

28 (1) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, an LEA may allow a volunteer chaplain  
29 in an LEA school if:

30 (a) the chaplain satisfies the background check requirements described in Section  
31 53G-11-402;

32 (b) the chaplain satisfies the reference check requirements described in Section  
33 53G-11-410;

34 (c) the chaplain completes all training required by:

35 (i) statute;

36 (ii) the State Board of Education; or

37 (iii) the LEA;

38 (d) student and employee participation in chaplain services is voluntary; and

39 (e) there is no coercion of a student or employee to participate in, or to not participate  
40 in, chaplain services.

41 (2) ~~H~~→ [An] Prior to an LEA permitting a volunteer chaplain in an LEA school, the

41a ~~←H~~ LEA shall ~~H~~→ [develop] adopt ~~←H~~ policies, guidelines, and requirements for a volunteer  
41b school

42 chaplain, that address:

43 (a) qualifications for a chaplain, including:

44 (i) an educational requirement; and

45 (ii) an experiential requirement;

46 (b) required chaplain training;

47 (c) chaplain duties and services;

48 (d) parental consent;

49 (e) employee consent;

50 (f) student consent;

51 (g) required reporting and confidentiality;

52 (h) appropriate guidelines, restrictions, and oversight for a chaplain; and

53 (i) successful implementation of a school chaplain program.

54 (3) (a) In developing the policies, guidelines, and requirements described in Subsection  
55 (2), an LEA shall consider input from:

56 (i) the State Board of Education;

57 (ii) the state superintendent;

58 (iii) the governor's office;

59 (iv) the Office of the Attorney General;

60 (v) the Utah School Superintendents Association;

61 (vi) LEA employees;

62 (vii) parents; and

63 (viii) students.

64 (b) A person described in Subsection (3)(a) is not required to, but may provide input to  
65 an LEA that is developing policies, guidelines, and requirements for school chaplains.

66 (4) (a) On or before September 30, 2024, each LEA shall inform the State Board of  
67 Education of the LEA's interest level in allowing school chaplains.

68 (b) The State Board of Education shall send a report to the Education Interim  
69 Committee before the November 2024 committee meeting informing the committee of the data  
70 regarding LEA interest in a school chaplain program.

71 (5) (a) On or before September 30, 2025, an LEA ~~H~~→ that intends to notify the State  
71a Board of Education of its intent to permit volunteer school chaplains ←~~H~~ shall vote to  
71b determine whether the  
72 LEA will permit volunteer school chaplains.

73 (b) An LEA shall promptly notify the State Board of Education regarding the LEA's  
74 determination and established policies and requirements.

75 (6) (a) The State Board of Education shall send a report to the Education Interim  
76 Committee before the November 2025 committee meeting.

77 (b) The report described in Subsection (6)(a) shall include a description of:

78 (i) the number of LEAs that intend to allow school chaplains;

79 (ii) the policies developed by LEAs to comply with Subsection (2); and

80 (iii) recommendations for minimum standards and requirements.

81 **Section 2. Effective date.**

82 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.