## Greetings from your Officers



Mark Clement President-Elect



Teri Rhodes
President



Curtis Whipple Vice President



Richard C. Stowell Executive Director



Brigit Gerrard
Immediate Past President

Welcome to the USBA 93rd Annual Conference. We have planned this Conference with you in mind; thanks to your suggestions we have lined up some extraordinary speakers and outstanding presentations for the breakout sessions.

We recognize and appreciate that you are making a significant contribution of your time to participate in this Conference. We are confident that you will find it educational and will return to your district inspired and equipped for today's tough challenges. We hope that you will build new friendships with fellow Board Members from around the state and get acquainted with the many Superintendents and Business Administrators who attend and participate in the Conference.

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### IT'S BACK...

## **USBA** Health Fair

Located in the Sinclair Room on the Main Level

Free Services provided by Healthy Utah include:

- Blood Pressure Check
- Cholesterol
- Blood Glucose
- Body Composition
- Health Consultation
- And more...

Sponsored by USBA and Public Employees Health Plans (PEHP)

### Thanks to Our Exhibitors and Sponsors

Each year at the Conference, Exhibitors and Sponsors help support our overall program and provide a wealth of information to Conference attendees. USBA extends a big "Thank You" to our Sponsors and Exhibitors.



Steven Sharp Nelson The Piano Guys

### **Keynote Speaker**

Steven Sharp Nelson, TED Talk speaker and award winning composer and musician as "the cello guy" with The Piano Guys, Steven is known for his innovative and revolutionary approach to cello playing fused with guitar and percussion.

His work is streamed over 3 million times every day and has had more than 2 billion views. His pioneering techniques of writing, recording and performing have led him to performances atop the Great Wall of China, Chichen Itza in Mexico, Petra in Jordan, in front of the statue of Christ the Redeemer in Brazil, Eilean Donan Castle in Scotland, and on the Death Star.

One of his deepest desires is to further music education by making it fun, exciting, accessible and relevant. Steven believes learning music is like a master switch in life. When it is turned on, everything becomes brighter, clearer, and possible.



Kristi Swett
Past President, National School Boards Association

### **Featured Speaker**

Originally elected to the Salt Lake City School District (SLCSD) Board of Education in 2003, Kristi Swett is a proven leader in her community. During her tenure on the SLCSD board, she has served one term as vice president and three terms as president.

Swett also has served in leadership positions with state, regional, and national educational organizations, including the Utah School Boards Association and the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Pacific Region. In 2018, Swett joined the NSBA Board of Directors; in the spring of 2021, she was elected NSBA Secretary-Treasurer. She currently serves as the NSBA Past President. Her extensive background in community service and educational advocacy includes serving as president of the Lowell Bennion Advisory Board, president of the Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, member of former Gov. Gary Herbert's Excellence in Education Commission, executive board member for Friends for Sight, member of the Utah Public Education Coalition, and member of the School Trust Lands advisory board.

Swett strives to keep students at the center of her work; she firmly believes that public schools are entrusted with the critical responsibility of preparing all students for success in college, career, and life.



The Johnson Files

### **Featured Entertainment**

Viral comedian Shaun Johnson is bringing the laughs in his stand up comedy show: **Use Your Karate!** Shaun is known for his hilariously relatable style of comedy on stage and online where he creates content as "The Johnson Files." Shaun is also a billboard-charting recording artist and loves incorporating music into his show. You can also see him featured in BYUtv's "Show Offs," a musical improv comedy show. Shaun is married to his wife and business partner, Nicole, and together they have one son with another on the way.

### Utah School Boards Association 93rd Annual Conference

# FIRST GENERAL SESSION Thursday, January 9, 2025 Little America Ballroom

3:00-5:00 p.m.	Registration and Booth Exhibits Foyer
7:00 p.m.	Conducting Teri Rhodes, USBA President
	Reverence Ryan Despain, USBA Board of Directors
	Flag Ceremony Taylorsville High School JROTC Granite School District, Directed by Jeff Bruce
	National Anthem B.A.S.E. Singers  Accompanied by Randy Boothe, USBE
	Music Juab High School Madrigal Singers Juab School District Directed by Kelly Rowley

# Keynote Speaker Steven Sharp Nelson The Piano Guys

Steven Sharp Nelson, TED Talk speaker and award winning composer and musician as "the cello guy" with The Piano Guys, Steven is known for his innovative and revolutionary approach to cello playing fused with guitar and percussion.

8:30 p.m. Adjournment

#### SECOND GENERAL SESSION Friday, January 10, 2025

#### **USBA** Business Session

- Nominations for USBA Vice President Brigit Gerrard USBA Immediate Past President
- Vote on Proposed Bylaw Changes Teri Rhodes, USBA President
- Annual Report Curtis Whipple, USBA Vice President
- Divide into Regions to elect Single District Region Board of Director Members and Delegates at Large for Single District Regions and Delegates at Large for Multi District Regions

Region I – Sun Valley Room Cache, Logan, Rich

Region II – Flagstaff Room Box Elder, Morgan, Ogden

Region III - Ballroom Davis

Region IV – Idaho Room North Summit, South Summit, Park City, Wasatch

Region V – Ballroom Salt Lake City

Region VI - Ballroom Granite

Region VII - Snowbasin Room Murray, Provo

Region VIII – Arizona Room Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan

Region IX - Ballroom Jordan

Region X – Wasatch Room Juab, North Sanpete, Tintic, Millard Region XI – Uintah Room Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane

Region XII - Ballroom Alpine

Region XIII - Ballroom Weber

Region XIV - Ballroom Nebo

Region XV - Ballroom Washington

Region XVI - Ballroom Canvons

Region XVII - Ballroom
Tooele

**Region XVIII - Wyoming Room** South Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, Wayne

Region XIX – Teton Room Daggett, Duchesne, Uintah

#### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

9:45-10:45 a.m. — 11:00-12:00 noon

#### LIVE WELL AND LEAD WELL Wyoming Room

Presented by Shane Farnsworth, Superintendent and Scott Sumner, Alpine School District

Facilitator: Sarah Beeson, USBA Board of Directors

This session presents a framework used by Alpine School District to help school administrators clarify their purpose and values from a strength based perspective. Leaders use the framework to establish and fine-tune the behavior changes necessary to determine improvement focus and establish necessary behavioral changes that will provide results based on core values. During the school year, leaders engage in personal improvement cycles designed to embed their desired behaviors. Those participating in this self-improvement process experience greater confidence, better outcomes and less fatigue. Come learn the framework, about the literature supporting the framework, and tools to implement the process in your own life and in your role as a board member, district, and school leader.

## ENHANCING SCHOOL SAFETY Idaho Room

Presented by Rhett Larsen, School Safety Center Coordinator, Utah State Board of Education (USBE) Facilitator: April LeFevre, USBA Board of Directors

The Utah School Safety Center's mission and vision are highlighted, focusing on enhancing school safety. Key roles of school safety personnel are outlined, along with the process for conducting School Safety Needs Assessments and applying for alternatives. The presentation provides updates and resources aligned with legislative outcomes and covers physical safety measures for schools.

## A CONVERSATION WITH DR. RICH NYE Arizona Room

Presented by Dr. Rich Nye

Facilitator: Kristi Swett, USBA Board of Directors

Join Dr. Rich Nye, Senior Education Advisor to Governor Spencer Cox, for an insightful discussion on the Governor's education priorities. In this session, Dr. Nye will answer questions about the Governor's education initiatives, exploring key policies, funding priorities, and strategic goals designed to improve education across the state. Attendees will gain valuable insights into the Governor's vision for K-12 and higher education, as well as the challenges and opportunities facing educators, students, and families. This is a unique opportunity to hear directly from a key advisor and engage in a dialogue about the future of education in the state.

#### **CURRENT LEGAL TOPICS IN UTAH** Snowbasin Room

Presented by Dan Harper, Canyons School District Attorney Facilitator: Karen Pedersen, USBA Board of Directors

This session will review recent U.S. Supreme Court cases, including Perez v. Sturgis, federal and state court cases, Utah bills, USBE regulations and their impact on your educational practices.

## PREPARING YOUTH FOR LIFE AND LEADERSHIP THROUGH SPORTS Flagstaff Room

Presented by Corby Eason and Heather Bauer, Davis School District Facilitator: Brigit Gerrard, USBA Past President

North Layton Junior High School has enjoyed an unforgettable summer filled with sports, fitness and fun fostering social competence in our youth. NLJH LIFEsport's mission is empowering students through sports, fitness and educational activities all while having a blast! Each student participated in six sports during the four-week camp. They sharpened their skills, made new friends, and unleashed their inner athlete. From basketball to soccer to dance, there was something for everyone. Coaches were with them every step of the way, providing guidance toward success. Each student is paired with a dedicated NLJH teacher camp counselor, ensuring a safe and supportive environment for all, as well as providing a connection before the school year even begins, giving our incoming 7th graders a head start on their junior high experience.

#### UTAH SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND: THE BEST KEPT SECRET IN UTAH PUBLIC EDUCATION Sun Valley Room

Presented by Joel Coleman, Superintendent Facilitator: Curtis Whipple, USBA Vice President

Superintendent Joel Coleman and Associate Superintendents Michelle Tanner and Susan Patten will present inspiring examples of the educational opportunities for students with vision and hearing loss in the state of Utah. The presentation will also include vital information and instructions for school board members to access the fully funded enrichment programs, professional support, and other robust statewide resources available to transform the lives of students and their families in any school district across the state.

#### 10:45 a.m. Break 11:00 a.m. Breakout Sessions Continued

#### LIVE WELL AND LEAD WELL

**Wyoming Room** 

Presented by Shane Farnsworth, Superintendent and Scott Sumner, Alpine School District

Facilitator: Robin McClellan, USBA Board of Directors

This session presents a framework used by Alpine School District to help school administrators clarify their purpose and values from a strength based perspective. Leaders use the framework to establish and fine-tune the behavior changes necessary to determine improvement focus and establish necessary behavioral changes that will provide results based on core values. During the school year, leaders engage in personal improvement cycles designed to embed their desired behaviors. Those participating in this self-improvement process experience greater confidence, better outcomes and less fatigue. Come learn the framework, about the literature supporting the framework, and tools to implement the process in your own life and in your role as a board member, district, and school leader.

## **ENHANCING SCHOOL SAFETY** Idaho Room

Presented by Eric Woodhouse, Executive Director of Operations and Joe Hayes, Director of Operations Alpine School District Facilitator: Jennifer Partridge, USBA Board of Directors

In this session, we will explore Alpine School District's comprehensive approach to balancing safety and security within our dynamic educational environment. We will discuss our strategies for conducting thorough site assessments and implementing effective site hardening measures, while also emphasizing the importance of proactively identifying and intervening with at-risk students to mitigate potential threats. Join us as we navigate the complexities of fostering a safe learning atmosphere that prioritizes both security and the well-being of our students.

## A CONVERSATION WITH DR. RICH NYE Arizona Room

Presented by Dr. Rich Nye

Facilitator: Shauna Warnick, USBA Board of Directors

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Presented by Joel Coleman, Superintendent Facilitator: Richard Lamb, USBA Board of Directors

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#### 12:00 NOON — LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

#### THIRD GENERAL SESSION Friday, January 10, 2025

#### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

2:15-3:15 p.m. — 3:30-4:30 p.m.

## LEADING AN URBAN SCHOOL THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT Wyoming Room

Presented by Rick Robins, Superintendent, Canyon School District Facilitator: Karen Pedersen, USBA Board of Directors

Under the leadership of Principal Colleen Smith and staff, the entire school community at Copperview Elementary School has worked diligently to overcome major challenges in raising student achievement, improving student behavior, and building a culture of success. Principal Smith will share their journey and strategies that made this a reality.

## PARTNERING WITH RISK MANAGEMENT FOR SUCCESS Idaho Room

Presented by Rachel Terry, Director Utah Division of Risk Management, Andrew Seely, Claims Manager, and Ron Boshard, Loss Control Manager Facilitator: Linda Hanks, USBA Board of Directors

Come learn how Risk Management is working to better partner with you to improve outcomes in claims and reduce losses.

## NAVIGATING THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS: YOUR ROLE IN EDUCATION ADVOCACY

Arizona Room

Presented by Brigit Gerrard, USBA Immediate Past President; Julie Jackson, USBA Board of Directors; Lexi Cunningham, Associate Executive Director

Join us for an insightful session dedicated to understanding the legislative process and how you can actively participate in shaping educational policy. This program is designed to empower board members, superintendents, and business administrators with the knowledge and tools needed to engage effectively in the legislative landscape.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS: Understand the Legislative Process — Explore key phases of the legislative cycle, from bill introduction to committee meetings and floor debates.

Get Involved — Learn how to become an effective advocate for education by identifying your passion points and aligning them with legislative priorities.

Stay Informed — Explore various tools and platforms that provide timely information on legislative developments and educational news.

Contact Legislators — Learn how to schedule meetings with legislators and what to expect during those interactions.

Participate in the Process — Discover opportunities for public testimony, town hall meetings, and advocacy days where you can voice your opinions.

Taking Action — Develop a personal action plan for engaging with the legislative process, including setting goals and identifying key issues to focus on.

Equip yourself with the knowledge and skills to navigate the legislative process and advocate effectively for the future of education. Your voice matters — let's make it heard!

## RESULTS FROM THE 2024 UTAH SMILE HEALTHY ORAL HEALTH SURVEY AMONG UTAH'S 3RD GRADERS AND WHY THE DATA MATTERS Snowbasin Room

Presented by Amber Allred, Ogden School District, Dr. Stacy Swilling, and Lauren Neufield

Facilitator: James Winn, USBA Board of Directors

Data drives what we do in education and knowing the BIG picture of our children's health is important and vital to their overall success. In the Fall of 2024 the Utah Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, Oral Health Program randomly surveyed 3rd graders from 26 different school districts in Utah (25 urban schools and 25 rural schools). Dental disease causes more than just a hole in a tooth. It leads to discomfort, pain, poor nutrition, decreased self-esteem, poor sleep, chronic inflammation, lack of focus and more. Our children need us to discuss and understand this social determinant of health. Where do your children stand in the survey results?

## ALL SYSTEMS GO: LEVERAGING WELL-ALIGNED SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT STUDENT LEARNING Flagstaff Room

Presented by Superintendent Rick Woodford, Dr. Mistalyn Leis, Jayme Leyba, and Christy Nerdin, Uintah School District Facilitator: Robin McClellan, USBA Board of Directors

Uintah School District has developed and implemented well-aligned instructional and teacher evaluation frameworks to improve student learning. The district supports these frameworks through a systematic professional learning plan that incorporates six-week cycles where district and school leaders and staff focus on specific components of the district's instructional framework. During each cycle, the district conducts regular school and classroom walkthrough observations and feedback is provided to school principals and instructional coaches. These frameworks, and the accountability associated with them, are raising the bar for student learning and proficiency on state assessments for students in the Uintah School District. Uintah's TREE Teacher Evaluation Framework is aligned to the Utah Effective Teaching Standards (UETS) and is based on current research on comprehensive teacher evaluation.

## TEACHER BELIEVED IN ME: THE SCIENCE AND HEART OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN STUDENTS' POSITIVE WELL-BEING Sun Valley Room

Presented by Dr. David K. Hatch Facilitator: Mark Clement, USBA President Elect

The presentation is based on research for FranklinCovey Education's forthcoming 2025 book, *Teacher Believed in Me*. Given the prevalence of stress, anxiety, and depression in today's students, FranklinCovey has researched doable best practices teachers can apply to connect with students and increase their level of positive well-being. The intent is NOT to turn teachers into therapists, but rather to allow them to apply and teach positive skills for positive living.

**3:30 p.m.** Break

3:45 p.m. Breakout Sessions Continued

2:15-3:15 p.m. — 3:30-4:30 p.m.

## LEADING AN URBAN SCHOOL THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

**Wyoming Room** 

Presented by Rick Robins, Superintendent, Canyon School District Facilitator: Linda Hanks, USBA Board of Directors

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4:45 P.M. Utah High School Activities Association classification elections to elect UHSAA Boards of Trustees:

#### **Idaho Room**

5A Classification — (Jordan\*\* and Wasatch\*\*), Alpine, Box Elder, Canyons, Davis, Granite, Nebo, Provo, Salt Lake, and Weber depending on the results of the most recent UHSAA realignment of member schools in December 2024.

#### **Wyoming Room**

2A Classification — (North Summit\*\* and South Sanpete\*\* and Washington\*\*) Beaver, Duchesne, Grand, Iron, Kane, Millard, San Juan, and Sevier depending on the results of the most recent UHSAA realignment of member schools in December 2024.

\*\*District may vote (one ballot per school) but may NOT nominate a candidate as per district representation by a school board member or superintendent currently serving on the UHSAA Board of Trustees

Announcement of the results of the balloting will be made during a USBA general session on Saturday, January 11, 2025. The UHSAA is pleased to have a positive relationship with the USBA and supports an ongoing cooperation between the Associations.

# FOURTH GENERAL SESSION Evening Banquet Friday, January 10, 2025

#### The Johnson Files



Viral comedian Shaun Johnson is bringing the laughs in his stand up comedy show: **Use Your Karate!** Shaun is known for his hilariously relatable style of comedy on stage and online where he creates content as "The Johnson Files." Shaun is also a billboard-charting recording artist and loves incorporating music into his show. You can also see him featured in BYUtv's "Show Offs," a musical improv comedy show. Shaun is married to his wife and business partner, Nicole, and together they have one son with another on the way.

#### FIFTH GENERAL SESSION Saturday, January 11, 2025 Casual Dress

7:00-8:15 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet Arizona and Idaho Rooms
8:30 a.m.	Conducting Brigit Gerrard, USBA Immediate Past President
	Prize DrawingBrigit Gerrard, USBA Immediate Past President
	President's Report Teri Rhodes, USBA President

#### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

9:15-10:15 a.m. — 10:30-11:30 a.m.

## ENHANCING BUDGET PROCESSES: SETTING PRIORITIES, MANAGING RISKS, AND IMPROVING PRACTICES Wyoming Room

Presented by Cache School District Facilitator: Teri Rhodes, USBA President

How does the Board prioritize different needs within the district when allocating state funds? What criteria are used to determine funding priorities, and how do you balance these priorities with the requirements of state funding and legislative direction?

## WHAT SCHOOL BOARDS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SPECIAL EDUCATION Idaho Room

Presented by Dr. Bryce Day, Granite School District and Dr. Shelley Halverson, South Summit School District Facilitator: Julie Jackson, USBA Board of Directors

Special Education is complex, expensive, and often involves legal disputes. It is crucial for board members to understand what special education entails, the responsibilities of the school district, the necessary resources to address these needs, and the methods for handling disputes.

This session will cover the fundamentals of special education, including its legal foundations and requirements, as well as the implications for funding. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the basic provisions of special education, the unique vocabulary associated with it, an overview of significant litigation, and appropriate responses to disputes and complaints in your role as a board member.

#### YOU TOO CAN BE A MASTER BOARD MEMBER! Arizona Room

Presented by USBA Master Boards Certification Committee and USBA Advocacy Committee

Come learn about the updated Master Boards Certification program and the value and importance of yearly certification as a school board member. Bring a device or laptop to this session and get to work learning about the new program and the professional development opportunities provided by USBA to every school board member in all 41 Utah school districts.

## DRUG TESTING IN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS Snowbasin Room

Presented by Rick Larsen, former Rich School District Principal Facilitator: Richard Lamb, USBA Board of Directors

Learn the process Rich School District went through to implement drug testing for all junior high and high school student athletes. Recently retired high school principal Rick Larsen will explain the process and culture change that resulted.

## **SPEED NETWORKING — IDEA SHARING AMONGST DISTRICTS** Flagstaff Room

Moderators: Jennifer Partridge, April LeFevre, Kristi Swett, Ryan Despain, USBA Board of Directors

Would you like some ideas on how to approach specific issues in your district? You'll have the opportunity to learn from one another as we divide into groups to share ideas and solutions. It's recommended that your board does not all attend the same session so that you have more opportunities to learn from other districts.

## EMPOWERING TOMORROW: INTEGRATING STUDENT VOICES ON SCHOOL BOARDS

**Sun Valley Room** 

Presented by Teri McCabe and Gina Hales, Provo School District, Monika Tua'one, Timpview High School and Hutch Fale, Provo High School

Facilitator: Shauna Warnick, USBA Board of Directors

Join us for an insightful and engaging presentation on the role of student board members in shaping educational policies and practices. Discover how various school boards select their student representatives, the numerous benefits of including student voices in decision-making processes, and the challenges that may arise. Gain valuable insights from real-life examples and participate in a dynamic Q&A session with current student board members. This session is designed to inspire and equip school boards with the knowledge and strategies to effectively integrate student perspectives, fostering a more inclusive and responsive educational environment.

10:15 a.m. Break 10:30 a.m. Breakout Sessions Continued

## ENHANCING BUDGET PROCESSES: SETTING PRIORITIES, MANAGING RISKS, AND IMPROVING PRACTICES Wyoming Room

Presented by South Sanpete School District Facilitator: Kristi Swett, USBA Board of Directors

How does the Board prioritize different needs within the district when allocating state funds? What criteria are used to determine funding priorities, and how do you balance these priorities with the requirements of state funding and legislative direction?

## WHAT SCHOOL BOARDS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SPECIAL EDUCATION

Idaho Room

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## **PRIVACY VIOLATIONS AND AI** Sun Valley Room

Presented by David Long, Superintendent, Beaver School District Facilitator: Sarah Beeson, USBA Board of Directors

Aside from writing papers and answering emails in a clever way, do you know what is driving the investment of billions of dollars at Google, Apple, Microsoft, Facebook, Amazon, X, Nvidia, Intell, Verizon, T-Mobile, AT&T, and others? Do you know how your data is used and why the most trivial data is important to big tech? Can you control what data is being shared from your devices? Should you?

If you are interested in data sovereignty for yourself and if you have concerns about what we should all be doing to help students in our schools keep their data secure, this discussion is for you. Answers to these questions are not easy to find and will require a bigger discussion about how we connect to the digital world. Come start the conversation and learn some tricks on how to take back your privacy.

# SIXTH GENERAL SESSION Luncheon Session Saturday, January 11, 2025

12:00 Noon	Conducting
	Luncheon Buffet Ballroom
	Election Results Teri Rhodes, USBA President
	Installation of Incoming President Teri Rhodes, USBA President
	Prize Drawing Brigit Gerrard, USBA Immediate Past President
1:30 p.m.	Adjournment Mark Clement, USBA President

Have a Safe Trip Home



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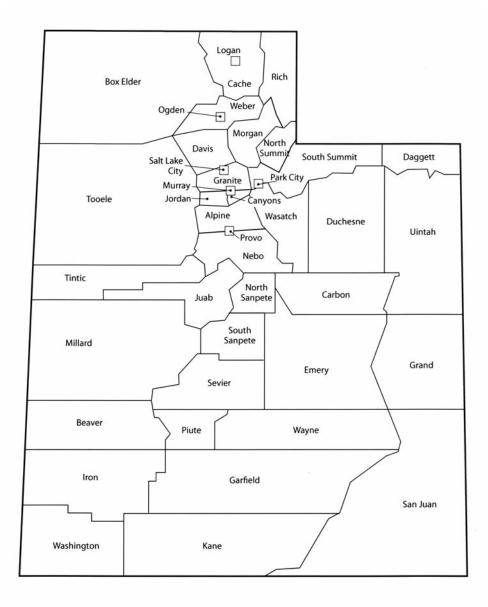
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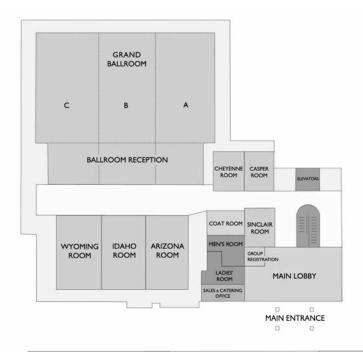
\*MBC Recipients by District

### **Utah School Districts Map**

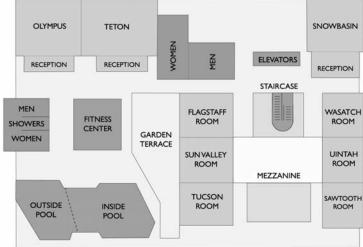


# Little America Hotel Floor Plan Map

MAIN LEVEL



SECOND LEVEL



#### **Proposed USBA Region Alignment**

Region I Cache, Logan, Rich

Region II Morgan, Ogden, Box Elder

Region III Davis

Region IV North Summit, South Summit, Park City, Wasatch

Revion V Daggett, Duchesne, Uintah

Region VI Granite

Region VII Provo, Murray, Salt Lake City

Region VIII Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan

Region IX Jordan

Region X Juab, North Sanpete, Tintic, Millard

Region XI Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane

Region XII Alpine
Region XIII Weber
Region XIV Nebo

Region XV Washington

Region XVI Canyons

Region XVII Tooele

Region XVIII South Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, Wayne