersed in authentic learning experiences where they can:

- Practice self-reliance
- Assume responsibility for their own learning
- Develop positive self-esteem and confidence
- Experience decision-making opportunities
- Receive guidance and support from caring, licensed teachers
- Receive guidance and support from parents who actively participate in classroom activities and school operation

Prevention Plan Overview

Our school prioritizes prevention by offering support and services to our students and their families. Some of our everyday efforts, the systems and strategies for supporting our students are listed below:

- School-wide Behavior Plan including the Community Agreements: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Kind, Be Safe, and Be a Problem-Solver.
 - Students are explicitly taught these agreements by learning the "why" for the agreements along with what does it look like, sound like, feel like for all areas of the school (office, playground, cafeteria, hallway, bathroom, etc.)

- Student Council: Students in grades 6th-8th can become student leaders. They discuss concerns they see, or hear about, within the school and help develop a plan of action to correct the concerns.
- Grade-level Buddies: Upper grade students team with lower grade students to support them in academics and friendships.
- We teach essential life skills for social and emotional health through a variety of classroom and grade-level strategies such as dealing with conflict, empathy, problem solving, bullying prevention, and emotional recognition and management. Each class receives a 40-minute lesson from our school counselor weekly.
- Community events to build relationships: Back to School Picnic, Walk-A-Thon, Solstice Celebration, Art Stroll, Holiday Art & Service Bazaar.
- Strong parent involvement through monthly parent meetings and steering committee meetings
- Behavior agreements with school counselor and at-risk students that may include a check-in/check-out each day to provide support for students.
- Behavior plans created that involve students, parents, special education team, teachers, administration, and counselors for severe behavioral problems.
- Weekly SCC meetings to identify students in need of additional support with academics, social/emotional learning, and attendance.
- Monthly theme to help students develop a more in-depth understanding of social-emotional needs. This is supported through morning announcements, school challenges, classroom lessons, and/or school assemblies.
- Our school provides access to SLC District mental health and support resources through Student Services which includes Odyssey House.
- Our school's counselor is trained and supported by SLC District to follow current best practices in prevention and intervention efforts.
- Our school provides access to parent and family resources, including a SLC District partnership, which includes Insight Classes, Promising Youth Programs, Peer Court, and the SafeUT app.
- Calm down room available for students to have time as needed to support their mental health.

Suicide Prevention Plan

- Our school's counselor and administrators are trained on and review SLC District suicide risk intervention guidelines annually through VECTOR.
- Faculty and staff have been trained, through SLC District VECTOR training, at the beginning of each year in recognizing warning signs and how to access help for students.

- All of our school's licensed staff participate in suicide prevention training for their license renewal.
- School counselors follow district suicide risk intervention guidelines and provide evidence-based interventions for students referred for suicide risk. These include using a screening tool ([Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale CSSR-S](#)), assisting the student to create a safety plan ([Stanley Brown Safety Plan](#)), informing parents ([Parent Notification Form](#)) and facilitating connection to the appropriate resources. (Pyramid of Mental Health Resources - Crisis Response, [Mental Health Resource Guide](#), [Odyssey House Telehealth](#))
- Students returning to school from an extended absence related to mental or physical health participate in a reentry process to create a [plan](#) for ongoing supportive measures at school.
- School Teams are designated to monitor and provide a timely response to SafeUt tips. Schools advertise and train students yearly about how to use SafeUT.
- Coping skills are taught in small group settings, in classes, or during intervention time as needed to support students.

Bullying, Harassment, and Discrimination Plan

All staff must know and follow SLCS Board Policies [G-19 Discrimination Harassment Sexual Harassment and Retaliation Prohibited](#) and [G-20 Bullying, Cyber-bullying, Hazing and Abusive Conduct Prohibited](#)

- All staff is trained annually on school procedures for recognizing, reporting, and responding to bullying incidents each year through SLC District VECTOR training.
- Staff will receive additional training during monthly faculty meetings on how to appropriately respond to, report, and record allegations of bullying, harassment, or discrimination.
- Administration will document in PowerSchool severe behavior incidents.
- Staff are trained regularly on school procedures for documentation which should follow State reporting requirements by logging targets and aggressors in PowerSchool.
- Updated Bullying and Harassment policies are posted on school websites.
- Parents receive this information during registration and acknowledge that they have received it with their initials.
- Students affected by bullying or harassment as targets, aggressors, or witnesses receive support for their individual needs, which may include referral to the Title IX Coordinator, counseling and mental health services (meeting with school counselor or referral to Odyssey House), Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA), Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP), a student wellness plan, and/or parent/guardian contact. After investigation, discipline measures may also be administered as set forth in [Board Policy S-3](#).

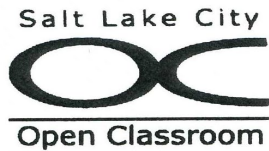
- Our school counselor works individually and/or in small groups with students teaching social skills, resilience, coping skills, and anger management as needed.
- All staff, especially administration and counselors, are available, and encourage, students to report incidents of bullying, harassment, and/or discrimination.
- Bullying, harassment, or discrimination reports are addressed individually, confidentially, and timely with the student and their parent/guardian.
- All staff members will participate in a “Racism in School” training at the beginning of the school year, with follow-up discussions and training throughout the year as needed.

Violence Prevention Plan

- Administration and counselors are trained on the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (C-STAG), along with other members of SLC District threat assessment team which may assist our school, such as School Resource Officers, Behavior Specialists, and Student Support. Additional training is needed for staff.
- C-STAG interview forms are readily available for administration to administer a threat assessment and determine next steps.
- Our school follows the process for a timely response to school threats using Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (C-STAG) and its decision tree. This includes warning potential victims and their parents/guardians.
- Our school’s staff and students are aware of school procedures for recognizing and reporting (SafeUT, content monitoring through SLC District, etc.) threats of violence. This training is provided yearly through SLC District Vector training.
- Students who are affected by, or who make threats of violence, receive interventions and support appropriate to their individual needs which may include problem solving, C-STAG interviews, suicide risk assessments, Peer Court referral, Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA), a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP), counseling and mental health services (i.e. school counselor, referral to Odyssey House), a student wellness plan, and/or parent/guardian contact.
- SafeUT use advocated.
- Teachers advocate reporting of information to administrators.
- Building relationships with students to promote conversations.
- Build school culture where reporting is supported and encouraged.

Additional Strategies

- [Counselors](#)
- [Odyssey House](#)
- [Health Services](#): Nurses, Resources for Vision, Dental Resources, Health Clinics



The Open Classroom

134 D Street

Salt Lake City, Utah 84103

Office Phone: 801-578-8144/Fax: 801-578-8218

- Healthy Choices: Nutritious Lunches/Breakfast Programs
- Substance Use Prevention and Intervention (Botvin Life Skills)
- [Peer Court](#)
- [McKinney Vento](#)
- Digital Citizenship: Digital Learning Courses, [Digital Respons-Ability Programs](#)
- [Child Sexual Abuse and Human Trafficking Prevention: Utah Code 53G-9-206](#)
 - All staff trained every other year using [Vector Solutions](#) and [3 Strands Global Foundation PROTECT Utah](#).
 - Provide training for parents and may elect to train students with parent permission using one of the [USB E approved providers](#) for these trainings.

Future Plans

As part of prevention, we will continue to develop and fully implement our PBIS system, focusing on our community agreements. This will include additional supports for students as we fully develop our matrix of what does it look like, feel like, sound like to help explicitly teach students behavior expectations. This implementation will also include additional training for staff on how to recognize and respond to bullying, harassment, discrimination, and violence.

Upcoming Dates & Training

After the first day of school, and prior to September 1st, a notice (school newsletter) will be sent to all stakeholders of the OC stating our commitment to maintaining a school climate that is free of harassment and discrimination. This notice will also communicate the provision of Utah HB 428 and related policies. This communication will be sent by administration.

During the September parent meetings each teacher will review the prevention plan with the parents in their class. This prevention plan will also be shared in our September Steering Committee Meeting.

Staff will be trained at the beginning of the year in bullying, harassment, and discrimination through SLC School District VECTOR training. Training in reporting and documenting incidents will continue throughout the year during pre-determined professional development.