

Ann Millner proposes the following substitute bill:

**School Security Personnel Standards**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Ryan D. Wilcox**

Senate Sponsor: Ann Millner

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**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 changes made to that section in S.B. 69, School Device Revisions;
- ▶ provides protocols for a school guardian or armed school security guard for an incident

- 29 using deadly force;
- 30     ▸ establishes visitor management protocols for an LEA;
- 31     ▸ removes duplicative language; and
- 32     ▸ makes conforming changes.

33 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

34 None

35 **Other Special Clauses:**

36 This bill provides a coordination clause.

37 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

38 AMENDS:

39 **53-13-105 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special  
40 Session, Chapter 16

41 **53-22-103 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388

42 **53-22-105 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 173,  
43 208, 388, and 470

44 **53-22-107 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 173,  
45 208

46 **53-25-701 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388

47 **53G-6-806 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 21

48 **53G-7-227 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special  
49 Session, Chapter 9

50 **53G-8-101 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 3

51 **53G-8-102 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 348,  
52 388

53 **53G-8-301 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as repealed and reenacted by Laws of Utah 2025,  
54 Chapter 327

55 **53G-8-701 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388

56 **53G-8-701.5 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388

57 **53G-8-701.6 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 388,  
58 470

59 **53G-8-704 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 208,  
60 388

61 **53G-8-802 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388

62 **53G-8-805 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388

63 **63C-27-201 (Effective 05/06/26) (Repealed 07/01/32)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2022,  
 64 Chapter 153

65 **63C-27-202 (Effective 05/06/26) (Repealed 07/01/32)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2022,  
 66 Chapter 153

67 ENACTS:

68 **53G-8-806 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

69 **53G-8-901 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

70 **53G-8-902 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

71 **53G-8-903 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

73

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

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

76 **53-13-105 (Effective 05/06/26). Special function officer.**

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

80 (b) "Special function officer" includes:

81 (i) state military police;

82 (ii) constables;

83 (iii) port-of-entry agents as defined in Section 72-1-102;

84 (iv) authorized employees or agents of the Department of Transportation assigned to  
 85 administer and enforce the provisions of Title 72, Chapter 9, Motor Carrier Safety  
 86 Act;

87 (v) school district security officers;

88 (vi) Utah State Hospital security officers designated pursuant to Section 26B-5-303;

89 (vii) Utah State Developmental Center security officers designated pursuant to  
 90 Section 26B-6-506;

91 (viii) fire arson investigators for any political subdivision of the state;

92 (ix) ordinance enforcement officers employed by municipalities or counties may be  
 93 special function officers;

94 (x) employees of the Department of Natural Resources who have been designated to  
 95 conduct supplemental enforcement functions as a collateral duty;

96 (xi) railroad special agents deputized by a county sheriff under Section 17-76-202 or

- 97 17-76-303 or appointed under Section 56-1-21.5;
- 98 (xii) auxiliary officers, as described by Section 53-13-112;
- 99 (xiii) special agents, process servers, and investigators employed by city attorneys;
- 100 (xiv) criminal tax investigators designated under Section 59-1-206; and
- 101 (xv) all other persons designated by statute as having special function officer
- 102 authority or limited peace officer authority.
- 103 (2)(a) A special function officer may exercise that spectrum of peace officer authority
- 104 that has been designated by statute to the employing agency, and only while on duty,
- 105 and not for the purpose of general law enforcement.
- 106 (b) If the special function officer is charged with security functions respecting facilities
- 107 or property, the powers may be exercised only in connection with acts occurring on
- 108 the property where the officer is employed or when required for the protection of the
- 109 employer's interest, property, or employees.
- 110 (c) A special function officer may carry firearms only while on duty, and only if
- 111 authorized and under conditions specified by the officer's employer or chief
- 112 administrator.
- 113 (d) While on duty, a special function officer employed by an elected sheriff or by a law
- 114 enforcement agency of the state or of a political subdivision may respond to
- 115 situations observed by the special function officer, whether on or off the officer's
- 116 assigned duty location, and is authorized to perform collateral duties for the purposes
- 117 of public safety, pending arrival of law enforcement officers from a local law
- 118 enforcement agency.
- 119 (3)(a) A special function officer may not exercise the authority of a special function
- 120 officer until:
- 121 (i) the officer has satisfactorily completed an approved basic training program for
- 122 special function officers as provided under Subsection (4); and
- 123 (ii) the chief law enforcement officer or administrator has certified this fact to the
- 124 director of the division.
- 125 (b) City and county constables and their deputies shall certify their completion of
- 126 training to the legislative governing body of the city or county they serve.
- 127 (4)(a) The agency that the special function officer serves may establish and maintain a
- 128 basic special function course and in-service training programs as approved by the
- 129 director of the division with the advice and consent of the council.
- 130 (b) The in-service training shall consist of no fewer than 40 hours per year and may be

131 conducted by the agency's own staff or by other agencies.

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

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

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

137 **53-22-103 (Effective 05/06/26). County sheriff responsibilities -- Coordination.**

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

142 (2) The county security chief shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

163 (i) assessing if an individual is capable of the duties and responsibilities that the  
164 trainings cover;

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

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

186 **53-22-105 (Effective 05/06/26). School guardian program.**

187 (1) As used in this section:

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

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

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

246 ~~(e)~~ (f) "Program" means the school guardian program created in this section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

265 (i) initial training;

266 (ii) biannual training; and

- 267 (iii) annual training.
- 268 (c) A county sheriff may partner or contract with:
- 269 (i) another county sheriff to support the respective county security chiefs in jointly
- 270 administering the school guardian program in the relevant counties; and
- 271 (ii) a local law enforcement agency of relevant jurisdiction to provide the:
- 272 (A) initial training;
- 273 (B) biannual training; and
- 274 (C) annual training.
- 275 (3)(a) A school employee that volunteers to participate is eligible to join the program as
- 276 a school guardian if:
- 277 (i) the school administrator approves the volunteer school employee to be designated
- 278 as a school guardian;
- 279 (ii) the school employee satisfactorily completes initial training within six months
- 280 before the day on which the school employee joins the program;
- 281 (iii) the school employee holds a valid concealed carry permit issued under Chapter
- 282 5a, Part 3, Concealed Firearm Permits;
- 283 (iv) the school employee certifies to the sheriff of the county where the school is
- 284 located that the school employee has undergone the training in accordance with
- 285 Subsection (3)(a)(ii) and intends to serve as a school guardian; and
- 286 (v) the school employee:
- 287 (A) completes an initial "fit to carry" assessment the Department of Health and
- 288 Human Services approves and a provider administers; and
- 289 (B) maintains compliance with mental health screening requirements consistent
- 290 with law enforcement standards.
- 291 (b) After joining the program a school guardian shall complete annual training and
- 292 biannual training to retain the designation of a school guardian in the program.
- 293 (4) The state security chief shall:
- 294 (a) for each school that participates in the program, track each school guardian at the
- 295 school by collecting the photograph and the name and contact information for each
- 296 guardian;
- 297 (b) make the information described in Subsection (4)(a) readily available to each law
- 298 enforcement agency in the state categorized by school; and
- 299 (c) ~~[provide each school guardian with a one-time stipend of \$500.]~~ in accordance with
- 300 Section 53G-8-701.5, and subject to legislative appropriations, consult with the State

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

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

369 sooner than two sleep cycles after the incident; and

370 (d) shall be subject to investigation by the law enforcement agency with primary  
 371 jurisdiction over the school's location.

372 ~~[(14)]~~ (15) A school guardian may have the designation of school guardian revoked at any  
 373 time by the school principal, county sheriff, or state security chief.

374 ~~[(15)]~~ (16)(a) Any information or record created detailing a school guardian's  
 375 participation in the program is:

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

378 (ii) available only to:

379 (A) the state security chief;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

398 **53-22-107 (Effective 05/06/26). Educator-Protector Program.**

399 (1) As used in this section:

400 (a) "Annual classroom response training" means a training for a ~~[teacher]~~ school  
 401 employee:

402 (i) that is held at least once a year and is administered, at no cost to a ~~[teacher]~~ school

- 403 employee, by the individual identified by the county sheriff as described in  
404 Section 53-22-103; and
- 405 (ii) where the [teacher] school employee is trained:
- 406 (A) on how to defend a classroom against active threats emphasizing the [teacher's]  
407 school employee's role in stationary defense; and
- 408 (B) on the safe loading, unloading, storage, and carrying of firearms in a school  
409 setting.
- 410 (b) "Bureau" means the Bureau of Criminal Identification created in Section 53-10-201.
- 411 (c) "Local education agency" means the same as that term is defined in Section  
412 53E-1-102.
- 413 (d) "Program" means the Educator-Protector Program created under this section.
- 414 (e) [~~"Teacher" means an individual employed by a local education agency who has an~~  
415 ~~assignment to teach in a classroom.~~] "School employee" means the same as that term  
416 is defined in Section 53-22-105.
- 417 (2) There is created the Educator-Protector Program to incentivize a [teacher] school  
418 employee to responsibly secure or carry a firearm on the grounds of the school where  
419 the [teacher] school employee is employed.
- 420 (3)(a) To participate in the program, a [teacher] school employee shall:
- 421 (i) have completed an annual classroom response training within six months before  
422 the day on which the [teacher] school employee joins the program;
- 423 (ii) have a valid concealed carry permit issued under Title 53, Chapter 5a, Part 3,  
424 Concealed Firearm Permits; and
- 425 (iii) certify to the department that:
- 426 (A) the [teacher] school employee satisfies the requirements described in  
427 Subsections (3)(a)(i) and (3)(a)(ii); and
- 428 (B) if applicable, intends to securely store or carry a firearm on the grounds of a  
429 school where the [teacher] school employee is employed.
- 430 (b) After joining the program, to retain the [teacher's] school employee's active status in  
431 the program, a [teacher] school employee shall:
- 432 (i) participate in annual classroom response training; and
- 433 (ii) comply with any rules established by the department in accordance with  
434 Subsection (10).
- 435 (4)(a) The state security chief shall:
- 436 (i) track each [teacher] school employee that participates in the program by collecting

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

- 471 (i) a private, controlled, or protected record under Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government  
 472 Records Access and Management Act; and  
 473 (ii) available only to:  
 474 (A) the state security chief;  
 475 (B) school guardians under Section 53-22-105 at the same school;  
 476 ~~[(B)] (C)~~ a local law enforcement agency that would respond to the school in case  
 477 of an emergency; and  
 478 ~~[(C)] (D)~~ the individual identified by the county sheriff as described in Section  
 479 53-22-103.
- 480 (b) The information or record described in Subsection (9)(a) includes the information  
 481 described in Subsection (4)(a)(i) and any personal identifying information of a [  
 482 teacher] school employee participating in the program collected or obtained during  
 483 annual classroom response training.
- 484 (c) An individual who intentionally or knowingly provides the information described in  
 485 Subsection (9)(a) to an individual or entity not listed in Subsection (9)(a)(ii) is guilty  
 486 of a class A misdemeanor.
- 487 (10) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the  
 488 department may adopt rules to administer this section.
- 489 Section 5. Section **53-25-701** is amended to read:  
 490 **53-25-701 (Effective 05/06/26). Requirements for school safety.**
- 491 (1) As used in this section:  
 492 (a) "Local law enforcement agency" means the law enforcement agency with primary  
 493 jurisdiction over a school's physical location.  
 494 (b) "School safety needs assessment" means the assessment required under Section  
 495 53G-8-701.5.  
 496 (c) "Security camera system" means the system described in Section 53G-8-805.
- 497 (2) Each local law enforcement agency shall:  
 498 (a) as coordinated with the county security chief described in Section 53-22-103,  
 499 allocate adequate personnel to participate in the school safety needs assessments with  
 500 a school's school safety and security specialist as required by Section 53G-8-701.5  
 501 for each school within the local law enforcement's jurisdiction;  
 502 (b) if [a] any school located within the county of a local law enforcement agency's  
 503 jurisdiction elects to satisfy the requirements described in Subsection  
 504 53G-8-701.5(2)(a)(ii) by employing school guardians, assign adequate personnel

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

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

523 **53G-6-806 (Effective 05/06/26). Parent portal.**

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

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

573 (4) An LEA shall annually notify each of the following of how to access the parent portal:

574 (a) a parent of a student; and

575 (b) a teacher, principal, or other professional staff within the LEA.

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

577 **53G-7-227 (Effective 05/06/26). Device prohibition.**

578 (1) As used in this section:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

602 (i) a cellular network;

603 (ii) a satellite network; or

604 (iii) any other wireless technology.

605 [(b)] (c) "Cellphone" includes:

606 (i) a smartphone;

- 607 (ii) a feature phone;
- 608 (iii) a mobile phone;
- 609 (iv) a satellite phone; or
- 610 (v) a personal digital assistant that incorporates capabilities similar to a smartphone,
- 611 feature phone, mobile phone, or satellite phone.

612 [(e)] (d) "Classroom hours" means:

- 613 (i) time during which a student receives scheduled, teacher-supervised instruction
- 614 that occurs:

- 615 (A) in a physical or virtual classroom setting;
- 616 (B) during regular school operating hours; and
- 617 (C) as part of an approved educational curriculum.

618 (ii) "Classroom hours" does not include:

- 619 (A) lunch periods;
- 620 (B) recess;
- 621 (C) transit time between classes;
- 622 (D) study halls unless directly supervised by a qualified instructor;
- 623 (E) after-school activities unless part of an approved extended learning program; or
- 624 (F) independent study time occurring outside scheduled instruction.

625 [(d)] (e)(i) "Emerging technology" means any other device that has or will be able to

626 act in place of or as an extension of an individual's cellphone.

627 (ii) "Emerging technology" does not include school provided or required devices.

628 [(e)] (f) "Smart watch" means a wearable computing device that closely resembles a

629 wristwatch or other time-keeping device with the capacity to act in place of or as an

630 extension of an individual's cellphone.

631 [(f)] (g) "Smart watch" does not include a wearable device that can only:

- 632 (i) tell time;
- 633 (ii) monitor an individual's health informatics;
- 634 (iii) receive and display notifications or information without the capability to
- 635 respond; or
- 636 (iv) track the individual's physical location.

637 (2)(a) An LEA:

638 (i) shall establish a policy that allows a student to use a cellphone, smart watch, AI

639 glasses, or emerging technology:

- 640 (A) to respond to an imminent threat to the health or safety of an individual;

- 641 (B) to respond to a school-wide emergency;
- 642 (C) to use the SafeUT Crisis Line described in Section 53H-4-210;
- 643 (D) for a student's IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan; or
- 644 (E) to address a medical necessity; and
- 645 (ii) may establish a policy that provides for other circumstances when a student may
- 646 use a cellphone, smart watch, AI glasses, or emerging technology.
- 647 (b) An LEA may establish policies that:
- 648 (i) extend restrictions on student use of cellphones, smart watches, or emerging
- 649 technologies to non-classroom hours during the school day, including:
- 650 (A) lunch periods;
- 651 (B) transition times between classes; and
- 652 (C) other school-supervised activities; and
- 653 (ii) impose additional limitations on the use of cellphones, smart watches, or
- 654 emerging technologies beyond those required by this section.
- 655 (3) Except as provided in Subsection (2), a student may not use a cellphone, smart watch,
- 656 AI glasses, or emerging technology at a school during classroom hours.
- 657 (4) The state board may create one or more model policies regarding when a student may
- 658 use a student's cellphone, smart watch, AI glasses, or emerging technology in a school
- 659 during classroom hours consistent with this section.
- 660 Section 8. Section **53G-8-101** is amended to read:
- 661 **53G-8-101 (Effective 05/06/26). General provisions.**
- 662 [~~This chapter is known as "Discipline and Safety."~~] Reserved.
- 663 Section 9. Section **53G-8-102** is amended to read:
- 664 **53G-8-102 (Effective 05/06/26). Definitions for chapter.**
- 665 As used in this chapter:
- 666 (1) "Climate" means the perceptions and experiences of students, staff, parents, and the
- 667 community regarding the school's environment and the resources that support the
- 668 experiences.
- 669 (2) "Culture" means the beliefs, values, and practices that shape how a school functions and
- 670 influences student learning and well-being through policies, procedures, and safety
- 671 protocols.
- 672 (3) "Forcible felony" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-2-402.
- 673 (4) "K-12 School Campus" means an LEA governed property or building where K-12
- 674 students gather daily for instructional purposes and has an assigned administrator.

- 675 (5) "Physical Space" means the way in which a building is designed and structured to  
 676 promote safety including the minimum safety and security standards as described in  
 677 Section 53-22-102.
- 678 (6) "School safety" means the physical space, culture, and climate of a school.
- 679 (7) "School safety personnel" means the personnel described in Section 53G-8-701.5.  
 680 Section 10. Section **53G-8-301** is amended to read:  
 681 **53G-8-301 (Effective 05/06/26). Emergency safety interventions -- Appropriate**  
 682 **uses -- Penalties.**
- 683 (1) As used in this section:
- 684 (a) "Corporal punishment" means the intentional infliction of physical pain upon the  
 685 body of a student as a disciplinary measure.
- 686 (b) "Emergency safety intervention" means the use of seclusion or physical restraint  
 687 when a student presents an immediate danger to self or others.
- 688 (c) "Physical escort" means a temporary touching or holding of the hand, wrist, arm,  
 689 shoulder, or back for the purpose of guiding a student to another location.
- 690 (d) "Physical restraint" means a personal restriction that immobilizes or significantly  
 691 reduces the ability of a student to move the student's arms, legs, body, or head freely.
- 692 (e) "School" means a public or private elementary school, secondary school, or  
 693 preschool.
- 694 (f) "Seclusion" means seclusionary time out that is the involuntary confinement of a  
 695 student alone in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from  
 696 leaving, including:  
 697 (i) placing a student in a locked room; or  
 698 (ii) placing a student in a room where the door is blocked by furniture or held closed  
 699 by staff.
- 700 (g) "Student" means an individual who is:  
 701 (i) under ~~[the age of 19]~~ 19 years old and receiving educational services; or  
 702 (ii) under ~~[the age of 23]~~ 23 years old and receiving educational services as an  
 703 individual with a disability.
- 704 (2)(a) A school employee shall first use the least restrictive intervention available to the  
 705 school employee, including a physical escort, to address circumstances described in  
 706 Subsection (4).
- 707 (b) Nothing in this section prohibits a school employee from subsequently using less  
 708 restrictive interventions to address circumstances described in Subsection (4).

- 709 (3)(a) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act,  
710 the state board shall make rules to:
- 711 (i) establish guidelines and best practices that consider individual student needs  
712 related to emergency safety interventions described in Subsection (10)(b);
  - 713 (ii) establish intervention reporting requirements;
  - 714 (iii) create school staff training standards that may be included in an existing training;
  - 715 (iv) develop parental notification procedures;
  - 716 (v) implement data collection and review processes;
  - 717 (vi) establish investigation protocols;
  - 718 (vii) establish data collection and reporting requirements for an LEA regarding:
    - 719 (A) incidents of seclusion;
    - 720 (B) alternative interventions used;
    - 721 (C) student demographic information, including sex, [~~gender,~~]age, grade in  
722 school, and applicable disability status; and
    - 723 (D) incident outcomes.
- 724 (b) The state board shall include the information described in Subsection (3)(a) in the  
725 State Superintendent's Annual Report described in Section 53E-1-203.
- 726 (4) A school employee may use reasonable and necessary physical restraint only:
- 727 (a) in self defense;
  - 728 (b) to obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object in the possession or  
729 under the control of a student;
  - 730 (c) to protect a student or another individual from physical injury;
  - 731 (d) to remove from a situation a student who is violent; or
  - 732 (e) to protect property from being damaged, when physical safety is at risk.
- 733 (5)(a) A school employee may not inflict or cause the infliction of corporal punishment  
734 upon a student.
- 735 (b) The reporting and investigation requirements of Title 80, Chapter 2, Part 6, Child  
736 Abuse and Neglect Reports, apply to complaints on corporal punishment.
  - 737 (c) Evidence of corporal punishment that would qualify as reasonable discipline under  
738 Section 76-2-401 is insufficient to establish liability in a civil or criminal action.
  - 739 (d) Subject to the Rules of Evidence, evidence of corporal punishment that exceeds  
740 reasonable discipline under Section 76-2-401 may be used by a court to establish  
741 civil or criminal liability.
- 742 (6) School authorities shall take prompt and appropriate action, including in-service

- 743 training and other administrative action, upon confirming a violation of this section.
- 744 (7) The Division of Child and Family Services shall maintain all violation reports made in  
745 accordance with this section under the confidentiality requirements of Section 80-2-1005.
- 746 (8) A school or individual who makes a good faith report or cooperates in an investigation  
747 shall receive immunity from civil or criminal liability.
- 748 (9) A court with jurisdiction under Title 78A, Judiciary and Judicial Administration, may  
749 take appropriate action against any employing entity if the court finds that the  
750 employing entity has not taken reasonable steps to enforce the provisions of this part.
- 751 (10) A school:
- 752 (a) may not:
- 753 (i) enforce any rule, policy, or directive that permits acts prohibited by this section;  
754 (ii) sanction an employee who refuses to commit a prohibited act; or  
755 (iii) except as provided in Subsection (10)(b), use seclusion:
- 756 (A) as an intervention or disciplinary practice;  
757 (B) for coercion, retaliation, or humiliation; or  
758 (C) due to inadequate staffing or for the staff member's convenience;
- 759 (b) for a student in grade 1 or higher, may use seclusion as an emergency safety  
760 intervention only when:
- 761 (i) the LEA has developed and implemented written policies and procedures that:
- 762 (A) describe the circumstances under which a staff member may use seclusion;  
763 (B) describe which staff members are authorized to use seclusion;  
764 (C) describe procedures for monitoring a student that is in seclusion;  
765 (D) describe time limitations on the use of seclusion;  
766 (E) require immediate and continuous review of the decision to use seclusion;  
767 (F) require documenting the use of seclusion;  
768 (G) describe record keeping requirements for records related to the use of  
769 seclusion; and  
770 (H) require debriefing of all witnesses, involved staff members, the student who  
771 was secluded, and the parent of the student who was secluded;
- 772 (ii) a student poses an immediate and significant threat to the student or others;  
773 (iii) less restrictive interventions have failed;  
774 (iv) a staff member who is familiar to the student is actively supervising the student  
775 for the duration of the seclusion; and  
776 (v) the use is time-limited to a maximum time of 30 minutes and monitored;

- 777 (c) if seclusion was used, shall document the reason for its use, duration, and any  
778 alternative strategies attempted; and
- 779 (d) shall notify parents immediately, and not to exceed 15 minutes after the use, of any  
780 emergency safety intervention used on the parent's child, including seclusion or  
781 physical restraint.
- 782 (11) An LEA shall collect and report data to the state board annually regarding:
- 783 (a) an incident; and
- 784 (b) for each incident, the:
- 785 (i) duration of an intervention used to respond to the incident;
- 786 (ii) stated purpose for any intervention used;
- 787 (iii) alternative interventions attempted;
- 788 (iv) student demographic information, including sex, [~~gender,~~]age, grade in school,  
789 and applicable disability status; and
- 790 (v) relevant training offered to staff and if the staff involved received the relevant  
791 training without revealing the identity of the staff member.
- 792 (12) This section does not apply to:
- 793 (a) a law enforcement officer as defined in Section 53-13-103;
- 794 (b) a parochial or private school that:
- 795 (i) does not receive state funds;
- 796 (ii) adopts a policy of exemption from this section; and
- 797 (iii) notifies the parents of students in the school of the exemption; or
- 798 (c) behavior support intervention which is in compliance with:
- 799 (i) Section 76-2-401; and
- 800 (ii) state and local rules adopted under Section 53E-7-204.
- 801 (13) Any violations of this section, including violations of any standards for seclusion or  
802 physical restraint established by the state board pursuant to this section, shall:
- 803 (a) constitute an act of unlawful detention and is subject to the penalty described in  
804 Section 76-5-304; and
- 805 (b) result in a referral to:
- 806 (i) local law enforcement; and
- 807 (ii) the Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission established in Section  
808 53E-6-501.
- 809 Section 11. Section **53G-8-701** is amended to read:
- 810 **53G-8-701 (Effective 05/06/26). Definitions.**

811 As used in this part:

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

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

830 **53G-8-701.5 (Effective 05/06/26). School safety needs assessment -- School safety**  
831 **personnel -- Alternative requirements.**

832 (1)(a) In accordance with Subsections (1)(c) through (e), no later than October 15 of an  
833 applicable year, an LEA shall:

- 834 (i) ensure a school safety needs assessment the state security chief selects in  
835 collaboration with the school safety center is conducted in accordance with  
836 Subsection (1)(b) for each school or K-12 campus within the LEA to determine  
837 the needs and deficiencies regarding:
- 838 (A) appropriate school safety personnel, including necessary supports, training,  
839 and policy creation for the personnel;
- 840 (B) physical building security and safety, including required upgrades to facilities  
841 and safety technology;
- 842 (C) a school's current threat and emergency response protocols, including any  
843 emergency response agreements with local law enforcement;
- 844 (D) if applicable, a school's current visitor management protocols, including

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

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

- 913 establish a timeline for an LEA to comply with the school safety personnel  
914 requirements of this Subsection (2).
- 915 (3)(a) An LEA, school administrator, or private school may apply to the state security  
916 chief for an approved alternative to the requirements described in:
- 917 (i) Section 53-22-105;
  - 918 (ii) this section;
  - 919 (iii) Section 53G-8-701.6;
  - 920 (iv) Section 53G-8-701.8; and
  - 921 (v) Section 53G-8-704.
- 922 (b) In approving or denying an application described in Subsection (3)(a), the state  
923 security chief may consider factors that impact a school or LEA's ability to adhere to  
924 the requirements of this section, including the school or LEA's:
- 925 (i) population size;
  - 926 (ii) staffing needs or capacity;
  - 927 (iii) geographic location;
  - 928 (iv) available funding; or
  - 929 (v) general demonstration of need for an alternative to the requirements of this  
930 section.
- 931 (4) A private school shall identify an individual at the private school to serve as the safety  
932 liaison with the local law enforcement of relevant jurisdiction and the state security chief.
- 933 (5)(a) Notwithstanding Subsections (5)(b) and (c), an LEA may:
- 934 (i) pay guardian stipends using local funds when state funding is exhausted; or
  - 935 (ii) supplement state funding with local funds.
- 936 (b) In accordance with Subsection (5)(c), the state board shall be responsible for  
937 administering guardian stipend funding in coordination with the state security chief.
- 938 (c)(i) The state security chief shall:
- 939 (A) verify that a school guardian has met all requirements to be eligible for a  
940 stipend; and
  - 941 (B) certify each eligible school guardian to the state board through completion of  
942 required training and active status in the program.
  - 943 (ii) Upon certification by the state security chief, and subject to legislative  
944 appropriations, the state board shall provide each eligible school guardian with a  
945 one-time stipend.
  - 946 (iii) The state board shall determine the amount of the stipend for each fiscal year

- 947 based on:
- 948 (A) the amount appropriated by the Legislature for school guardian stipends;
- 949 (B) the projected number of school guardians statewide based on historical data
- 950 and current program enrollment trends;
- 951 (C) a reserve allocation of up to 10% of the total appropriation to account for
- 952 school guardians who join the program after the beginning of the school year;
- 953 and
- 954 (D) any other factors the state board determines necessary to ensure equal
- 955 distribution of the funds.
- 956 (iv) All school guardians certified as eligible during the same fiscal year shall receive
- 957 the same stipend amount, regardless of:
- 958 (A) when during the fiscal year the school guardian completed training and
- 959 became eligible; or
- 960 (B) the size, location, or type of school where the guardian serves.
- 961 (v) The state board shall:
- 962 (A) announce the stipend amount for each fiscal year no later than August 1, or
- 963 within 30 days of legislative appropriations if appropriated after July 1;
- 964 (B) distribute stipends within 60 days of certification by the state security chief;
- 965 (C) maintain a reserve for school guardians who become eligible later in the fiscal
- 966 year;
- 967 (D) if funds remain unallocated at the end of the fiscal year due to fewer school
- 968 guardians than projected, carry forward the remaining funds to supplement the
- 969 next fiscal year's stipend amount; and
- 970 (E) if eligible school guardians exceed projections and available funding, pro-rate
- 971 the stipend amount equally among all eligible school guardians for that fiscal
- 972 year and report the shortfall to the Legislature.
- 973 (vi) A school guardian is eligible to receive only one stipend regardless of:
- 974 (A) serving at multiple schools; or
- 975 (B) leaving and rejoining the program within the same fiscal year.
- 976 (vii) If a school guardian leaves the program for any reason after receiving a stipend,
- 977 the school guardian is not required to return the stipend unless the state security
- 978 chief determines the school guardian:
- 979 (A) obtained the stipend through fraud or misrepresentation; or
- 980 (B) failed to actually meet the eligibility requirements under Section 53-22-105.

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

982 **53G-8-701.6 (Effective 05/06/26). School safety and security specialist.**

983 (1) As used in this section<sup>[1]</sup> :

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

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

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

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

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

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

993 (b) The school safety and security specialist:

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

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

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

997 (a) report directly to the principal;

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

1000 (c) ensure adherence with all policies, procedures, protocols, rules, and regulations  
1001 relating to school safety and security through collaborating and maintaining effective  
1002 communications with the following as applicable:

1003 (i) the principal;

1004 (ii) school staff;

1005 (iii) the school resource officer;

1006 (iv) the armed school security guard;

1007 (v) the school guardian;

1008 (vi) local law enforcement;

1009 (vii) the county security chief;

1010 (viii) the school safety and security director;

1011 (ix) the LEA; and

1012 (x) school-based behavioral and mental health professionals;

1013 (d) in collaboration with the county security chief and with the local law enforcement of  
1014 relevant jurisdiction over the school as described in Section 53-25-701:

- 1015 (i) conduct the school safety needs assessment described in Section 53G-8-701.5;
- 1016 (ii) in accordance with Sections 53-25-701 and 53G-8-701.5, submit the completed
- 1017 assessments to the School Safety Center created in Section 53G-8-802 by October
- 1018 15 of each year; and
- 1019 (iii) review the results of the school safety needs assessment to recommend and
- 1020 implement improvements to school facilities, policies, procedures, protocols,
- 1021 rules, and regulations relating to school safety and security;
- 1022 (e) participate on the multidisciplinary team that the school establishes;
- 1023 (f) conduct a behavioral threat assessment when the school safety and security specialist
- 1024 deems necessary using an evidence-based tool the state security chief recommends in
- 1025 consultation with the [~~school safety center~~] School Safety Center and the Office of
- 1026 Substance Use and Mental Health;
- 1027 (g) regularly monitor and report to the principal, local law enforcement, and, if
- 1028 applicable, the LEA superintendent or designee, security risks for the school resulting
- 1029 from:
- 1030 (i) issues with school facilities; or
- 1031 (ii) the implementation of practices, policies, procedures, and protocols relating to
- 1032 school safety and security;
- 1033 (h) coordinate with local first responder agencies to implement and monitor safety and
- 1034 security drills in accordance with policy and applicable procedures and protocols;
- 1035 (i) ensure that school staff, and, when appropriate, students, receive training on and
- 1036 remain current on the school's safety and security procedures and protocols;
- 1037 (j) following an event where security of the school has been significantly compromised,
- 1038 organize a debriefing with the individuals listed in Subsection (3)(c) following the
- 1039 recommendations from the state security chief, in collaboration with the School
- 1040 Safety Center, regarding strengthening school safety and security practices, policies,
- 1041 procedures, and protocols;
- 1042 (k) abide by any LEA, school, or law enforcement agency policy outlining the chain of
- 1043 command;
- 1044 (l) during an emergency, coordinate with the following individuals as applicable, the:
- 1045 (i) school resource officer;
- 1046 (ii) school guardians;
- 1047 (iii) armed school security guards;
- 1048 (iv) school administrators; and

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

1061 Section 14. Section **53G-8-704** is amended to read:

1062 **53G-8-704 (Effective 05/06/26). Contracts between an LEA and a contract**

1063 **security company for armed school security guards.**

1064 (1) As used in this section:

- 1065 (a) "Armed private security officer" means the same as that term is defined in Section
- 1066 58-63-102.
- 1067 (b) "Armed school security guard" means:
- 1068 (i) an armed private security officer who:
- 1069 ~~[(i)]~~ (A) is licensed as an armed private security officer under Title 58, Chapter 63,
- 1070 Security Personnel Licensing Act; and
- 1071 ~~[(ii)]~~ (B) has met the requirements described in Subsection (4)(a)~~[-]~~ ; or
- 1072 (ii) a special function officer.
- 1073 (c) "Contract security company" means:
- 1074 (i) for an armed private security officer, the same as that term is defined in Section
- 1075 58-63-102~~[-]~~ ; and
- 1076 (ii) for a special function officer, the special function officer's employing law
- 1077 enforcement agency.
- 1078 (d) "Deadly force" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-2-408.
- 1079 (e) "Special function officer" means the same as that term is defined in Section
- 1080 53-13-105.
- 1081 ~~[(f)]~~ (f) "State security chief" means the same as that term is defined in Section
- 1082 53-22-102.

- 1083 (2)(a) An LEA may use an armed school security guard to satisfy the school safety  
1084 personnel requirements of Section 53G-8-701.5.
- 1085 (b) An LEA that uses an armed school security guard under Subsection (2)(a) shall have  
1086 a contract with a contract security company or if a special function officer is used as  
1087 an armed school security guard, a contract with the law enforcement agency  
1088 employing the special function officer, in accordance with Section 53G-8-703, to  
1089 provide armed school security guards at each school within the LEA.
- 1090 (3) The contract described in Subsection (2)(b) shall include a detailed description of:
- 1091 (a) the rights of a student under state and federal law with regard to:
- 1092 (i) searches;
- 1093 (ii) questioning;
- 1094 (iii) arrests; and
- 1095 (iv) information privacy;
- 1096 (b) job assignment and duties of an armed school security guard, including:
- 1097 (i) the school to which an armed school security guard will be assigned;
- 1098 (ii) the hours an armed school security guard is present at the school;
- 1099 (iii) the point of contact at the school that an armed school security guard will contact  
1100 in case of an emergency;
- 1101 (iv) specific responsibilities for providing and receiving information;
- 1102 (v) types of records to be kept, and by whom; and
- 1103 (vi) training requirements; and
- 1104 (c) other expectations of the contract security company in relation to school security at  
1105 the LEA.
- 1106 (4)(a) In addition to the requirements for licensure under Title 58, Chapter 63, Security  
1107 Personnel Licensing Act, an armed private security officer may only serve as an  
1108 armed school security guard under a contract described in Subsection (2)(b) if the  
1109 armed private security officer:
- 1110 (i) has a valid concealed carry permit issued under Title 53, Chapter 5a, Part 3,  
1111 Concealed Firearm Permits;
- 1112 (ii) has undergone training from a county security chief or local law enforcement  
1113 agency regarding:
- 1114 (A) the safe loading, unloading, storage, and carrying of firearms in a school  
1115 setting;
- 1116 (B) the role of armed security guards in a school setting; and

- 1117 (C) coordination with law enforcement and school officials during an active threat;  
1118 (iii) completes an initial "fit to carry" assessment the Department of Health and  
1119 Human Services approves and a provider administers; and  
1120 (iv) maintains compliance with mental health screening requirements consistent with  
1121 law enforcement standards.
- 1122 (b) An armed school security guard that meets the requirements of Subsection (4)(a)  
1123 shall, in order to remain eligible to be assigned as an armed school security guard at  
1124 any school under a contract described in Subsection (2)(b), participate in and satisfy  
1125 the training requirements of the initial, annual, and biannual trainings as defined in  
1126 Section 53-22-105.
- 1127 (5) An armed school security guard may conceal or openly carry a firearm at the school at  
1128 which the armed school security guard is employed under the contract described in  
1129 Subsection (2)(b).
- 1130 (6) An LEA that enters a contract under this section shall inform the state security chief and  
1131 the relevant county security chief of the contract and provide the contact information of  
1132 the contract security company employing the armed security guard for use during an  
1133 emergency.
- 1134 (7) The state security chief shall:
- 1135 (a) for each LEA that contracts with a contract security company under this section,  
1136 track each contract security company providing armed school security guards by  
1137 name and the contact information for use in case of an emergency; and  
1138 (b) make the information described in Subsection (7)(a) readily available to each law  
1139 enforcement agency in the state by school.
- 1140 (8) An armed school security guard shall file a report described in Subsection (9) if, during  
1141 the performance of the armed school security guard's duties, the armed school security  
1142 guard:
- 1143 (a) points a firearm at an individual; or  
1144 (b) aims a conductive energy device at an individual and displays the electrical current.
- 1145 (9)(a) A report described in Subsection (8) shall include:
- 1146 (i) a description of the incident;  
1147 (ii) the identification of the individuals involved in the incident; and  
1148 (iii) any other information required by the state security chief.
- 1149 (b) An armed school security guard shall submit a report required under Subsection (8)  
1150 to the school administrator, school safety and security director, and the state security

1151 chief within 48 hours after the incident.

1152 (c) The school administrator, school safety and security director, and the state security  
1153 chief shall consult and review the report submitted under Subsection (9)(b).

1154 (10) If an armed school security guard uses deadly force, the armed school security guard:

1155 (a) shall be placed on administrative leave pending investigation;

1156 (b) may not be required to provide a written report described in Subsections (8) and (9);

1157 (c)(i) may not be required to participate in a voluntary interview; and

1158 (ii) if the armed school security guard chooses to participate in an interview, the  
1159 interview may not be sooner than two sleep cycles after the incident; and

1160 (d)(i) shall be subject to investigation by the law enforcement agency with primary  
1161 jurisdiction over the school's location; and

1162 (ii) if the involved party is a special function officer employed by a law enforcement  
1163 agency, shall follow the same protocol established for officer-involved shootings  
1164 under Section 76-2-408.

1165 Section 15. Section **53G-8-802** is amended to read:

1166 **Part 8. State Safety and Support Program -- Security Infrastructure**

1167 **53G-8-802 (Effective 05/06/26). State Safety and Support Program -- State board**  
1168 **duties -- LEA duties.**

1169 (1) There is created the School Safety Center.

1170 (2) The School Safety Center shall:

1171 (a) develop in conjunction with the Office of Substance Use and Mental Health and the  
1172 state security chief model student safety and support policies for an LEA, including:

1173 (i) requiring an evidence-based behavior threat assessment that includes

1174 recommended interventions with an individual whose behavior poses a threat to  
1175 school safety;

1176 (ii) procedures for referrals to law enforcement; and

1177 (iii) procedures for referrals to a community services entity, a family support  
1178 organization, or a health care provider for evaluation or treatment;

1179 (b) provide training in consultation with the state security chief:

1180 (i) in school safety;

1181 (ii) in evidence-based approaches to improve school climate and address and correct  
1182 bullying behavior;

1183 (iii) in evidence-based approaches in identifying an individual who may pose a threat  
1184 to the school community;

- 1185 (iv) in evidence-based approaches in identifying an individual who may be showing  
1186 signs or symptoms of mental illness;
- 1187 (v) on permitted disclosures of student data to law enforcement and other support  
1188 services under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec.  
1189 1232g;
- 1190 (vi) on permitted collection of student data under 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232h and Sections  
1191 53E-9-203 and 53E-9-305; and
- 1192 (vii) for administrators on rights and prohibited acts under:
- 1193 (A) Chapter 9, Part 6, Bullying and Hazing;
- 1194 (B) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 2000d et seq.;
- 1195 (C) Title IX of Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681 et seq.;
- 1196 (D) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 701 et seq.; and
- 1197 (E) the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.;
- 1198 (c) conduct and disseminate evidence-based research on school safety concerns;
- 1199 (d) disseminate information on effective school safety initiatives;
- 1200 (e) encourage partnerships between public and private sectors to promote school safety;
- 1201 (f) provide technical assistance to an LEA in the development and implementation of  
1202 school safety initiatives;
- 1203 (g) in conjunction with the state security chief, make available to an LEA the model  
1204 critical incident response training program a school and law enforcement agency  
1205 shall use during a threat;
- 1206 (h) provide space for the public safety liaison described in Section 53-1-106 and the  
1207 school-based mental health specialist described in Section 26B-5-102;
- 1208 (i) collaborate with the state security chief to determine appropriate application of school  
1209 safety requirements in Utah Code to an online school;
- 1210 (j) create a model school climate survey that may be used by an LEA to assess  
1211 stakeholder perception of a school environment;
- 1212 (k) in accordance with Section 53G-5-202, establish a charter school liaison including  
1213 defined responsibilities for charter school communication and coordination with the  
1214 School Safety Center;[-and]
- 1215 (l) assist a foundation described in Section 53-22-108 in distributing school safety  
1216 products if a foundation seeks assistance;
- 1217 (m) establishes defined roles for a multidisciplinary team and school safety personnel  
1218 described in Chapter 8, Part 7, School Safety Personnel;

- 1219 (n) assist LEAs in implementing and maintaining universal access key box requirements  
 1220 under Section 53G-8-805;
- 1221 (o) in consultation with the state security chief, select a system to track relevant data,  
 1222 including the tracking required in Sections 53-22-105, 53G-8-701.5, 53G-8-701.8,  
 1223 and 53G-8-704; and
- 1224 (p) collect aggregate data and school climate survey results from an LEA that  
 1225 administers the model school climate survey described in Subsection (2)(j).
- 1226 (3) Nothing in this section requires:
- 1227 (a) an individual to respond to a school climate survey; or
- 1228 (b) an LEA to use the model school climate survey or any specified questions in the  
 1229 model school climate survey described in Subsection (2)(j).
- 1230 (4) The state board shall require an LEA to:
- 1231 (a)(i) if an LEA administers a school climate survey, review school climate data for  
 1232 each school within the LEA; and
- 1233 (ii) based on the review described in Subsection (4)(a)(i):
- 1234 (A) revise practices, policies, and training to eliminate harassment and  
 1235 discrimination in each school within the LEA;
- 1236 (B) adopt a plan for harassment- and discrimination-free learning; and
- 1237 (C) host outreach events or assemblies to inform students and parents of the plan  
 1238 adopted under Subsection (4)(a)(ii)(B);
- 1239 (b) no later than September 1 of each school year, send a notice to each student, parent,  
 1240 and LEA staff member stating the LEA's commitment to maintaining a school  
 1241 climate that is free of harassment and discrimination; and
- 1242 (c) report to the state board annually on the LEA's implementation of the plan under  
 1243 Subsection (4)(a)(ii)(B) and progress.
- 1244 Section 16. Section **53G-8-805** is amended to read:
- 1245 **53G-8-805 (Effective 05/06/26). Panic alert device -- Security cameras -- Key box.**
- 1246 (1) As used in this section:
- 1247 (a) "Universal access key box" means a UL Standard 1037 compliant secure container  
 1248 designed to store and protect emergency access keys and devices.
- 1249 (b) "Emergency responder" means law enforcement, fire service, or emergency medical  
 1250 personnel authorized by local authorities to respond to school emergencies.
- 1251 (2) In accordance with the results of the school safety needs assessment described in  
 1252 Section 53G-8-701.5, an LEA shall provide the [~~lead teacher in each classroom~~]

- 1253 following with a wearable panic alert device that shall communicate directly with public  
1254 safety answering points[-] :
- 1255 (a) the lead teacher in each classroom; and  
1256 (b) beginning July 1, 2027, the appropriate school safety personnel described in  
1257 Subsection 53G-8-701.5(2).
- 1258 (3) An LEA shall ensure, before the school year begins, all school building personnel  
1259 receive training on the protocol and appropriate use of the panic alert device described in  
1260 Subsection (2).
- 1261 (4) An LEA shall:
- 1262 (a) ensure all security cameras within a school building are accessible by:  
1263 (i) a local law enforcement agency; and  
1264 (ii) public safety answering points;  
1265 (b) coordinate with a local law enforcement agency to establish appropriate access  
1266 protocols; and  
1267 (c) physically mark all hallways and doorways consistent with the incident response  
1268 method or system the state security chief creates.
- 1269 (5) A school building shall include universal access key boxes that:
- 1270 (a) are installed at main entry points;  
1271 (b) contain master keys and access devices providing complete access to all areas of the  
1272 school;  
1273 (c) are accessible only to authorized emergency responders;  
1274 (d) are electronically monitored for tampering; and  
1275 (e) are weather-resistant and vandal-resistant.
- 1276 (6) An LEA shall:
- 1277 (a) maintain universal access key boxes by:  
1278 (i) conducting quarterly inspections;  
1279 (ii) updating contents within 24 hours of any lock or access control changes;  
1280 (iii) maintaining current key and access device inventories;  
1281 (iv) documenting all inspections and updates; and  
1282 (v) immediately replacing any damaged or malfunctioning boxes;  
1283 (b) coordinate with local emergency responders to:  
1284 (i) determine optimal box placement;  
1285 (ii) establish access protocols;  
1286 (iii) maintain current emergency contact information; and

- 1287 (iv) conduct annual reviews of box usage and effectiveness; and  
 1288 (c) include universal access key box locations and protocols in:  
 1289 (i) school emergency response plans;  
 1290 (ii) building schematic diagrams provided to emergency responders; and  
 1291 (iii) school safety and security training materials.
- 1292 (7) The state board shall:  
 1293 (a) establish standards for:  
 1294 (i) box installation and placement;  
 1295 (ii) access control and monitoring;  
 1296 (iii) maintenance schedules; and  
 1297 (iv) compliance verification;  
 1298 (b) in direct coordination with the state security chief, ensure new construction or major  
 1299 remodeling of a school building shall include the installation of automated external  
 1300 defibrillators in appropriate locations as the state board determines; and  
 1301 (c) provide technical assistance to LEAs implementing this section.
- 1302 (8) Nothing in this section:  
 1303 (a) affects requirements for fire department key boxes under applicable building or fire  
 1304 codes; or  
 1305 (b) restricts additional security measures implemented by LEAs that exceed these  
 1306 requirements.
- 1307 (9) This section is not subject to the restrictions in Section 41-6a-2003.  
 1308 Section 17. Section **53G-8-806** is enacted to read:  
 1309 **53G-8-806 (Effective 05/06/26). School visitor management protocols --**  
 1310 **Requirements -- LEA responsibilities.**
- 1311 (1) As used in this section:  
 1312 (a) "Controlled access point" means a designated entry point to a school building that:  
 1313 (i) school personnel or electronic surveillance monitors during school hours; and  
 1314 (ii) requires visitors to follow check-in procedures before accessing the school  
 1315 building interior.  
 1316 (b) "School hours" means the period during which students are present in the school  
 1317 building for instructional purposes.  
 1318 (c) "Visitor" means any individual who is not a current student or employee of the  
 1319 school, including:  
 1320 (i) parents;

- 1321           (ii) contractors and service providers;  
1322           (iii) volunteers; and  
1323           (iv) guests.
- 1324           (d) "Visitor management system" means a process or technology an LEA uses to track,  
1325           monitor, and manage visitors entering school facilities.
- 1326           (2) An LEA that establishes visitor management protocols shall ensure the protocols  
1327           include:
- 1328           (a) designated controlled access points that require all visitors to:
- 1329               (i) enter the school building through a main entrance or other designated entry point  
1330               during school hours;
- 1331               (ii) report immediately to a central office or reception area before accessing other  
1332               areas of the school building; and
- 1333               (iii) present valid government-issued identification or other acceptable identification  
1334               the LEA determines in LEA policy;
- 1335           (b) a visitor sign-in and sign-out process that records at minimum:
- 1336               (i) the visitor's name;  
1337               (ii) the date and time of entry and exit;  
1338               (iii) the purpose of the visit; and  
1339               (iv) the specific location or individual the visitor intends to visit;
- 1340           (c) procedures for:
- 1341               (i) issuing visible identification, including a visitor badge or pass, that visitors must  
1342               display prominently while on school grounds; and
- 1343               (ii) distinguishing between different types of visitors, such as parents, volunteers,  
1344               contractors, and other guests;
- 1345           (d) protocols for monitoring and supervising visitors while on school grounds, including:
- 1346               (i) requiring school personnel to accompany visitors when visitors access areas where  
1347               students are present, except as LEA policy otherwise provides for parents or  
1348               authorized volunteers;
- 1349               (ii) prohibiting visitor access to restricted areas; and  
1350               (iii) procedures school personnel shall follow to challenge or question any individual  
1351               without visible identification;
- 1352           (e) procedures for responding to visitors who:
- 1353               (i) refuse to comply with visitor management protocols;  
1354               (ii) pose a potential threat to school safety; or

- 1355            (iii) the LEA denies entry to the school;
- 1356            (f) clear signage at all school building entrances that:
- 1357            (i) directs visitors to the designated controlled access point;
- 1358            (ii) notifies visitors of the requirement to check in and obtain authorization before
- 1359            entering; and
- 1360            (iii) states that the LEA prohibits unauthorized entry and that unauthorized entry may
- 1361            result in criminal prosecution under Section 76-6-206; and
- 1362            (g) annual training for school personnel on:
- 1363            (i) implementing and enforcing visitor management protocols;
- 1364            (ii) identifying and responding to unauthorized individuals on school grounds; and
- 1365            (iii) communication procedures with the school safety and security specialist
- 1366            described in Section 53G-8-701.6 or school safety and security director described
- 1367            in Section 53G-8-701.8.
- 1368            (3)(a) An LEA may implement an electronic visitor management system that includes
- 1369            capabilities such as:
- 1370            (i) automated identification verification;
- 1371            (ii) integration with sex offender registry databases;
- 1372            (iii) digital badge printing;
- 1373            (iv) automated visitor tracking and reporting; and
- 1374            (v) emergency notification capabilities.
- 1375            (b) If an LEA implements an electronic visitor management system, the LEA shall
- 1376            ensure that:
- 1377            (i) the LEA maintains visitor data in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 2,
- 1378            Government Records Access and Management Act;
- 1379            (ii) the LEA protects personally identifiable information and uses such information
- 1380            solely for school safety purposes; and
- 1381            (iii) the LEA notifies visitors of data collection practices in accordance with
- 1382            applicable privacy laws.
- 1383            (4)(a) An LEA may establish reasonable exceptions to the visitor management
- 1384            requirements described in Subsection (2) for:
- 1385            (i) emergency situations requiring immediate access to the school building;
- 1386            (ii) law enforcement officers, firefighters, or emergency medical personnel
- 1387            responding to an emergency;
- 1388            (iii) volunteers or employees of an educational foundation who have successfully

- 1389 completed a background check and ongoing monitoring as required in Section  
 1390 53G-11-402;
- 1391 (iv) brief visits to exterior areas of the school campus that do not require entry into  
 1392 school buildings;
- 1393 (v) school-sponsored events held during regular school hours with larger than normal  
 1394 numbers of visitors on the school campus;
- 1395 (vi) school-sponsored public events held outside of regular school hours.
- 1396 (b) An LEA shall provide reasonable accommodations in visitor management  
 1397 procedures for individuals with disabilities in compliance with the Americans with  
 1398 Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.
- 1399 (5) If applicable, the school safety needs assessment an LEA conducts under Subsection  
 1400 53G-8-701.5(1) shall include an evaluation of:
- 1401 (a) the adequacy of current visitor management protocols;
- 1402 (b) physical infrastructure supporting controlled access, including entry vestibules,  
 1403 secure reception areas, and electronic access control systems; and
- 1404 (c) recommendations for improvements to visitor management protocols and  
 1405 infrastructure.
- 1406 (6)(a) An LEA that implements visitor management protocols shall include information  
 1407 about the protocols in the school safety needs assessment conducted under Section  
 1408 53G-8-701.5.
- 1409 (b) The state security chief may:
- 1410 (i) evaluate visitor management protocols as part of the school safety needs  
 1411 assessment described in Section 53G-8-701.5;
- 1412 (ii) collect and maintain data on visitor management protocol implementation and  
 1413 effectiveness; and
- 1414 (iii) develop recommended best practices for LEAs that choose to implement visitor  
 1415 management protocols.

1416 Section 18. Section **53G-8-901** is enacted to read:

1417 **Part 9. LEA Cybersecurity Standards**

1418 **53G-8-901 (Effective 05/06/26). General provisions -- Definitions.**

1419 As used in this part:

- 1420 (1) "Cyber Center" means the Utah Cyber Center created in Section 63A-16-1102.
- 1421 (2) "Data breach" means the same as that term is defined in Section 63A-16-1101.
- 1422 (3) "UETN" means the Utah Education and Telehealth Network created in Section

1423 53H-4-213.4.

1424 Section 19. Section **53G-8-902** is enacted to read:

1425 **53G-8-902 (Effective 05/06/26). LEA compliance with cybersecurity standards --**  
 1426 **Coordination.**

1427 (1) An LEA shall comply with the minimum cybersecurity standards established by the  
 1428 Cybersecurity Commission created in Section 63C-27-201 in rule made in accordance  
 1429 with Subsection 63C-27-202(9).

1430 (2) An LEA shall comply with the minimum cybersecurity standards according to the  
 1431 phased implementation timeline established in rule under Subsection 63C-27-202(9).

1432 (3) UETN, in consultation with the Cyber Center and the state board, shall:

1433 (a) develop implementation guidelines and technical resources to assist LEAs in  
 1434 meeting the minimum cybersecurity standards;

1435 (b) provide technical assistance and support to LEAs; and

1436 (c) coordinate the provision of cybersecurity services and resources to LEAs.

1437 (4)(a) The Cyber Center, the state board, and UETN shall coordinate services to LEAs  
 1438 to:

1439 (i) avoid duplication of efforts;

1440 (ii) maximize the effectiveness of cybersecurity resources;

1441 (iii) ensure LEAs receive consistent guidance and support; and

1442 (iv) facilitate information sharing regarding cybersecurity threats and best practices.

1443 (b) The coordination required under Subsection (4)(a) shall include:

1444 (i) regular meetings among the entities to discuss LEA cybersecurity needs and  
 1445 initiatives;

1446 (ii) joint development of training materials and resources;

1447 (iii) coordinated response to cybersecurity incidents affecting LEAs; and

1448 (iv) alignment of cybersecurity standards and network infrastructure requirements.

1449 Section 20. Section **53G-8-903** is enacted to read:

1450 **53G-8-903 (Effective 05/06/26). Data breach reporting -- Coordination with**  
 1451 **Utah Cyber Center.**

1452 (1) An LEA shall report a data breach to the Cyber Center:

1453 (a) in accordance with Section 63A-19-405; and

1454 (b) consistent with standards and procedures established in rule under Subsection  
 1455 63C-27-202(9).

1456 (2) In addition to the requirements in Section 63A-19-405, an LEA shall:

- 1457 (a) notify the state board within 24 hours of discovering the data breach;  
 1458 (b) coordinate with UETN if the data breach involves network infrastructure or services  
 1459 provided by UETN; and  
 1460 (c) cooperate with the Cyber Center's investigation and response efforts.
- 1461 (3) The Cyber Center shall provide assistance to an LEA in responding to a data breach in  
 1462 the same manner the Cyber Center provides assistance to a governmental entity as  
 1463 described in Title 63A, Chapter 16, Part 11, Utah Cyber Center.
- 1464 (4) An LEA shall:
- 1465 (a) participate in cybersecurity information sharing initiatives coordinated by the Cyber  
 1466 Center;
- 1467 (b) designate a primary point of contact for cybersecurity matters who shall interface  
 1468 with the Cyber Center, the state board, and UETN; and
- 1469 (c) cooperate with statewide cybersecurity assessments and improvement initiatives.
- 1470 (5)(a) A regional education service agency, as that term is defined in Section 53G-4-410,  
 1471 may serve as the designated primary cybersecurity contact for multiple LEAs within  
 1472 the service area.
- 1473 (b) If a regional education service agency serves as the primary contact under Subsection  
 1474 (5)(a), the agency shall:
- 1475 (i) coordinate with the Cyber Center, the state board, and UETN on behalf of the  
 1476 participating LEAs;
- 1477 (ii) ensure each participating LEA meets the minimum cybersecurity standards  
 1478 established under Subsection 63C-27-202(9); and
- 1479 (iii) maintain documentation of cybersecurity services provided to each LEA.
- 1480 Section 21. Section **63C-27-201** is amended to read:
- 1481 **63C-27-201 (Effective 05/06/26) (Repealed 07/01/32). Cybersecurity Commission**  
 1482 **created.**
- 1483 (1) There is created the Cybersecurity Commission.
- 1484 (2) The commission shall be composed of [24] the following members:
- 1485 (a) one member the governor designates to serve as the governor's designee;
- 1486 (b) the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety;
- 1487 (c) the lieutenant governor, or an election officer, as that term is defined in Section  
 1488 20A-1-102, the lieutenant governor designates to serve as the lieutenant governor's  
 1489 designee;
- 1490 (d) the chief information officer of the Division of Technology Services;

- 1491 (e) the chief information security officer, as described in Section 63A-16-210;
- 1492 (f) the chairman of the Public Service Commission shall designate a representative with
- 1493 professional experience in information technology or cybersecurity;
- 1494 (g) the executive director of the Utah Department of Transportation shall designate a
- 1495 representative with professional experience in information technology or
- 1496 cybersecurity;
- 1497 (h) the director of the Division of Finance shall designate a representative with
- 1498 professional experience in information technology or cybersecurity;
- 1499 (i) the executive director of the Department of Health and Human Services shall
- 1500 designate a representative with professional experience in information technology or
- 1501 cybersecurity;
- 1502 (j) the director of the Division of Indian Affairs shall designate a representative with
- 1503 professional experience in information technology or cybersecurity;
- 1504 (k) the Utah League of Cities and Towns shall designate a representative with
- 1505 professional experience in information technology or cybersecurity;
- 1506 (l) the Utah Association of Counties shall designate a representative with professional
- 1507 experience in information technology or cybersecurity;
- 1508 (m) the attorney general, or the attorney general's designee;
- 1509 (n) the commissioner of financial institutions, or the commissioner's designee;
- 1510 (o) the executive director of the Department of Environmental Quality shall designate a
- 1511 representative with professional experience in information technology or
- 1512 cybersecurity;
- 1513 (p) the executive director of the Department of Natural Resources shall designate a
- 1514 representative with professional experience in information technology or
- 1515 cybersecurity;
- 1516 (q) two local education agency employees tasked with job duties that include systems
- 1517 and security management from one charter school and one school district whom the
- 1518 state superintendent selects;
- 1519 [~~(q)~~] (r) the highest ranking information technology official, or the official's designee,
- 1520 from each of:
- 1521 (i) the Judicial Council;
- 1522 (ii) the Utah Board of Higher Education;
- 1523 (iii) the State Board of Education; and
- 1524 (iv) the State Tax Commission;

- 1525           ~~[(†)]~~ (s) the governor shall appoint:
- 1526                 (i) one representative from the Utah National Guard; and
- 1527                 (ii) one representative from the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity;
- 1528           ~~[(s)]~~ (t) the president of the Senate shall appoint one member of the Senate; and
- 1529           ~~[(†)]~~ (u) the speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member of the
- 1530                 House of Representatives.
- 1531           (3)(a) The governor's designee shall serve as cochair of the commission.
- 1532                 (b) The commissioner of the Department of Public Safety shall serve as cochair of the
- 1533                 commission.
- 1534           (4)(a) The members described in Subsection (2) shall represent urban, rural, and
- 1535                 suburban population areas.
- 1536                 (b) No fewer than half of the members described in Subsection (2) shall have
- 1537                 professional experience in cybersecurity or in information technology.
- 1538           (5) In addition to the membership described in Subsection (2), the commission shall seek
- 1539                 information and advice from state and private entities with expertise in critical
- 1540                 infrastructure.
- 1541           (6) As necessary to improve information and protect potential vulnerabilities, the
- 1542                 commission shall seek information and advice from federal entities including:
- 1543                 (a) the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency;
- 1544                 (b) the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;
- 1545                 (c) the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and
- 1546                 (d) the United States Department of Transportation.
- 1547           (7)(a) Except as provided in Subsections (7)(b) and (c), a member is appointed for a
- 1548                 term of four years.
- 1549                 (b) A member shall serve until the member's successor is appointed and qualified.
- 1550                 (c) Notwithstanding the requirements of Subsection (7)(a), the governor shall, at the
- 1551                 time of appointment or reappointment, adjust the length of terms to ensure that the
- 1552                 terms of commission members are staggered so that approximately half of the
- 1553                 commission members appointed under Subsection ~~[(2)(†)]~~ (2) are appointed every two
- 1554                 years.
- 1555           (8)(a) If a vacancy occurs in the membership of the commission, the member shall be
- 1556                 replaced in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.
- 1557                 (b) An individual may be appointed to more than one term.
- 1558                 (c) When a vacancy occurs in the membership for any reason, the replacement shall be

1559 appointed for the unexpired term.

1560 (9)(a) A majority of the members of the commission is a quorum.

1561 (b) The action of a majority of a quorum constitutes an action of the commission.

1562 (10) The commission shall meet at least two times a year.

1563 Section 22. Section **63C-27-202** is amended to read:

1564 **63C-27-202 (Effective 05/06/26) (Repealed 07/01/32). Commission duties.**

1565 The commission shall:

1566 (1) identify and inform the governor of:

1567 (a) cyber threats and vulnerabilities towards Utah's critical infrastructure;

1568 (b) cybersecurity assets and resources; and

1569 (c) an analysis of:

1570 (i) current cyber incident response capabilities;

1571 (ii) potential cyber threats; and

1572 (iii) areas of significant concern with respect to:

1573 (A) vulnerability to cyber attack; or

1574 (B) seriousness of consequences in the event of a cyber attack;

1575 (2) provide resources with respect to cyber attacks in both the public and private sector,  
1576 including:

1577 (a) best practices;

1578 (b) education; and

1579 (c) mitigation;

1580 (3) promote cyber security awareness;

1581 (4) share information;

1582 (5) promote best practices to prevent and mitigate cyber attacks;

1583 (6) enhance cyber capabilities and response for all Utahns;

1584 (7) provide consistent outreach and collaboration with private and public sector

1585 organizations;~~and~~

1586 (8) share cyber threat intelligence to operators and overseers of Utah's critical infrastructure~~[-]~~

1587 ; and

1588 (9) in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, make

1589 rules establishing minimum cybersecurity standards for a local education agency, as that

1590 term is defined in Section 53G-3-402, that:

1591 (a) align with industry recognized cybersecurity frameworks and standards, including

1592 frameworks developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the

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

1613 **Section 23. Effective Date.**

1614 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.

1615 **Section 24. Coordinating H.B. 44 with S.B. 69**

1616 If H.B. 44, School Security Personnel Standards, and S.B. 69, School Device Revisions,  
1617 both pass and become law, the Legislature intends that, on July 1, 2026, Subsection  
1618 53G-7-227(2) enacted in S.B. 69, be amended to read:

1619 "(2) Except as provided in Subsection (3), a student may not use a cellphone, smart watch,  
1620 AI glasses, or emerging technology at a school during school hours."