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School Security Personnel Standards
2026 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Ryan D. Wilcox
Senate Sponsor: Ann Millner

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill provides amendments to school safety standards regarding requirements for various safety related personnel.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ allows county security chiefs to designate approved private security companies to administer required school safety personnel training;
- ▶ requires the State Board of Education to administer stipends for a school guardian in coordination with the state security chief;
- ▶ requires a local education agency (LEA) to provide a panic alert device for certain school safety personnel;
- ▶ expands the definition of an armed school security guard to include a special function officer;
- ▶ clarifies requirements of a school guardian concealed carrying a firearm while on duty;
- ▶ prohibits certain devices in schools;
- ▶ directs the Cybersecurity Commission to make rules establishing minimum cybersecurity standards for local education agencies (LEAs) aligned with industry recognized frameworks;
- ▶ establishes a phased implementation timeline for LEA compliance;
- ▶ requires coordination among the Utah Cyber Center, the State Board of Education, and the Utah Education and Telehealth Network;
- ▶ establishes reporting requirements for cybersecurity incidents;
- ▶ requires the State Board of Education to provide implementation support and resources;
- ▶ includes a coordination clause to incorporate changes made to Section 53G-7-227 with

- 28 changes made to that section in S.B. 69, School Device Revisions;
- 29 ▸ provides protocols for a school guardian or armed school security guard for an incident
- 30 using deadly force;
- 31 ▸ establishes visitor management protocols for an LEA;
- 32 ▸ removes duplicative language; and
- 33 ▸ makes conforming changes.

34 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

35 None

36 **Other Special Clauses:**

37 This bill provides a coordination clause.

38 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

39 AMENDS:

- 40 **53-13-105 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special
- 41 Session, Chapter 16
- 42 **53-22-103 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388
- 43 **53-22-105 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 173,
- 44 208, 388, and 470
- 45 **53-22-107 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 173,
- 46 208
- 47 **53-25-701 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388
- 48 **53G-6-806 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 21
- 49 **53G-7-227 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special
- 50 Session, Chapter 9
- 51 **53G-8-101 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 3
- 52 **53G-8-102 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 348,
- 53 388
- 54 **53G-8-301 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as repealed and reenacted by Laws of Utah 2025,
- 55 Chapter 327
- 56 **53G-8-701 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388
- 57 **53G-8-701.5 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388
- 58 **53G-8-701.6 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 388,
- 59 470
- 60 **53G-8-704 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 208,
- 61 388

62 **53G-8-802 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388
 63 **53G-8-805 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388
 64 **63C-27-201 (Effective 05/06/26) (Repealed 07/01/32)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2022,
 65 Chapter 153
 66 **63C-27-202 (Effective 05/06/26) (Repealed 07/01/32)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2022,
 67 Chapter 153

68 ENACTS:

69 **53G-8-806 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
 70 **53G-8-901 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
 71 **53G-8-902 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
 72 **53G-8-903 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

73 **Utah Code Sections affected by Coordination Clause:**

75 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

76 Section 1. Section **53-13-105** is amended to read:

77 **53-13-105 (Effective 05/06/26). Special function officer.**

78 (1)(a) "Special function officer" means a sworn and certified peace officer performing
 79 specialized investigations, service of legal process, security functions, or specialized
 80 ordinance, rule, or regulatory functions.

81 (b) "Special function officer" includes:

- 82 (i) state military police;
- 83 (ii) constables;
- 84 (iii) port-of-entry agents as defined in Section 72-1-102;
- 85 (iv) authorized employees or agents of the Department of Transportation assigned to
 86 administer and enforce the provisions of Title 72, Chapter 9, Motor Carrier Safety
 87 Act;
- 88 (v) school district security officers;
- 89 (vi) Utah State Hospital security officers designated pursuant to Section 26B-5-303;
- 90 (vii) Utah State Developmental Center security officers designated pursuant to
 91 Section 26B-6-506;
- 92 (viii) fire arson investigators for any political subdivision of the state;
- 93 (ix) ordinance enforcement officers employed by municipalities or counties may be
 94 special function officers;
- 95 (x) employees of the Department of Natural Resources who have been designated to

- 96 conduct supplemental enforcement functions as a collateral duty;
97 (xi) railroad special agents deputized by a county sheriff under Section 17-76-202 or
98 17-76-303 or appointed under Section 56-1-21.5;
99 (xii) auxiliary officers, as described by Section 53-13-112;
100 (xiii) special agents, process servers, and investigators employed by city attorneys;
101 (xiv) criminal tax investigators designated under Section 59-1-206; and
102 (xv) all other persons designated by statute as having special function officer
103 authority or limited peace officer authority.

104 (2)(a) A special function officer may exercise that spectrum of peace officer authority
105 that has been designated by statute to the employing agency, and only while on duty,
106 and not for the purpose of general law enforcement.

107 (b) If the special function officer is charged with security functions respecting facilities
108 or property, the powers may be exercised only in connection with acts occurring on
109 the property where the officer is employed or when required for the protection of the
110 employer's interest, property, or employees.

111 (c) A special function officer may carry firearms only while on duty, and only if
112 authorized and under conditions specified by the officer's employer or chief
113 administrator.

114 (d) While on duty, a special function officer employed by an elected sheriff or by a law
115 enforcement agency of the state or of a political subdivision may respond to
116 situations observed by the special function officer, whether on or off the officer's
117 assigned duty location, and is authorized to perform collateral duties for the purposes
118 of public safety, pending arrival of law enforcement officers from a local law
119 enforcement agency.

120 (3)(a) A special function officer may not exercise the authority of a special function
121 officer until:

122 (i) the officer has satisfactorily completed an approved basic training program for
123 special function officers as provided under Subsection (4); and

124 (ii) the chief law enforcement officer or administrator has certified this fact to the
125 director of the division.

126 (b) City and county constables and their deputies shall certify their completion of
127 training to the legislative governing body of the city or county they serve.

128 (4)(a) The agency that the special function officer serves may establish and maintain a
129 basic special function course and in-service training programs as approved by the

130 director of the division with the advice and consent of the council.

131 (b) The in-service training shall consist of no fewer than 40 hours per year and may be
132 conducted by the agency's own staff or by other agencies.

133 (5)(a) An individual shall be 19 years old or older before being certified or employed as
134 a special function officer.

135 (b) A special function officer who is under 21 years old may only work as a correctional
136 officer in accordance with Section 53-13-104.

137 Section 2. Section **53-22-103** is amended to read:

138 **53-22-103 (Effective 05/06/26). County sheriff responsibilities -- Coordination.**

139 (1) Each county sheriff shall identify an individual as a county security chief within the
140 sheriff's office to coordinate security responsibilities, protocols, and required trainings
141 between the state security chief, the county sheriff's office, and the corresponding police
142 chiefs whose jurisdiction includes a public school within the county.

143 (2) The county security chief shall:

144 (a) in collaboration with the school safety and security specialist described in Section
145 53G-8-701.6 and a member of the local law enforcement agency of relevant
146 jurisdiction as described in Section 53-25-701:

147 (i) administer or coordinate with a designee from the local law enforcement agency
148 of relevant jurisdiction to participate in, by any appropriate means the county
149 security chief determines, the school safety needs assessment described in Section
150 53G-8-701.5; and

151 (ii) review the results of the school safety needs assessment to recommend and
152 implement improvements to school facilities, policies, procedures, protocols,
153 rules, and regulations relating to school safety and security;

154 (b) collaborate and maintain effective communications regarding school safety with
155 each:

156 (i) school safety and security specialist in the county security chief's county, as
157 described in Section 53G-8-701.6;

158 (ii) school safety and security director in the county security chief's county, as
159 described in Section 53G-8-701.8; and

160 (iii) local law enforcement agency within the county;

161 (c) administer, or, if a local education agency chooses, designate qualified entities to
162 administer, with the corresponding police chiefs whose jurisdiction includes a public
163 school, the trainings described in Sections 53-22-105 and 53G-8-704, including:

- 164 (i) assessing if an individual is capable of the duties and responsibilities that the
 165 trainings cover;
 166 (ii) denying an individual the ability to be any of the school safety personnel
 167 described in Section 53G-8-701.5 if the county security chief finds the individual
 168 is not capable of the duties and responsibilities that the trainings cover; and
 169 (iii) for any designated entity under this Subsection (2)(c):
 170 (A) ensuring the designated entity meets minimum training standards established
 171 by the state security chief;
 172 (B) providing written approval of the designation;
 173 (C) ensuring the designated entity coordinates with local law enforcement of the
 174 relevant jurisdiction; and
 175 (D) maintaining oversight and final authority over all training administration; and
 176 ~~[(e) administer with the corresponding police chiefs whose jurisdiction includes a public~~
 177 ~~school, the trainings described in Sections 53-22-105 and 53G-8-704, including:]~~
 178 ~~[(i) assessing if an individual is capable of the duties and responsibilities that the~~
 179 ~~trainings cover; and]~~
 180 ~~[(ii) denying an individual the ability to be a school safety personnel described in~~
 181 ~~Section 53G-8-701.5 if the county security chief finds the individual is not~~
 182 ~~capable of the duties and responsibilities that the trainings cover; and]~~
 183 (d) in conjunction with the state security chief, administer the school guardian program
 184 established in Section 53-22-105 at any school participating in the program in the
 185 county security chief's county.

186 Section 3. Section **53-22-105** is amended to read:

187 **53-22-105 (Effective 05/06/26). School guardian program.**

- 188 (1) As used in this section:
 189 (a) "Annual training" means an annual four-hour training that:
 190 (i) a county security chief or a designee administers in coordination with personnel
 191 from local law enforcement of relevant jurisdiction as described in ~~[Section]~~
 192 Subsection 53-25-701(2)(b);
 193 (ii) the state security chief approves;
 194 (iii) can be tailored to local needs;
 195 (iv) allows an individual to practice and demonstrate firearms proficiency at a
 196 firearms range using the firearm the individual carries for self defense and defense
 197 of others;

- 198 (v) includes the following components:
- 199 (A) firearm safety, including safe storage of a firearm;
- 200 (B) de-escalation tactics;
- 201 (C) the role of mental health in incidents; and
- 202 (D) disability awareness and interactions; and
- 203 (vi) contains other training needs as determined by the state security chief.
- 204 (b) "Biannual training" means a twice-yearly training that:
- 205 (i) is at least four hours, unless otherwise approved by the state security chief;
- 206 (ii) a county security chief or a designee administers in coordination with personnel
- 207 from local law enforcement of relevant jurisdiction as described in [Section]
- 208 Subsection 53-25-701(2)(b);
- 209 (iii) the state security chief approves;
- 210 (iv) can be tailored to local needs;
- 211 (v) through which a school guardian at a school or simulated school environment:
- 212 (A) receives training on the specifics of the building or buildings of the school,
- 213 including the location of emergency supplies and security infrastructure; and
- 214 (B) participates in a live-action practice plan with school administrators in
- 215 responding to active threats at the school; and
- 216 (vi) shall be taken with at least three months in between the two trainings.
- 217 (c) "Deadly force" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-2-408.
- 218 [~~(e)~~] (d) "Firearm" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-11-101.
- 219 [~~(d)~~] (e) "Initial training" means an in-person training that:
- 220 (i) a county security chief or a designee administers in coordination with personnel
- 221 from local law enforcement of relevant jurisdiction as described in [Section]
- 222 Subsection 53-25-701(2)(b);
- 223 (ii) the state security chief approves;
- 224 (iii) can be tailored to local needs; and
- 225 (iv) provides:
- 226 (A) training on general familiarity with the types of firearms that can be concealed
- 227 for self-defense and defense of others;
- 228 (B) training on the safe loading, unloading, storage, and carrying of firearms in a
- 229 school setting;
- 230 (C) training at a firearms range with instruction regarding firearms fundamentals,
- 231 marksmanship, the demonstration and explanation of the difference between

- 232 sight picture, sight alignment, and trigger control, and a recognized pistol
 233 course;
- 234 (D) current laws dealing with the lawful use of a firearm by a private citizen,
 235 including laws on self-defense, defense of others, transportation of firearms,
 236 and concealment of firearms;
- 237 (E) coordination with law enforcement officers in the event of an active threat;
- 238 (F) basic trauma first aid;
- 239 (G) the appropriate use of force, emphasizing the de-escalation of force and
 240 alternatives to using force; and
- 241 (H) situational response evaluations, including:
- 242 (I) protecting and securing a crime or accident scene;
- 243 (II) notifying law enforcement;
- 244 (III) controlling information; and
- 245 (IV) other training that the county sheriff, designee, or department deems
 246 appropriate.

247 [(e)] (f) "Program" means the school guardian program created in this section.

248 [(f)] (g)(i) "School employee" means an employee of a school or law enforcement
 249 agency whose duties and responsibilities require the employee to be physically
 250 present at a school's campus while school is in session.

251 (ii) "School employee" does not include a [~~principal,~~]teacher[;] or individual whose
 252 primary responsibilities require the employee to be primarily present in a
 253 classroom to teach, care for, or interact with students, unless:

254 (A) the [~~principal,~~]teacher[;] or individual is employed at a school with 350 or
 255 fewer students;

256 (B) the [~~principal,~~]teacher[;] or individual is employed at a school with adjacent
 257 campuses as determined by the state security chief; or

258 (C) as provided in Subsection 53G-8-701.5(3).

259 [(g)] (h) "School guardian" means a school employee who meets the requirements of
 260 Subsection (3).

261 (2)(a)(i) There is created within the department the school guardian program.

262 (ii) The state security chief shall oversee the school guardian program.

263 (iii) The applicable county security chief shall administer the school guardian
 264 program in each county.

265 (b) The state security chief shall ensure that the school guardian program includes:

- 266 (i) initial training;
- 267 (ii) biannual training; and
- 268 (iii) annual training.
- 269 (c) A county sheriff may partner or contract with:
- 270 (i) another county sheriff to support the respective county security chiefs in jointly
- 271 administering the school guardian program in the relevant counties; and
- 272 (ii) a local law enforcement agency of relevant jurisdiction to provide the:
- 273 (A) initial training;
- 274 (B) biannual training; and
- 275 (C) annual training.
- 276 (3)(a) A school employee that volunteers to participate is eligible to join the program as
- 277 a school guardian if:
- 278 (i) the school administrator approves the volunteer school employee to be designated
- 279 as a school guardian;
- 280 (ii) the school employee satisfactorily completes initial training within six months
- 281 before the day on which the school employee joins the program;
- 282 (iii) the school employee holds a valid concealed carry permit issued under Chapter
- 283 5a, Part 3, Concealed Firearm Permits;
- 284 (iv) the school employee certifies to the sheriff of the county where the school is
- 285 located that the school employee has undergone the training in accordance with
- 286 Subsection (3)(a)(ii) and intends to serve as a school guardian; and
- 287 (v) the school employee:
- 288 (A) completes an initial "fit to carry" assessment the Department of Health and
- 289 Human Services approves and a provider administers; and
- 290 (B) maintains compliance with mental health screening requirements consistent
- 291 with law enforcement standards.
- 292 (b) After joining the program a school guardian shall complete annual training and
- 293 biannual training to retain the designation of a school guardian in the program.
- 294 (4) The state security chief shall:
- 295 (a) for each school that participates in the program, track each school guardian at the
- 296 school by collecting the photograph and the name and contact information for each
- 297 guardian;
- 298 (b) make the information described in Subsection (4)(a) readily available to each law
- 299 enforcement agency in the state categorized by school; and

- 300 (c) ~~[provide each school guardian with a one-time stipend of \$500.]~~ in accordance with
301 Section 53G-8-701.5, and subject to legislative appropriations, consult with the State
302 Board of Education to provide each school guardian with a one-time stipend.
- 303 (5) A school guardian:
- 304 ~~[(a) may store the school guardian's firearm on the grounds of a school only if:]~~
305 ~~[(i) the firearm is stored in a biometric gun safe;]~~
306 ~~[(ii) the biometric gun safe is located in the school guardian's office; and]~~
307 ~~[(iii) the school guardian is physically present on the grounds of the school while the~~
308 ~~firearm is stored in the safe;]~~
- 309 ~~[(b) shall carry the school guardian's firearm in a concealed manner; and]~~
- 310 ~~[(e) may not, unless during an active threat, display or open carry a firearm while on~~
311 ~~school grounds.]~~
- 312 (a) shall carry the school guardian's firearm on the school guardian's person in a
313 concealed manner at all times while on duty during school hours;
- 314 (b) may temporarily store the school guardian's firearm in a biometric gun safe located
315 in the school guardian's office only:
- 316 (i) for brief personal needs such as restroom use;
317 (ii) during required activities where carrying is physically impractical and approved
318 by the school administrator; or
319 (iii) at the end of the school guardian's shift;
- 320 (c) shall ensure that any temporary storage under Subsection (5)(b):
321 (i) does not exceed 15 minutes per occasion, except as approved by the school
322 administrator for documented necessity;
323 (ii) occurs only when the school guardian is physically present on school grounds; and
324 (iii) is immediately retrievable by the school guardian;
- 325 (d) may not, unless during an active threat, display or open carry a firearm while on
326 school grounds; and
- 327 (e) shall ensure the firearm is immediately accessible to respond to active threats during
328 the school guardian's assigned duty hours.
- 329 (6) Except as provided in Subsection ~~[(5)(e)]~~ (5)(d), this section does not prohibit an
330 individual who has a valid concealed carry permit but is not participating in the program
331 from carrying a firearm on the grounds of a public school or charter school under
332 Subsection 76-11-205(4).
- 333 (7) A school guardian:

- 334 (a) does not have authority to act in a law enforcement capacity; and
335 (b) may, at the school where the school guardian is employed:
336 (i) take actions necessary to prevent or abate an active threat; and
337 (ii) temporarily detain an individual when the school guardian has reasonable cause
338 to believe the individual has committed or is about to commit a forcible felony, as
339 that term is defined in Section 76-2-402.
- 340 (8) A school may designate a single volunteer or multiple volunteers to participate in the
341 school guardian program to satisfy the school safety personnel requirements of Section
342 53G-8-701.5.
- 343 (9) The department may adopt, according to Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
344 Rulemaking Act, rules to administer this section.
- 345 (10) A school guardian who has active status in the guardian program is not liable for any
346 civil damages or penalties if the school guardian:
347 (a) when carrying or storing a firearm:
348 (i) is acting in good faith; and
349 (ii) is not grossly negligent; or
350 (b) threatens, draws, or otherwise uses a firearm reasonably believing the action to be
351 necessary in compliance with Section 76-2-402.
- 352 (11) A school guardian shall file a report described in Subsection (12) if, during the
353 performance of the school guardian's duties, the school guardian points a firearm at an
354 individual.
- 355 (12)(a) A report described in Subsection (11) shall include:
356 (i) a description of the incident;
357 (ii) the identification of the individuals involved in the incident; and
358 (iii) any other information required by the state security chief.
- 359 (b) A school guardian shall submit a report required under Subsection (11) to the school
360 administrator, school safety and security director, and the state security chief within
361 48 hours after the incident.
- 362 (c) The school administrator, school safety and security director, and the state security
363 chief shall consult and review the report submitted under Subsection (12)(b).
- 364 (13) The requirements of Subsections (11) and (12) do not apply to a training exercise.
- 365 (14) If a school guardian uses deadly force, the guardian:
366 (a) shall be placed on administrative leave pending investigation;
367 (b) may not be required to provide a written report described in Subsections (11) and (12);

- 368 (c)(i) may not be required to participate in a voluntary interview; and
 369 (ii) if the guardian chooses to participate in an interview, the interview may not be
 370 sooner than two sleep cycles after the incident; and
 371 (d) shall be subject to investigation by the law enforcement agency with primary
 372 jurisdiction over the school's location.

373 [(14)] (15) A school guardian may have the designation of school guardian revoked at any
 374 time by the school principal, county sheriff, or state security chief.

375 [(15)] (16)(a) Any information or record created detailing a school guardian's
 376 participation in the program is:

377 (i) a private, controlled, or protected record under Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government
 378 Records Access and Management Act; and

379 (ii) available only to:

380 (A) the state security chief;

381 (B) administrators at the school guardian's school;

382 (C) if applicable, other school safety personnel described in Section 53G-8-701.5;

383 (D) school employees participating in the Educator-Protector Program under
 384 Section 53-22-107 at the same school;

385 [(D)] (E) a local law enforcement agency that would respond to the school in case
 386 of an emergency; and

387 [(E)] (F) the individual designated by the county sheriff in accordance with Section
 388 53-22-103 of the county of the school where the school guardian in the
 389 program is located.

390 (b) The information or record described in Subsection [(15)(a)] (16)(a) includes
 391 information related to the school guardian's identity and activity within the program
 392 as described in this section and any personal identifying information of a school
 393 guardian participating in the program collected or obtained during initial training,
 394 annual training, and biannual training.

395 (c) An individual who intentionally or knowingly provides the information described in
 396 Subsection [(15)(a)] (16)(a) to an individual or entity not listed in Subsection [
 397 (15)(a)(ii)] (16)(a)(ii) is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

398 Section 4. Section **53-22-107** is amended to read:

399 **53-22-107 (Effective 05/06/26). Educator-Protector Program.**

400 (1) As used in this section:

401 (a) "Annual classroom response training" means a training for a [teacher] school

- 402 employee:
- 403 (i) that is held at least once a year and is administered, at no cost to a [teacher] school
- 404 employee, by the individual identified by the county sheriff as described in
- 405 Section 53-22-103; and
- 406 (ii) where the [teacher] school employee is trained:
- 407 (A) on how to defend a classroom against active threats emphasizing the [teacher's]
- 408 school employee's role in stationary defense; and
- 409 (B) on the safe loading, unloading, storage, and carrying of firearms in a school
- 410 setting.
- 411 (b) "Bureau" means the Bureau of Criminal Identification created in Section 53-10-201.
- 412 (c) "Local education agency" means the same as that term is defined in Section
- 413 53E-1-102.
- 414 (d) "Program" means the Educator-Protector Program created under this section.
- 415 (e) [~~"Teacher" means an individual employed by a local education agency who has an~~
- 416 ~~assignment to teach in a classroom.~~] "School employee" means the same as that term
- 417 is defined in Section 53-22-105.
- 418 (2) There is created the Educator-Protector Program to incentivize a [teacher] school
- 419 employee to responsibly secure or carry a firearm on the grounds of the school where
- 420 the [teacher] school employee is employed.
- 421 (3)(a) To participate in the program, a [teacher] school employee shall:
- 422 (i) have completed an annual classroom response training within six months before
- 423 the day on which the [teacher] school employee joins the program;
- 424 (ii) have a valid concealed carry permit issued under Title 53, Chapter 5a, Part 3,
- 425 Concealed Firearm Permits; and
- 426 (iii) certify to the department that:
- 427 (A) the [teacher] school employee satisfies the requirements described in
- 428 Subsections (3)(a)(i) and (3)(a)(ii); and
- 429 (B) if applicable, intends to securely store or carry a firearm on the grounds of a
- 430 school where the [teacher] school employee is employed.
- 431 (b) After joining the program, to retain the [teacher's] school employee's active status in
- 432 the program, a [teacher] school employee shall:
- 433 (i) participate in annual classroom response training; and
- 434 (ii) comply with any rules established by the department in accordance with
- 435 Subsection (10).

- 436 (4)(a) The state security chief shall:
- 437 (i) track each [teacher] school employee that participates in the program by collecting
- 438 a photograph, name, and contact information for each [teacher] school employee;
- 439 (ii) make the information described in Subsection [~~(4)(a)~~] (4)(a)(i) readily available to
- 440 each law enforcement agency in the state; and
- 441 (iii) provide reasonable reimbursement, using funds appropriated by the Legislature,
- 442 to a county sheriff for providing a [teacher] school employee with annual
- 443 classroom response training.
- 444 (b) The state security chief shall categorize the information described in Subsection
- 445 (4)(a)(i) by school.
- 446 (5) A [teacher] school employee participating in the program:
- 447 (a) may store the [teacher's] school employee's firearm on the grounds of a school only if:
- 448 (i) the firearm is stored in a biometric gun safe;
- 449 (ii) the biometric gun safe is located in the [teacher's] school employee's classroom or
- 450 office; and
- 451 (iii) the [teacher] school employee is physically present on the grounds of the school
- 452 while the firearm is stored in the biometric gun safe; and
- 453 (b) shall carry the [teacher's] school employee's firearm in a concealed manner unless
- 454 during an active threat.
- 455 (6) This section does not prohibit an individual who has a valid concealed carry permit but
- 456 is not participating in the program from carrying firearms on the grounds of a school as
- 457 described in Subsection 76-11-205(4).
- 458 (7)(a) A [teacher] school employee who has active status in the program is not liable for
- 459 any civil damages or penalties if the [teacher] school employee:
- 460 (i) when carrying or storing a firearm:
- 461 (A) is acting in good faith; and
- 462 (B) is not grossly negligent; or
- 463 (ii) threatens, draws, or otherwise uses a firearm reasonably believing the action to be
- 464 necessary in compliance with Section 76-2-402.
- 465 (b) A local education agency is not liable for civil damages or penalties resulting from a [
- 466 teacher] school employee who is participating in the program carrying, using, or
- 467 storing a firearm at a school.
- 468 (8) A local education agency may not prevent a [teacher] school employee from
- 469 participating in the program under this section.

- 470 (9)(a) Any information or record created detailing a [teacher's] school employee's
471 participation in the program is:
- 472 (i) a private, controlled, or protected record under Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government
473 Records Access and Management Act; and
- 474 (ii) available only to:
- 475 (A) the state security chief;
- 476 (B) school guardians under Section 53-22-105 at the same school;
- 477 ~~[(B)]~~ (C) a local law enforcement agency that would respond to the school in case
478 of an emergency; and
- 479 ~~[(C)]~~ (D) the individual identified by the county sheriff as described in Section
480 53-22-103.
- 481 (b) The information or record described in Subsection (9)(a) includes the information
482 described in Subsection (4)(a)(i) and any personal identifying information of a [
483 teacher] school employee participating in the program collected or obtained during
484 annual classroom response training.
- 485 (c) An individual who intentionally or knowingly provides the information described in
486 Subsection (9)(a) to an individual or entity not listed in Subsection (9)(a)(ii) is guilty
487 of a class A misdemeanor.
- 488 (10) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
489 department may adopt rules to administer this section.
- 490 Section 5. Section **53-25-701** is amended to read:
- 491 **53-25-701 (Effective 05/06/26). Requirements for school safety.**
- 492 (1) As used in this section:
- 493 (a) "Local law enforcement agency" means the law enforcement agency with primary
494 jurisdiction over a school's physical location.
- 495 (b) "School safety needs assessment" means the assessment required under Section
496 53G-8-701.5.
- 497 (c) "Security camera system" means the system described in Section 53G-8-805.
- 498 (2) Each local law enforcement agency shall:
- 499 (a) as coordinated with the county security chief described in Section 53-22-103,
500 allocate adequate personnel to participate in the school safety needs assessments with
501 a school's school safety and security specialist as required by Section 53G-8-701.5
502 for each school within the local law enforcement's jurisdiction;
- 503 (b) if [a] any school located within the county of a local law enforcement agency's

- 504 jurisdiction elects to satisfy the requirements described in Subsection
 505 53G-8-701.5(2)(a)(ii) by employing school guardians, assign adequate personnel
 506 time as the county security chief determines to assist the county security chief in
 507 administering the trainings required under Section 53-22-105;
- 508 (c) ensure the school safety and security specialist for each school has all relevant
 509 information collected by the county security chief or the local law enforcement
 510 agency to submit the completed assessments to the School Safety Center created in
 511 Section 53G-8-802 by October 15 of each year;
- 512 (d) coordinate with each school within the local law enforcement's jurisdiction to obtain
 513 and maintain access to school security camera systems as described in Section
 514 53G-8-805; and
- 515 (e) coordinate with the relevant county security chiefs as specified in Sections 53-22-103
 516 and 53-22-105.
- 517 (3) The county security chief shall consider the number of schools in a law enforcement
 518 agency's direct jurisdiction that have elected to satisfy the requirements described in
 519 Subsection 53G-8-701.5(2)(a)(ii) by employing school guardians when determining the
 520 adequate personnel time described in Subsection (2)(b) a law enforcement agency shall
 521 assign to assist the county security chief in administering the trainings required under
 522 Section 53-22-105.

523 Section 6. Section **53G-6-806** is amended to read:

524 **53G-6-806 (Effective 05/06/26). Parent portal.**

- 525 (1) As used in this section:
- 526 (a) "Parent portal" means the posting the state board is required to provide under this
 527 section.
- 528 (b) "School" means a public elementary or secondary school, including a charter school.
- 529 (2)(a) The state board shall post information that allows a parent of a student enrolled in
 530 a school to:
- 531 (i) access an LEA's policies required by Sections 53G-9-203 and 53G-9-605;
- 532 (ii) be informed of resources and steps to follow when a student has been the subject,
 533 perpetrator, or bystander of bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, retaliation, or
 534 abusive conduct such as:
- 535 (A) resources for the student, including short-term mental health services;
- 536 (B) options for the student to make changes to the student's educational
 537 environment;

- 538 (C) options for alternative school enrollment;
- 539 (D) options for differentiated start or stop times;
- 540 (E) options for differentiated exit and entrance locations; and
- 541 (F) the designated employee for an LEA who addresses incidents of bullying,
- 542 cyber-bullying, hazing, retaliation, and abusive conduct;
- 543 (iii) be informed of the steps and resources for filing a grievance with a school or
- 544 LEA regarding bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, or retaliation;
- 545 (iv) be informed of the steps and resources for seeking accommodations under the
- 546 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq;
- 547 (v) be informed of the steps and resources for seeking accommodations under state or
- 548 federal law regarding religious accommodations;
- 549 (vi) be informed of the steps and resources for filing a grievance for an alleged
- 550 violation of state or federal law, including:
- 551 (A) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 2000d-2000d-4;
- 552 (B) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681-1688;
- 553 (C) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 794; and
- 554 (D) Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. Sec.
- 555 12131-12165;
- 556 (vii) receive information about constitutional rights and freedoms afforded to families
- 557 in public education;
- 558 (viii) be informed of how to access an internal audit hotline if established by the state
- 559 board; and
- 560 (ix) be informed of services for military families.
- 561 (b) In addition to the information required under Subsection (2)(a), the state board:
- 562 (i) shall include in the parent portal:
- 563 (A) the comparison tool created under Section 53G-6-805;
- 564 (B) beginning July 1, 2028, school level safety data, including data points
- 565 described in Section 53E-3-516; and
- 566 (C) a link to the public safety portal described in Section 63A-16-1002; and
- 567 (ii) may include in the parent portal other information that the state board determines
- 568 is helpful to parents.
- 569 (3)(a) The state board shall post the parent portal at a location that is easily located by a
- 570 parent.
- 571 (b) The state board shall update the parent portal at least annually.

- 572 (c) In accordance with state and federal law, the state board may collaborate with a
 573 third-party to provide safety data visualization in comparison to other states' data.
 574 (4) An LEA shall annually notify each of the following of how to access the parent portal:
 575 (a) a parent of a student; and
 576 (b) a teacher, principal, or other professional staff within the LEA.

577 Section 7. Section **53G-7-227** is amended to read:

578 **53G-7-227 (Effective 05/06/26). Device prohibition.**

- 579 (1) As used in this section:

580 (a)(i) "AI glasses" means wearable eyewear, whether prescription or
 581 non-prescription, that:

582 (A) incorporates one or more sensors, including cameras, microphones,
 583 accelerometers, gyroscopes, or biometric sensors;

584 (B) uses artificial intelligence, machine learning algorithms, or neural networks to
 585 process, analyze, or interpret data captured by the sensors in real-time or near
 586 real-time;

587 (C) provides information, overlays, translations, identification, or other augmented
 588 content to the wearer through visual displays, audio output, or haptic feedback;
 589 and

590 (D) may transmit, store, or share data to external devices, networks, or
 591 cloud-based services.

592 (ii) "AI glasses" does not include:

593 (A) prescription eyeglasses or sunglasses without electronic components;

594 (B) wearable devices used solely for reading glasses or vision correction without
 595 data collection or processing capabilities;

596 (C) protective eyewear that contains only passive sensors without artificial
 597 intelligence processing capabilities; or

598 (D) virtual reality headsets designed primarily for immersive gaming or
 599 entertainment that are not suitable for continuous wear in public settings.

600 [(a)] (b) "Cellphone" means a handheld, portable electronic device that is designed to be
 601 operated using one or both hands and is capable of transmitting and receiving voice,
 602 data, or text communication by means of:

603 (i) a cellular network;

604 (ii) a satellite network; or

605 (iii) any other wireless technology.

- 606 ~~(b)~~ (c) "Cellphone" includes:
- 607 (i) a smartphone;
- 608 (ii) a feature phone;
- 609 (iii) a mobile phone;
- 610 (iv) a satellite phone; or
- 611 (v) a personal digital assistant that incorporates capabilities similar to a smartphone,
- 612 feature phone, mobile phone, or satellite phone.
- 613 ~~(e)~~ (d) "Classroom hours" means:
- 614 (i) time during which a student receives scheduled, teacher-supervised instruction
- 615 that occurs:
- 616 (A) in a physical or virtual classroom setting;
- 617 (B) during regular school operating hours; and
- 618 (C) as part of an approved educational curriculum.
- 619 (ii) "Classroom hours" does not include:
- 620 (A) lunch periods;
- 621 (B) recess;
- 622 (C) transit time between classes;
- 623 (D) study halls unless directly supervised by a qualified instructor;
- 624 (E) after-school activities unless part of an approved extended learning program; or
- 625 (F) independent study time occurring outside scheduled instruction.
- 626 ~~(d)~~ (e)(i) "Emerging technology" means any other device that has or will be able to
- 627 act in place of or as an extension of an individual's cellphone.
- 628 (ii) "Emerging technology" does not include school provided or required devices.
- 629 ~~(e)~~ (f) "Smart watch" means a wearable computing device that closely resembles a
- 630 wristwatch or other time-keeping device with the capacity to act in place of or as an
- 631 extension of an individual's cellphone.
- 632 ~~(f)~~ (g) "Smart watch" does not include a wearable device that can only:
- 633 (i) tell time;
- 634 (ii) monitor an individual's health informatics;
- 635 (iii) receive and display notifications or information without the capability to
- 636 respond; or
- 637 (iv) track the individual's physical location.
- 638 (2)(a) An LEA:
- 639 (i) shall establish a policy that allows a student to use a cellphone, smart watch, AI

- 640 glasses, or emerging technology:
- 641 (A) to respond to an imminent threat to the health or safety of an individual;
- 642 (B) to respond to a school-wide emergency;
- 643 (C) to use the SafeUT Crisis Line described in Section 53H-4-210;
- 644 (D) for a student's IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan; or
- 645 (E) to address a medical necessity; and
- 646 (ii) may establish a policy that provides for other circumstances when a student may
- 647 use a cellphone, smart watch, AI glasses, or emerging technology.
- 648 (b) An LEA may establish policies that:
- 649 (i) extend restrictions on student use of cellphones, smart watches, or emerging
- 650 technologies to non-classroom hours during the school day, including:
- 651 (A) lunch periods;
- 652 (B) transition times between classes; and
- 653 (C) other school-supervised activities; and
- 654 (ii) impose additional limitations on the use of cellphones, smart watches, or
- 655 emerging technologies beyond those required by this section.
- 656 (3) Except as provided in Subsection (2), a student may not use a cellphone, smart watch,
- 657 AI glasses, or emerging technology at a school during classroom hours.
- 658 (4) The state board may create one or more model policies regarding when a student may
- 659 use a student's cellphone, smart watch, AI glasses, or emerging technology in a school
- 660 during classroom hours consistent with this section.
- 661 Section 8. Section **53G-8-101** is amended to read:
- 662 **53G-8-101 (Effective 05/06/26). General provisions.**
- 663 [~~This chapter is known as "Discipline and Safety."~~] Reserved.
- 664 Section 9. Section **53G-8-102** is amended to read:
- 665 **53G-8-102 (Effective 05/06/26). Definitions for chapter.**
- 666 As used in this chapter:
- 667 (1) "Climate" means the perceptions and experiences of students, staff, parents, and the
- 668 community regarding the school's environment and the resources that support the
- 669 experiences.
- 670 (2) "Culture" means the beliefs, values, and practices that shape how a school functions and
- 671 influences student learning and well-being through policies, procedures, and safety
- 672 protocols.
- 673 (3) "Forcible felony" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-2-402.

- 674 (4) "K-12 School Campus" means an LEA governed property or building where K-12
675 students gather daily for instructional purposes and has an assigned administrator.
- 676 (5) "Physical Space" means the way in which a building is designed and structured to
677 promote safety including the minimum safety and security standards as described in
678 Section 53-22-102.
- 679 (6) "School safety" means the physical space, culture, and climate of a school.
- 680 (7) "School safety personnel" means the personnel described in Section 53G-8-701.5.
- 681 Section 10. Section **53G-8-301** is amended to read:
- 682 **53G-8-301 (Effective 05/06/26). Emergency safety interventions -- Appropriate**
683 **uses -- Penalties.**
- 684 (1) As used in this section:
- 685 (a) "Corporal punishment" means the intentional infliction of physical pain upon the
686 body of a student as a disciplinary measure.
- 687 (b) "Emergency safety intervention" means the use of seclusion or physical restraint
688 when a student presents an immediate danger to self or others.
- 689 (c) "Physical escort" means a temporary touching or holding of the hand, wrist, arm,
690 shoulder, or back for the purpose of guiding a student to another location.
- 691 (d) "Physical restraint" means a personal restriction that immobilizes or significantly
692 reduces the ability of a student to move the student's arms, legs, body, or head freely.
- 693 (e) "School" means a public or private elementary school, secondary school, or
694 preschool.
- 695 (f) "Seclusion" means seclusionary time out that is the involuntary confinement of a
696 student alone in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from
697 leaving, including:
- 698 (i) placing a student in a locked room; or
699 (ii) placing a student in a room where the door is blocked by furniture or held closed
700 by staff.
- 701 (g) "Student" means an individual who is:
- 702 (i) under ~~[the age of 19]~~ 19 years old and receiving educational services; or
703 (ii) under ~~[the age of 23]~~ 23 years old and receiving educational services as an
704 individual with a disability.
- 705 (2)(a) A school employee shall first use the least restrictive intervention available to the
706 school employee, including a physical escort, to address circumstances described in
707 Subsection (4).

- 708 (b) Nothing in this section prohibits a school employee from subsequently using less
709 restrictive interventions to address circumstances described in Subsection (4).
- 710 (3)(a) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act,
711 the state board shall make rules to:
- 712 (i) establish guidelines and best practices that consider individual student needs
713 related to emergency safety interventions described in Subsection (10)(b);
 - 714 (ii) establish intervention reporting requirements;
 - 715 (iii) create school staff training standards that may be included in an existing training;
 - 716 (iv) develop parental notification procedures;
 - 717 (v) implement data collection and review processes;
 - 718 (vi) establish investigation protocols;
 - 719 (vii) establish data collection and reporting requirements for an LEA regarding:
 - 720 (A) incidents of seclusion;
 - 721 (B) alternative interventions used;
 - 722 (C) student demographic information, including sex, [~~gender,~~]age, grade in
723 school, and applicable disability status; and
 - 724 (D) incident outcomes.
- 725 (b) The state board shall include the information described in Subsection (3)(a) in the
726 State Superintendent's Annual Report described in Section 53E-1-203.
- 727 (4) A school employee may use reasonable and necessary physical restraint only:
- 728 (a) in self defense;
 - 729 (b) to obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object in the possession or
730 under the control of a student;
 - 731 (c) to protect a student or another individual from physical injury;
 - 732 (d) to remove from a situation a student who is violent; or
 - 733 (e) to protect property from being damaged, when physical safety is at risk.
- 734 (5)(a) A school employee may not inflict or cause the infliction of corporal punishment
735 upon a student.
- 736 (b) The reporting and investigation requirements of Title 80, Chapter 2, Part 6, Child
737 Abuse and Neglect Reports, apply to complaints on corporal punishment.
 - 738 (c) Evidence of corporal punishment that would qualify as reasonable discipline under
739 Section 76-2-401 is insufficient to establish liability in a civil or criminal action.
 - 740 (d) Subject to the Rules of Evidence, evidence of corporal punishment that exceeds
741 reasonable discipline under Section 76-2-401 may be used by a court to establish

- 742 civil or criminal liability.
- 743 (6) School authorities shall take prompt and appropriate action, including in-service
744 training and other administrative action, upon confirming a violation of this section.
- 745 (7) The Division of Child and Family Services shall maintain all violation reports made in
746 accordance with this section under the confidentiality requirements of Section 80-2-1005.
- 747 (8) A school or individual who makes a good faith report or cooperates in an investigation
748 shall receive immunity from civil or criminal liability.
- 749 (9) A court with jurisdiction under Title 78A, Judiciary and Judicial Administration, may
750 take appropriate action against any employing entity if the court finds that the
751 employing entity has not taken reasonable steps to enforce the provisions of this part.
- 752 (10) A school:
- 753 (a) may not:
- 754 (i) enforce any rule, policy, or directive that permits acts prohibited by this section;
755 (ii) sanction an employee who refuses to commit a prohibited act; or
756 (iii) except as provided in Subsection (10)(b), use seclusion:
- 757 (A) as an intervention or disciplinary practice;
758 (B) for coercion, retaliation, or humiliation; or
759 (C) due to inadequate staffing or for the staff member's convenience;
- 760 (b) for a student in grade 1 or higher, may use seclusion as an emergency safety
761 intervention only when:
- 762 (i) the LEA has developed and implemented written policies and procedures that:
- 763 (A) describe the circumstances under which a staff member may use seclusion;
764 (B) describe which staff members are authorized to use seclusion;
765 (C) describe procedures for monitoring a student that is in seclusion;
766 (D) describe time limitations on the use of seclusion;
767 (E) require immediate and continuous review of the decision to use seclusion;
768 (F) require documenting the use of seclusion;
769 (G) describe record keeping requirements for records related to the use of
770 seclusion; and
771 (H) require debriefing of all witnesses, involved staff members, the student who
772 was secluded, and the parent of the student who was secluded;
- 773 (ii) a student poses an immediate and significant threat to the student or others;
774 (iii) less restrictive interventions have failed;
775 (iv) a staff member who is familiar to the student is actively supervising the student

- 776 for the duration of the seclusion; and
- 777 (v) the use is time-limited to a maximum time of 30 minutes and monitored;
- 778 (c) if seclusion was used, shall document the reason for its use, duration, and any
- 779 alternative strategies attempted; and
- 780 (d) shall notify parents immediately, and not to exceed 15 minutes after the use, of any
- 781 emergency safety intervention used on the parent's child, including seclusion or
- 782 physical restraint.
- 783 (11) An LEA shall collect and report data to the state board annually regarding:
- 784 (a) an incident; and
- 785 (b) for each incident, the:
- 786 (i) duration of an intervention used to respond to the incident;
- 787 (ii) stated purpose for any intervention used;
- 788 (iii) alternative interventions attempted;
- 789 (iv) student demographic information, including sex, [~~gender,~~]age, grade in school,
- 790 and applicable disability status; and
- 791 (v) relevant training offered to staff and if the staff involved received the relevant
- 792 training without revealing the identity of the staff member.
- 793 (12) This section does not apply to:
- 794 (a) a law enforcement officer as defined in Section 53-13-103;
- 795 (b) a parochial or private school that:
- 796 (i) does not receive state funds;
- 797 (ii) adopts a policy of exemption from this section; and
- 798 (iii) notifies the parents of students in the school of the exemption; or
- 799 (c) behavior support intervention which is in compliance with:
- 800 (i) Section 76-2-401; and
- 801 (ii) state and local rules adopted under Section 53E-7-204.
- 802 (13) Any violations of this section, including violations of any standards for seclusion or
- 803 physical restraint established by the state board pursuant to this section, shall:
- 804 (a) constitute an act of unlawful detention and is subject to the penalty described in
- 805 Section 76-5-304; and
- 806 (b) result in a referral to:
- 807 (i) local law enforcement; and
- 808 (ii) the Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission established in Section
- 809 53E-6-501.

810 Section 11. Section **53G-8-701** is amended to read:

811 **53G-8-701 (Effective 05/06/26). Definitions.**

812 As used in this part:

- 813 (1) "Armed school security guard" means the same as that term is defined in Section
814 53G-8-704.
- 815 (2) "County security chief" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-22-101.
- 816 (3) "Law enforcement agency" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-1-102.
- 817 (4) "Public school" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53G-9-205.1.
- 818 (5) "School guardian" means the same as that term is defined in Section [~~53-22-106~~]
819 53-22-105.
- 820 (6) "School is in session" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53E-3-516.
- 821 (7) "School resource officer" means a law enforcement officer, as defined in Section
822 53-13-103, who contracts with or whose law enforcement agency contracts with an LEA
823 to provide law enforcement services for the LEA.
- 824 (8) "School safety and security director" means an individual whom an LEA designates in
825 accordance with Section 53G-8-701.8.
- 826 (9) "School safety and security specialist" means a school employee designated under
827 Section 53G-8-701.6 who is responsible for supporting school safety initiatives.
- 828 (10) "School Safety Center" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53G-8-801.
- 829 (11) "State security chief" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-22-101.

830 Section 12. Section **53G-8-701.5** is amended to read:

831 **53G-8-701.5 (Effective 05/06/26). School safety needs assessment -- School safety**
832 **personnel -- Alternative requirements.**

- 833 (1)(a) In accordance with Subsections (1)(c) through (e), no later than October 15 of an
834 applicable year, an LEA shall:
- 835 (i) ensure a school safety needs assessment the state security chief selects in
836 collaboration with the school safety center is conducted in accordance with
837 Subsection (1)(b) for each school or K-12 campus within the LEA to determine
838 the needs and deficiencies regarding:
- 839 (A) appropriate school safety personnel, including necessary supports, training,
840 and policy creation for the personnel;
- 841 (B) physical building security and safety, including required upgrades to facilities
842 and safety technology;
- 843 (C) a school's current threat and emergency response protocols, including any

- 844 emergency response agreements with local law enforcement;
- 845 (D) if applicable, a school's current visitor management protocols, including
- 846 alignment with recommended best practices as described in Section 53G-8-806;
- 847 ~~[(D)]~~ (E) cardiac emergency preparedness, including an inventory of whether
- 848 automated external defibrillators are present and accessible, maintenance
- 849 status, and current staff training offerings; and
- 850 ~~[(E)]~~ (F) compliance with universal access key box requirements under Section
- 851 53G-8-805; and
- 852 (ii) report the results of the school safety needs assessment for each school within the
- 853 LEA to the state security chief and the School Safety Center.
- 854 (b)(i) The school safety specialist described in Section 53G-8-701.6, in collaboration
- 855 with the county security chief, and with the local law enforcement of relevant
- 856 jurisdiction over the school as described in Section 53-25-701, shall conduct the
- 857 school safety needs assessment for each school.
- 858 (ii) A school safety and security director may fulfill the role of a school safety and
- 859 security specialist in conducting the school safety needs assessment.
- 860 (c) The school safety needs assessment required under Subsection (1)(a)(i) shall be
- 861 conducted at least once every three years for each school or K-12 campus.
- 862 (d) An LEA may implement a rotating or staggered schedule for conducting school
- 863 safety needs assessments among the buildings within the LEA, provided that:
- 864 (i) each school within a K-12 campus is assessed at least once every three years; and
- 865 (ii) the LEA documents the rotating or staggered assessment schedule and shares this
- 866 schedule with the state security chief, the School Safety Center, the county
- 867 security chief, and the local law enforcement of relevant jurisdiction as described
- 868 in Section 53-25-701.
- 869 (e) The LEA shall update the assessment schedule as necessary to ensure compliance
- 870 with the three-year assessment requirement under Subsection (1)(c).
- 871 (f) The state board shall use the results of the school safety needs assessment for each
- 872 school within an LEA to award a grant to an LEA in accordance with Section
- 873 53F-5-220.
- 874 (g) Any information or record detailing a school's needs assessment results is:
- 875 (i) a private, controlled, or protected record under Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government
- 876 Records Access and Management Act; and
- 877 (ii) available only to:

- 878 (A) the state security chief;
- 879 (B) the School Safety Center;
- 880 (C) members of an LEA governing board;
- 881 (D) administrators of the LEA and school the needs assessment concerns;
- 882 (E) only to the extent necessary to award a grant under Section 53F-5-220, the
- 883 state board;
- 884 (F) the applicable school safety personnel described in Subsection (2);
- 885 (G) a local law enforcement agency that would respond to the school in case of an
- 886 emergency; and
- 887 (H) the county security chief.
- 888 (h) An individual who intentionally or knowingly provides the information described in
- 889 Subsection (1)(g) to an individual or entity not listed in Subsection (1)(g)(ii) is guilty
- 890 of a class B misdemeanor.
- 891 (2)(a) An LEA shall ensure each school within the LEA has the following school safety
- 892 personnel:
- 893 (i) a school safety and security specialist described in Section 53G-8-701.6; and
- 894 (ii) based on the results of the needs assessment described in Subsection (1), at least
- 895 one of the following:
- 896 (A) a school resource officer;
- 897 (B) a school guardian; or
- 898 (C) an armed school security guard.
- 899 (b) In addition to the school safety personnel described in Subsection (2)(a), an LEA
- 900 shall designate a school safety and security director described in Section 53G-8-701.8.
- 901 (c) The same individual may serve in more than one of the roles listed in Subsections
- 902 (2)(a) and (b) if the school notifies the School Safety Center and the state security
- 903 chief of the decision to have the same individual serve in multiple roles as described
- 904 in this Subsection (2).
- 905 (d) An LEA that designates a school guardian under Subsection (2)(a)(ii)(B) shall ensure
- 906 that:
- 907 (i) the school guardian carries the firearm on the guardian's person during assigned
- 908 duty hours as required in Section 53-22-105; and
- 909 (ii) the LEA does not adopt policies that require or encourage school guardians to
- 910 store firearms in a manner that prevents immediate access during school hours.
- 911 [~~(d)~~] (e) An LEA may implement the requirements of Subsection (2)(a)(ii) before the

912 LEA has completed the school safety needs assessment described in Subsection (1).
 913 [(e)] (f) The state security chief in consultation with the School Safety Center shall
 914 establish a timeline for an LEA to comply with the school safety personnel
 915 requirements of this Subsection (2).

916 (3)(a) An LEA, school administrator, or private school may apply to the state security
 917 chief for an approved alternative to the requirements described in:

- 918 (i) Section 53-22-105;
- 919 (ii) this section;
- 920 (iii) Section 53G-8-701.6;
- 921 (iv) Section 53G-8-701.8; and
- 922 (v) Section 53G-8-704.

923 (b) In approving or denying an application described in Subsection (3)(a), the state
 924 security chief may consider factors that impact a school or LEA's ability to adhere to
 925 the requirements of this section, including the school or LEA's:

- 926 (i) population size;
- 927 (ii) staffing needs or capacity;
- 928 (iii) geographic location;
- 929 (iv) available funding; or
- 930 (v) general demonstration of need for an alternative to the requirements of this
 931 section.

932 (4) A private school shall identify an individual at the private school to serve as the safety
 933 liaison with the local law enforcement of relevant jurisdiction and the state security chief.

934 (5)(a) Notwithstanding Subsections (5)(b) and (c), an LEA may:

- 935 (i) pay guardian stipends using local funds when state funding is exhausted; or
- 936 (ii) supplement state funding with local funds.

937 (b) In accordance with Subsection (5)(c), the state board shall be responsible for
 938 administering guardian stipend funding in coordination with the state security chief.

939 (c)(i) The state security chief shall:

- 940 (A) verify that a school guardian has met all requirements to be eligible for a
 941 stipend; and
- 942 (B) certify each eligible school guardian to the state board through completion of
 943 required training and active status in the program.

944 (ii) Upon certification by the state security chief, and subject to legislative
 945 appropriations, the state board shall provide each eligible school guardian with a

- 946 one-time stipend.
- 947 (iii) The state board shall determine the amount of the stipend for each fiscal year
948 based on:
- 949 (A) the amount appropriated by the Legislature for school guardian stipends;
950 (B) the projected number of school guardians statewide based on historical data
951 and current program enrollment trends;
952 (C) a reserve allocation of up to 10% of the total appropriation to account for
953 school guardians who join the program after the beginning of the school year;
954 and
955 (D) any other factors the state board determines necessary to ensure equal
956 distribution of the funds.
- 957 (iv) All school guardians certified as eligible during the same fiscal year shall receive
958 the same stipend amount, regardless of:
- 959 (A) when during the fiscal year the school guardian completed training and
960 became eligible; or
961 (B) the size, location, or type of school where the guardian serves.
- 962 (v) The state board shall:
- 963 (A) announce the stipend amount for each fiscal year no later than August 1, or
964 within 30 days of legislative appropriations if appropriated after July 1;
965 (B) distribute stipends within 60 days of certification by the state security chief;
966 (C) maintain a reserve for school guardians who become eligible later in the fiscal
967 year;
968 (D) if funds remain unallocated at the end of the fiscal year due to fewer school
969 guardians than projected, carry forward the remaining funds to supplement the
970 next fiscal year's stipend amount; and
971 (E) if eligible school guardians exceed projections and available funding, pro-rate
972 the stipend amount equally among all eligible school guardians for that fiscal
973 year and report the shortfall to the Legislature.
- 974 (vi) A school guardian is eligible to receive only one stipend regardless of:
- 975 (A) serving at multiple schools; or
976 (B) leaving and rejoining the program within the same fiscal year.
- 977 (vii) If a school guardian leaves the program for any reason after receiving a stipend,
978 the school guardian is not required to return the stipend unless the state security
979 chief determines the school guardian:

- 980 (A) obtained the stipend through fraud or misrepresentation; or
 981 (B) failed to actually meet the eligibility requirements under Section 53-22-105.

982 Section 13. Section **53G-8-701.6** is amended to read:

983 **53G-8-701.6 (Effective 05/06/26). School safety and security specialist.**

984 (1) As used in this section[;] :

985 (a) [~~"principal"~~] "Principal" means the chief administrator at a public school, including:

986 [~~(a)~~] (i) a school principal;

987 [~~(b)~~] (ii) a charter school director; or

988 [~~(c)~~] (iii) the superintendent of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

989 (b) "Teacher" means an individual employed by a local education agency who has an
 990 assignment to teach in a classroom.

991 (2)(a) Subject to Subsection (2)(b) and except as provided in Subsection 53G-8-701.5(3),
 992 every campus within an LEA shall designate a school safety and security specialist
 993 from the employees of the relevant campus.

994 (b) The school safety and security specialist:

995 (i) may not be a principal or a teacher; and

996 (ii) may be the school safety and security director at one campus within the LEA.

997 (3) The school safety and security specialist shall:

998 (a) report directly to the principal;

999 (b) oversee school safety and security practices to ensure a safe and secure school
 1000 environment for students and staff;

1001 (c) ensure adherence with all policies, procedures, protocols, rules, and regulations
 1002 relating to school safety and security through collaborating and maintaining effective
 1003 communications with the following as applicable:

1004 (i) the principal;

1005 (ii) school staff;

1006 (iii) the school resource officer;

1007 (iv) the armed school security guard;

1008 (v) the school guardian;

1009 (vi) local law enforcement;

1010 (vii) the county security chief;

1011 (viii) the school safety and security director;

1012 (ix) the LEA; and

1013 (x) school-based behavioral and mental health professionals;

- 1014 (d) in collaboration with the county security chief and with the local law enforcement of
1015 relevant jurisdiction over the school as described in Section 53-25-701:
- 1016 (i) conduct the school safety needs assessment described in Section 53G-8-701.5;
- 1017 (ii) in accordance with Sections 53-25-701 and 53G-8-701.5, submit the completed
1018 assessments to the School Safety Center created in Section 53G-8-802 by October
1019 15 of each year; and
- 1020 (iii) review the results of the school safety needs assessment to recommend and
1021 implement improvements to school facilities, policies, procedures, protocols,
1022 rules, and regulations relating to school safety and security;
- 1023 (e) participate on the multidisciplinary team that the school establishes;
- 1024 (f) conduct a behavioral threat assessment when the school safety and security specialist
1025 deems necessary using an evidence-based tool the state security chief recommends in
1026 consultation with the ~~[school safety center]~~ School Safety Center and the Office of
1027 Substance Use and Mental Health;
- 1028 (g) regularly monitor and report to the principal, local law enforcement, and, if
1029 applicable, the LEA superintendent or designee, security risks for the school resulting
1030 from:
- 1031 (i) issues with school facilities; or
- 1032 (ii) the implementation of practices, policies, procedures, and protocols relating to
1033 school safety and security;
- 1034 (h) coordinate with local first responder agencies to implement and monitor safety and
1035 security drills in accordance with policy and applicable procedures and protocols;
- 1036 (i) ensure that school staff, and, when appropriate, students, receive training on and
1037 remain current on the school's safety and security procedures and protocols;
- 1038 (j) following an event where security of the school has been significantly compromised,
1039 organize a debriefing with the individuals listed in Subsection (3)(c) following the
1040 recommendations from the state security chief, in collaboration with the School
1041 Safety Center, regarding strengthening school safety and security practices, policies,
1042 procedures, and protocols;
- 1043 (k) abide by any LEA, school, or law enforcement agency policy outlining the chain of
1044 command;
- 1045 (l) during an emergency, coordinate with the following individuals as applicable, the:
- 1046 (i) school resource officer;
- 1047 (ii) school guardians;

- 1048 (iii) armed school security guards;
- 1049 (iv) school administrators; and
- 1050 (v) responding law enforcement officers;
- 1051 (m) follow any LEA, school, or law enforcement agency student privacy policies,
- 1052 including state and federal privacy laws;
- 1053 (n) participate in an annual training the state security chief selects in consultation with
- 1054 the School Safety Center; and
- 1055 (o) remain current on:
- 1056 (i) a comprehensive school guideline the state security chief selects;
- 1057 (ii) the duties of a school safety and security specialist described in this Subsection (3);
- 1058 and
- 1059 (iii) the school's emergency response plan.
- 1060 (4) During an active emergency at the school, the school safety and security specialist is
- 1061 subordinate to any responding law enforcement officers.

1062 Section 14. Section **53G-8-704** is amended to read:

1063 **53G-8-704 (Effective 05/06/26). Contracts between an LEA and a contract**

1064 **security company for armed school security guards.**

1065 (1) As used in this section:

- 1066 (a) "Armed private security officer" means the same as that term is defined in Section
- 1067 58-63-102.
- 1068 (b) "Armed school security guard" means:
- 1069 (i) an armed private security officer who:
- 1070 [(+)] (A) is licensed as an armed private security officer under Title 58, Chapter 63,
- 1071 Security Personnel Licensing Act; and
- 1072 [(+)] (B) has met the requirements described in Subsection (4)(a)[-] ; or
- 1073 (ii) a special function officer.
- 1074 (c) "Contract security company" means:
- 1075 (i) for an armed private security officer, the same as that term is defined in Section
- 1076 58-63-102[-] ; and
- 1077 (ii) for a special function officer, the special function officer's employing law
- 1078 enforcement agency.
- 1079 (d) "Deadly force" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-2-408.
- 1080 (e) "Special function officer" means the same as that term is defined in Section
- 1081 53-13-105.

- 1082 ~~[(d)]~~ (f) "State security chief" means the same as that term is defined in Section
1083 53-22-102.
- 1084 (2)(a) An LEA may use an armed school security guard to satisfy the school safety
1085 personnel requirements of Section 53G-8-701.5.
- 1086 (b) An LEA that uses an armed school security guard under Subsection (2)(a) shall have
1087 a contract with a contract security company or if a special function officer is used as
1088 an armed school security guard, a contract with the law enforcement agency
1089 employing the special function officer, in accordance with Section 53G-8-703, to
1090 provide armed school security guards at each school within the LEA.
- 1091 (3) The contract described in Subsection (2)(b) shall include a detailed description of:
- 1092 (a) the rights of a student under state and federal law with regard to:
- 1093 (i) searches;
- 1094 (ii) questioning;
- 1095 (iii) arrests; and
- 1096 (iv) information privacy;
- 1097 (b) job assignment and duties of an armed school security guard, including:
- 1098 (i) the school to which an armed school security guard will be assigned;
- 1099 (ii) the hours an armed school security guard is present at the school;
- 1100 (iii) the point of contact at the school that an armed school security guard will contact
1101 in case of an emergency;
- 1102 (iv) specific responsibilities for providing and receiving information;
- 1103 (v) types of records to be kept, and by whom; and
- 1104 (vi) training requirements; and
- 1105 (c) other expectations of the contract security company in relation to school security at
1106 the LEA.
- 1107 (4)(a) In addition to the requirements for licensure under Title 58, Chapter 63, Security
1108 Personnel Licensing Act, an armed private security officer may only serve as an
1109 armed school security guard under a contract described in Subsection (2)(b) if the
1110 armed private security officer:
- 1111 (i) has a valid concealed carry permit issued under Title 53, Chapter 5a, Part 3,
1112 Concealed Firearm Permits;
- 1113 (ii) has undergone training from a county security chief or local law enforcement
1114 agency regarding:
- 1115 (A) the safe loading, unloading, storage, and carrying of firearms in a school

- 1116 setting;
- 1117 (B) the role of armed security guards in a school setting; and
- 1118 (C) coordination with law enforcement and school officials during an active threat;
- 1119 (iii) completes an initial "fit to carry" assessment the Department of Health and
- 1120 Human Services approves and a provider administers; and
- 1121 (iv) maintains compliance with mental health screening requirements consistent with
- 1122 law enforcement standards.
- 1123 (b) An armed school security guard that meets the requirements of Subsection (4)(a)
- 1124 shall, in order to remain eligible to be assigned as an armed school security guard at
- 1125 any school under a contract described in Subsection (2)(b), participate in and satisfy
- 1126 the training requirements of the initial, annual, and biannual trainings as defined in
- 1127 Section 53-22-105.
- 1128 (5) An armed school security guard may conceal or openly carry a firearm at the school at
- 1129 which the armed school security guard is employed under the contract described in
- 1130 Subsection (2)(b).
- 1131 (6) An LEA that enters a contract under this section shall inform the state security chief and
- 1132 the relevant county security chief of the contract and provide the contact information of
- 1133 the contract security company employing the armed security guard for use during an
- 1134 emergency.
- 1135 (7) The state security chief shall:
- 1136 (a) for each LEA that contracts with a contract security company under this section,
- 1137 track each contract security company providing armed school security guards by
- 1138 name and the contact information for use in case of an emergency; and
- 1139 (b) make the information described in Subsection (7)(a) readily available to each law
- 1140 enforcement agency in the state by school.
- 1141 (8) An armed school security guard shall file a report described in Subsection (9) if, during
- 1142 the performance of the armed school security guard's duties, the armed school security
- 1143 guard:
- 1144 (a) points a firearm at an individual; or
- 1145 (b) aims a conductive energy device at an individual and displays the electrical current.
- 1146 (9)(a) A report described in Subsection (8) shall include:
- 1147 (i) a description of the incident;
- 1148 (ii) the identification of the individuals involved in the incident; and
- 1149 (iii) any other information required by the state security chief.

- 1150 (b) An armed school security guard shall submit a report required under Subsection (8)
 1151 to the school administrator, school safety and security director, and the state security
 1152 chief within 48 hours after the incident.
- 1153 (c) The school administrator, school safety and security director, and the state security
 1154 chief shall consult and review the report submitted under Subsection (9)(b).
- 1155 (10) If an armed school security guard uses deadly force, the armed school security guard:
 1156 (a) shall be placed on administrative leave pending investigation;
 1157 (b) may not be required to provide a written report described in Subsections (8) and (9);
 1158 (c)(i) may not be required to participate in a voluntary interview; and
 1159 (ii) if the armed school security guard chooses to participate in an interview, the
 1160 interview may not be sooner than two sleep cycles after the incident; and
 1161 (d)(i) shall be subject to investigation by the law enforcement agency with primary
 1162 jurisdiction over the school's location; and
 1163 (ii) if the involved party is a special function officer employed by a law enforcement
 1164 agency, shall follow the same protocol established for officer-involved shootings
 1165 under Section 76-2-408.

1166 Section 15. Section **53G-8-802** is amended to read:

1167 **Part 8. State Safety and Support Program -- Security Infrastructure**

1168 **53G-8-802 (Effective 05/06/26). State Safety and Support Program -- State board**
 1169 **duties -- LEA duties.**

- 1170 (1) There is created the School Safety Center.
- 1171 (2) The School Safety Center shall:
- 1172 (a) develop in conjunction with the Office of Substance Use and Mental Health and the
 1173 state security chief model student safety and support policies for an LEA, including:
 1174 (i) requiring an evidence-based behavior threat assessment that includes
 1175 recommended interventions with an individual whose behavior poses a threat to
 1176 school safety;
 1177 (ii) procedures for referrals to law enforcement; and
 1178 (iii) procedures for referrals to a community services entity, a family support
 1179 organization, or a health care provider for evaluation or treatment;
- 1180 (b) provide training in consultation with the state security chief:
 1181 (i) in school safety;
 1182 (ii) in evidence-based approaches to improve school climate and address and correct
 1183 bullying behavior;

- 1184 (iii) in evidence-based approaches in identifying an individual who may pose a threat
1185 to the school community;
- 1186 (iv) in evidence-based approaches in identifying an individual who may be showing
1187 signs or symptoms of mental illness;
- 1188 (v) on permitted disclosures of student data to law enforcement and other support
1189 services under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec.
1190 1232g;
- 1191 (vi) on permitted collection of student data under 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232h and Sections
1192 53E-9-203 and 53E-9-305; and
- 1193 (vii) for administrators on rights and prohibited acts under:
- 1194 (A) Chapter 9, Part 6, Bullying and Hazing;
- 1195 (B) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 2000d et seq.;
- 1196 (C) Title IX of Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681 et seq.;
- 1197 (D) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 701 et seq.; and
- 1198 (E) the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.;
- 1199 (c) conduct and disseminate evidence-based research on school safety concerns;
- 1200 (d) disseminate information on effective school safety initiatives;
- 1201 (e) encourage partnerships between public and private sectors to promote school safety;
- 1202 (f) provide technical assistance to an LEA in the development and implementation of
1203 school safety initiatives;
- 1204 (g) in conjunction with the state security chief, make available to an LEA the model
1205 critical incident response training program a school and law enforcement agency
1206 shall use during a threat;
- 1207 (h) provide space for the public safety liaison described in Section 53-1-106 and the
1208 school-based mental health specialist described in Section 26B-5-102;
- 1209 (i) collaborate with the state security chief to determine appropriate application of school
1210 safety requirements in Utah Code to an online school;
- 1211 (j) create a model school climate survey that may be used by an LEA to assess
1212 stakeholder perception of a school environment;
- 1213 (k) in accordance with Section 53G-5-202, establish a charter school liaison including
1214 defined responsibilities for charter school communication and coordination with the
1215 School Safety Center;[~~and~~]
- 1216 (l) assist a foundation described in Section 53-22-108 in distributing school safety
1217 products if a foundation seeks assistance;

- 1218 (m) establishes defined roles for a multidisciplinary team and school safety personnel
1219 described in Chapter 8, Part 7, School Safety Personnel;
- 1220 (n) assist LEAs in implementing and maintaining universal access key box requirements
1221 under Section 53G-8-805;
- 1222 (o) in consultation with the state security chief, select a system to track relevant data,
1223 including the tracking required in Sections 53-22-105, 53G-8-701.5, 53G-8-701.8,
1224 and 53G-8-704; and
- 1225 (p) collect aggregate data and school climate survey results from an LEA that
1226 administers the model school climate survey described in Subsection (2)(j).
- 1227 (3) Nothing in this section requires:
- 1228 (a) an individual to respond to a school climate survey; or
- 1229 (b) an LEA to use the model school climate survey or any specified questions in the
1230 model school climate survey described in Subsection (2)(j).
- 1231 (4) The state board shall require an LEA to:
- 1232 (a)(i) if an LEA administers a school climate survey, review school climate data for
1233 each school within the LEA; and
- 1234 (ii) based on the review described in Subsection (4)(a)(i):
- 1235 (A) revise practices, policies, and training to eliminate harassment and
1236 discrimination in each school within the LEA;
- 1237 (B) adopt a plan for harassment- and discrimination-free learning; and
- 1238 (C) host outreach events or assemblies to inform students and parents of the plan
1239 adopted under Subsection (4)(a)(ii)(B);
- 1240 (b) no later than September 1 of each school year, send a notice to each student, parent,
1241 and LEA staff member stating the LEA's commitment to maintaining a school
1242 climate that is free of harassment and discrimination; and
- 1243 (c) report to the state board annually on the LEA's implementation of the plan under
1244 Subsection (4)(a)(ii)(B) and progress.
- 1245 Section 16. Section **53G-8-805** is amended to read:
- 1246 **53G-8-805 (Effective 05/06/26). Panic alert device -- Security cameras -- Key box.**
- 1247 (1) As used in this section:
- 1248 (a) "Universal access key box" means a UL Standard 1037 compliant secure container
1249 designed to store and protect emergency access keys and devices.
- 1250 (b) "Emergency responder" means law enforcement, fire service, or emergency medical
1251 personnel authorized by local authorities to respond to school emergencies.

- 1252 (2) In accordance with the results of the school safety needs assessment described in
1253 Section 53G-8-701.5, an LEA shall provide the [~~lead teacher in each classroom~~]
1254 following with a wearable panic alert device that shall communicate directly with public
1255 safety answering points[-] :
- 1256 (a) the lead teacher in each classroom; and
1257 (b) beginning July 1, 2027, the appropriate school safety personnel described in
1258 Subsection 53G-8-701.5(2).
- 1259 (3) An LEA shall ensure, before the school year begins, all school building personnel
1260 receive training on the protocol and appropriate use of the panic alert device described in
1261 Subsection (2).
- 1262 (4) An LEA shall:
- 1263 (a) ensure all security cameras within a school building are accessible by:
1264 (i) a local law enforcement agency; and
1265 (ii) public safety answering points;
- 1266 (b) coordinate with a local law enforcement agency to establish appropriate access
1267 protocols; and
- 1268 (c) physically mark all hallways and doorways consistent with the incident response
1269 method or system the state security chief creates.
- 1270 (5) A school building shall include universal access key boxes that:
- 1271 (a) are installed at main entry points;
1272 (b) contain master keys and access devices providing complete access to all areas of the
1273 school;
1274 (c) are accessible only to authorized emergency responders;
1275 (d) are electronically monitored for tampering; and
1276 (e) are weather-resistant and vandal-resistant.
- 1277 (6) An LEA shall:
- 1278 (a) maintain universal access key boxes by:
1279 (i) conducting quarterly inspections;
1280 (ii) updating contents within 24 hours of any lock or access control changes;
1281 (iii) maintaining current key and access device inventories;
1282 (iv) documenting all inspections and updates; and
1283 (v) immediately replacing any damaged or malfunctioning boxes;
- 1284 (b) coordinate with local emergency responders to:
1285 (i) determine optimal box placement;

- 1286 (ii) establish access protocols;
- 1287 (iii) maintain current emergency contact information; and
- 1288 (iv) conduct annual reviews of box usage and effectiveness; and
- 1289 (c) include universal access key box locations and protocols in:
- 1290 (i) school emergency response plans;
- 1291 (ii) building schematic diagrams provided to emergency responders; and
- 1292 (iii) school safety and security training materials.
- 1293 (7) The state board shall:
- 1294 (a) establish standards for:
- 1295 (i) box installation and placement;
- 1296 (ii) access control and monitoring;
- 1297 (iii) maintenance schedules; and
- 1298 (iv) compliance verification;
- 1299 (b) in direct coordination with the state security chief, ensure new construction or major
- 1300 remodeling of a school building shall include the installation of automated external
- 1301 defibrillators in appropriate locations as the state board determines; and
- 1302 (c) provide technical assistance to LEAs implementing this section.
- 1303 (8) Nothing in this section:
- 1304 (a) affects requirements for fire department key boxes under applicable building or fire
- 1305 codes; or
- 1306 (b) restricts additional security measures implemented by LEAs that exceed these
- 1307 requirements.
- 1308 (9) This section is not subject to the restrictions in Section 41-6a-2003.
- 1309 Section 17. Section **53G-8-806** is enacted to read:
- 1310 **53G-8-806 (Effective 05/06/26). School visitor management protocols --**
- 1311 **Requirements -- LEA responsibilities.**
- 1312 (1) As used in this section:
- 1313 (a) "Controlled access point" means a designated entry point to a school building that:
- 1314 (i) school personnel or electronic surveillance monitors during school hours; and
- 1315 (ii) requires visitors to follow check-in procedures before accessing the school
- 1316 building interior.
- 1317 (b) "School hours" means the period during which students are present in the school
- 1318 building for instructional purposes.
- 1319 (c) "Visitor" means any individual who is not a current student or employee of the

- 1320 school, including:
- 1321 (i) parents;
- 1322 (ii) contractors and service providers;
- 1323 (iii) volunteers; and
- 1324 (iv) guests.
- 1325 (d) "Visitor management system" means a process or technology an LEA uses to track,
- 1326 monitor, and manage visitors entering school facilities.
- 1327 (2) An LEA that establishes visitor management protocols shall ensure the protocols
- 1328 include:
- 1329 (a) designated controlled access points that require all visitors to:
- 1330 (i) enter the school building through a main entrance or other designated entry point
- 1331 during school hours;
- 1332 (ii) report immediately to a central office or reception area before accessing other
- 1333 areas of the school building; and
- 1334 (iii) present valid government-issued identification or other acceptable identification
- 1335 the LEA determines in LEA policy;
- 1336 (b) a visitor sign-in and sign-out process that records at minimum:
- 1337 (i) the visitor's name;
- 1338 (ii) the date and time of entry and exit;
- 1339 (iii) the purpose of the visit; and
- 1340 (iv) the specific location or individual the visitor intends to visit;
- 1341 (c) procedures for:
- 1342 (i) issuing visible identification, including a visitor badge or pass, that visitors must
- 1343 display prominently while on school grounds; and
- 1344 (ii) distinguishing between different types of visitors, such as parents, volunteers,
- 1345 contractors, and other guests;
- 1346 (d) protocols for monitoring and supervising visitors while on school grounds, including:
- 1347 (i) requiring school personnel to accompany visitors when visitors access areas where
- 1348 students are present, except as LEA policy otherwise provides for parents or
- 1349 authorized volunteers;
- 1350 (ii) prohibiting visitor access to restricted areas; and
- 1351 (iii) procedures school personnel shall follow to challenge or question any individual
- 1352 without visible identification;
- 1353 (e) procedures for responding to visitors who:

- 1354 (i) refuse to comply with visitor management protocols;
1355 (ii) pose a potential threat to school safety; or
1356 (iii) the LEA denies entry to the school;
1357 (f) clear signage at all school building entrances that:
1358 (i) directs visitors to the designated controlled access point;
1359 (ii) notifies visitors of the requirement to check in and obtain authorization before
1360 entering; and
1361 (iii) states that the LEA prohibits unauthorized entry and that unauthorized entry may
1362 result in criminal prosecution under Section 76-6-206; and
1363 (g) annual training for school personnel on:
1364 (i) implementing and enforcing visitor management protocols;
1365 (ii) identifying and responding to unauthorized individuals on school grounds; and
1366 (iii) communication procedures with the school safety and security specialist
1367 described in Section 53G-8-701.6 or school safety and security director described
1368 in Section 53G-8-701.8.
1369 (3)(a) An LEA may implement an electronic visitor management system that includes
1370 capabilities such as:
1371 (i) automated identification verification;
1372 (ii) integration with sex offender registry databases;
1373 (iii) digital badge printing;
1374 (iv) automated visitor tracking and reporting; and
1375 (v) emergency notification capabilities.
1376 (b) If an LEA implements an electronic visitor management system, the LEA shall
1377 ensure that:
1378 (i) the LEA maintains visitor data in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 2,
1379 Government Records Access and Management Act;
1380 (ii) the LEA protects personally identifiable information and uses such information
1381 solely for school safety purposes; and
1382 (iii) the LEA notifies visitors of data collection practices in accordance with
1383 applicable privacy laws.
1384 (4)(a) An LEA may establish reasonable exceptions to the visitor management
1385 requirements described in Subsection (2) for:
1386 (i) emergency situations requiring immediate access to the school building;
1387 (ii) law enforcement officers, firefighters, or emergency medical personnel

1422 (2) "Data breach" means the same as that term is defined in Section 63A-16-1101.

1423 (3) "UETN" means the Utah Education and Telehealth Network created in Section
1424 53H-4-213.4.

1425 Section 19. Section **53G-8-902** is enacted to read:

1426 **53G-8-902 (Effective 05/06/26). LEA compliance with cybersecurity standards --**
1427 **Coordination.**

1428 (1) An LEA shall comply with the minimum cybersecurity standards established by the
1429 Cybersecurity Commission created in Section 63C-27-201 in rule made in accordance
1430 with Subsection 63C-27-202(9).

1431 (2) An LEA shall comply with the minimum cybersecurity standards according to the
1432 phased implementation timeline established in rule under Subsection 63C-27-202(9).

1433 (3) UETN, in consultation with the Cyber Center and the state board, shall:

1434 (a) develop implementation guidelines and technical resources to assist LEAs in
1435 meeting the minimum cybersecurity standards;

1436 (b) provide technical assistance and support to LEAs; and

1437 (c) coordinate the provision of cybersecurity services and resources to LEAs.

1438 (4)(a) The Cyber Center, the state board, and UETN shall coordinate services to LEAs
1439 to:

1440 (i) avoid duplication of efforts;

1441 (ii) maximize the effectiveness of cybersecurity resources;

1442 (iii) ensure LEAs receive consistent guidance and support; and

1443 (iv) facilitate information sharing regarding cybersecurity threats and best practices.

1444 (b) The coordination required under Subsection (4)(a) shall include:

1445 (i) regular meetings among the entities to discuss LEA cybersecurity needs and
1446 initiatives;

1447 (ii) joint development of training materials and resources;

1448 (iii) coordinated response to cybersecurity incidents affecting LEAs; and

1449 (iv) alignment of cybersecurity standards and network infrastructure requirements.

1450 Section 20. Section **53G-8-903** is enacted to read:

1451 **53G-8-903 (Effective 05/06/26). Data breach reporting -- Coordination with**
1452 **Utah Cyber Center.**

1453 (1) An LEA shall report a data breach to the Cyber Center:

1454 (a) in accordance with Section 63A-19-405; and

1455 (b) consistent with standards and procedures established in rule under Subsection

1456 63C-27-202(9).

1457 (2) In addition to the requirements in Section 63A-19-405, an LEA shall:

1458 (a) notify the state board within 24 hours of discovering the data breach;

1459 (b) coordinate with UETN if the data breach involves network infrastructure or services
1460 provided by UETN; and

1461 (c) cooperate with the Cyber Center's investigation and response efforts.

1462 (3) The Cyber Center shall provide assistance to an LEA in responding to a data breach in
1463 the same manner the Cyber Center provides assistance to a governmental entity as
1464 described in Title 63A, Chapter 16, Part 11, Utah Cyber Center.

1465 (4) An LEA shall:

1466 (a) participate in cybersecurity information sharing initiatives coordinated by the Cyber
1467 Center;

1468 (b) designate a primary point of contact for cybersecurity matters who shall interface
1469 with the Cyber Center, the state board, and UETN; and

1470 (c) cooperate with statewide cybersecurity assessments and improvement initiatives.

1471 (5)(a) A regional education service agency, as that term is defined in Section 53G-4-410,
1472 may serve as the designated primary cybersecurity contact for multiple LEAs within
1473 the service area.

1474 (b) If a regional education service agency serves as the primary contact under Subsection
1475 (5)(a), the agency shall:

1476 (i) coordinate with the Cyber Center, the state board, and UETN on behalf of the
1477 participating LEAs;

1478 (ii) ensure each participating LEA meets the minimum cybersecurity standards
1479 established under Subsection 63C-27-202(9); and

1480 (iii) maintain documentation of cybersecurity services provided to each LEA.

1481 Section 21. Section **63C-27-201** is amended to read:

1482 **63C-27-201 (Effective 05/06/26) (Repealed 07/01/32). Cybersecurity Commission**
1483 **created.**

1484 (1) There is created the Cybersecurity Commission.

1485 (2) The commission shall be composed of [24] the following members:

1486 (a) one member the governor designates to serve as the governor's designee;

1487 (b) the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety;

1488 (c) the lieutenant governor, or an election officer, as that term is defined in Section

1489 20A-1-102, the lieutenant governor designates to serve as the lieutenant governor's

- 1490 designee;
- 1491 (d) the chief information officer of the Division of Technology Services;
- 1492 (e) the chief information security officer, as described in Section 63A-16-210;
- 1493 (f) the chairman of the Public Service Commission shall designate a representative with
- 1494 professional experience in information technology or cybersecurity;
- 1495 (g) the executive director of the Utah Department of Transportation shall designate a
- 1496 representative with professional experience in information technology or
- 1497 cybersecurity;
- 1498 (h) the director of the Division of Finance shall designate a representative with
- 1499 professional experience in information technology or cybersecurity;
- 1500 (i) the executive director of the Department of Health and Human Services shall
- 1501 designate a representative with professional experience in information technology or
- 1502 cybersecurity;
- 1503 (j) the director of the Division of Indian Affairs shall designate a representative with
- 1504 professional experience in information technology or cybersecurity;
- 1505 (k) the Utah League of Cities and Towns shall designate a representative with
- 1506 professional experience in information technology or cybersecurity;
- 1507 (l) the Utah Association of Counties shall designate a representative with professional
- 1508 experience in information technology or cybersecurity;
- 1509 (m) the attorney general, or the attorney general's designee;
- 1510 (n) the commissioner of financial institutions, or the commissioner's designee;
- 1511 (o) the executive director of the Department of Environmental Quality shall designate a
- 1512 representative with professional experience in information technology or
- 1513 cybersecurity;
- 1514 (p) the executive director of the Department of Natural Resources shall designate a
- 1515 representative with professional experience in information technology or
- 1516 cybersecurity;
- 1517 (q) two local education agency employees tasked with job duties that include systems
- 1518 and security management from one charter school and one school district whom the
- 1519 state superintendent selects;
- 1520 ~~(q)~~ (r) the highest ranking information technology official, or the official's designee,
- 1521 from each of:
- 1522 (i) the Judicial Council;
- 1523 (ii) the Utah Board of Higher Education;

- 1524 (iii) the State Board of Education; and
1525 (iv) the State Tax Commission;
1526 ~~[(†)]~~ (s) the governor shall appoint:
1527 (i) one representative from the Utah National Guard; and
1528 (ii) one representative from the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity;
1529 ~~[(s)]~~ (t) the president of the Senate shall appoint one member of the Senate; and
1530 ~~[(†)]~~ (u) the speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member of the
1531 House of Representatives.
- 1532 (3)(a) The governor's designee shall serve as cochair of the commission.
1533 (b) The commissioner of the Department of Public Safety shall serve as cochair of the
1534 commission.
- 1535 (4)(a) The members described in Subsection (2) shall represent urban, rural, and
1536 suburban population areas.
1537 (b) No fewer than half of the members described in Subsection (2) shall have
1538 professional experience in cybersecurity or in information technology.
- 1539 (5) In addition to the membership described in Subsection (2), the commission shall seek
1540 information and advice from state and private entities with expertise in critical
1541 infrastructure.
- 1542 (6) As necessary to improve information and protect potential vulnerabilities, the
1543 commission shall seek information and advice from federal entities including:
1544 (a) the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency;
1545 (b) the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;
1546 (c) the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and
1547 (d) the United States Department of Transportation.
- 1548 (7)(a) Except as provided in Subsections (7)(b) and (c), a member is appointed for a
1549 term of four years.
1550 (b) A member shall serve until the member's successor is appointed and qualified.
1551 (c) Notwithstanding the requirements of Subsection (7)(a), the governor shall, at the
1552 time of appointment or reappointment, adjust the length of terms to ensure that the
1553 terms of commission members are staggered so that approximately half of the
1554 commission members appointed under Subsection ~~[(2)(†)]~~ (2)(s) are appointed every
1555 two years.
- 1556 (8)(a) If a vacancy occurs in the membership of the commission, the member shall be
1557 replaced in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

- 1558 (b) An individual may be appointed to more than one term.
- 1559 (c) When a vacancy occurs in the membership for any reason, the replacement shall be
1560 appointed for the unexpired term.
- 1561 (9)(a) A majority of the members of the commission is a quorum.
- 1562 (b) The action of a majority of a quorum constitutes an action of the commission.
- 1563 (10) The commission shall meet at least two times a year.
- 1564 Section 22. Section **63C-27-202** is amended to read:
- 1565 **63C-27-202 (Effective 05/06/26) (Repealed 07/01/32). Commission duties.**
- 1566 The commission shall:
- 1567 (1) identify and inform the governor of:
- 1568 (a) cyber threats and vulnerabilities towards Utah's critical infrastructure;
- 1569 (b) cybersecurity assets and resources; and
- 1570 (c) an analysis of:
- 1571 (i) current cyber incident response capabilities;
- 1572 (ii) potential cyber threats; and
- 1573 (iii) areas of significant concern with respect to:
- 1574 (A) vulnerability to cyber attack; or
- 1575 (B) seriousness of consequences in the event of a cyber attack;
- 1576 (2) provide resources with respect to cyber attacks in both the public and private sector,
1577 including:
- 1578 (a) best practices;
- 1579 (b) education; and
- 1580 (c) mitigation;
- 1581 (3) promote cyber security awareness;
- 1582 (4) share information;
- 1583 (5) promote best practices to prevent and mitigate cyber attacks;
- 1584 (6) enhance cyber capabilities and response for all Utahns;
- 1585 (7) provide consistent outreach and collaboration with private and public sector
1586 organizations;[-and]
- 1587 (8) share cyber threat intelligence to operators and overseers of Utah's critical infrastructure[-]
1588 ; and
- 1589 (9) in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, make
1590 rules establishing minimum cybersecurity standards for a local education agency, as that
1591 term is defined in Section 53G-3-402, that:

- 1592 (a) align with industry recognized cybersecurity frameworks and standards, including
1593 frameworks developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the
1594 Center for Internet Security, or a successor organization;
- 1595 (b) take into account varying local education agency resources, capacity, and needs;
- 1596 (c) establish phased implementation timelines based on local education agency size,
1597 existing cybersecurity infrastructure, and available resources; and
- 1598 (d) as appropriate based on the local education agency's size, risk profile, and available
1599 resources, shall address:
- 1600 (i) identity and access management;
- 1601 (ii) asset management and inventory of hardware, software, and data systems;
- 1602 (iii) data protection;
- 1603 (iv) security monitoring and logging capabilities;
- 1604 (v) vulnerability management, including regular security assessments and patching
1605 procedures;
- 1606 (vi) incident response and recovery planning;
- 1607 (vii) security awareness training requirements for staff and administrators;
- 1608 (viii) third-party risk management for vendors with access to local education agency
1609 systems or data;
- 1610 (ix) network security controls;
- 1611 (x) backup and disaster recovery procedures; and
- 1612 (xi) governance structures for cybersecurity oversight within a local education
1613 agency.

1614 Section 23. **Effective Date.**

1615 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.

1616 Section 24. **Coordinating H.B. 44 with S.B. 69**

1617 If H.B. 44, School Security Personnel Standards, and S.B. 69, School Device Revisions,

1618 both pass and become law, the Legislature intends that, on July 1, 2026, Subsection

1619 53G-7-227(2) enacted in S.B. 69, be amended to read:

1620 "(2) Except as provided in Subsection (3), a student may not use a cellphone, smart watch,

1621 AI glasses, or emerging technology at a school during school hours."