

**Effective 5/1/2024**

**Part 7**  
**School Safety Personnel**

**53G-8-701 Definitions.**

As used in this part:

- (1) "Armed school security guard" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53G-8-804.
- (2) "County security chief" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-22-101.
- (3) "Law enforcement agency" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-1-102.
- (4) "Public school" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53G-9-205.1.
- (5) "School guardian" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-22-106.
- (6) "School is in session" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53E-3-516.
- (7) "School resource officer" means a law enforcement officer, as defined in Section 53-13-103, who contracts with or whose law enforcement agency contracts with an LEA to provide law enforcement services for the LEA.
- (8) "School safety and security director" means an individual whom an LEA designates in accordance with Section 53G-8-701.8.
- (9) "School safety and security specialist" means a school employee designated under Section 53G-8-701.6 who is responsible for supporting school safety initiatives.
- (10) "School safety center" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53G-8-801.
- (11) "State security chief" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-22-101.

Amended by Chapter 21, 2024 General Session

**53G-8-701.5 School safety needs assessment -- School safety personnel -- Alternative requirements.**

- (1)
  - (a) No later than December 31, 2024, an LEA shall:
    - (i) ensure a school safety needs assessment is conducted in accordance with Subsection (1)(b) for each school within the LEA to determine the needs and deficiencies regarding:
      - (A) appropriate school safety personnel, including necessary supports, training, and policy creation for the personnel;
      - (B) physical building security and safety, including required upgrades to facilities and safety technology; and
      - (C) a school's current threat and emergency response protocols, including any emergency response agreements with local law enforcement; and
    - (ii) report the results of the school safety needs assessment for each school within the LEA to the state security chief and the School Safety Center.
  - (b) The school safety specialist described in Section 53G-8-701.6 in collaboration with the county security chief or designee described in Section 53-22-103 shall conduct the school safety needs assessment for each school.
  - (c) In collaboration with the School Safety Center described in Section 53G-8-802, the state security chief described in Section 53-22-102 shall create a school safety needs assessment that an LEA shall use to ensure compliance with this Subsection (1).
  - (d) The state board shall use the results of the school safety needs assessment for each school within an LEA to award a grant to an LEA in accordance with Section 53F-5-220.
  - (e) Any information or record detailing a school's needs assessment results is:

- (i) a private, controlled, or protected record under Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government Records Access and Management Act; and
  - (ii) available only to:
    - (A) the state security chief;
    - (B) the School Safety Center;
    - (C) members of an LEA governing board;
    - (D) administrators of the LEA and school the needs assessment concerns;
    - (E) only to the extent necessary to award a grant under Section 53F-5-220, the state board;
    - (F) the applicable school safety personnel described in Subsection (2);
    - (G) a local law enforcement agency that would respond to the school in case of an emergency; and
    - (H) the county security chief.
  - (f) An individual who intentionally or knowingly provides the information described in Subsection (1)(e) to an individual or entity not listed in Subsection (1)(e)(ii) is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.
- (2)
- (a) An LEA shall ensure each school within the LEA has the following school safety personnel:
    - (i) a school safety and security specialist described in Section 53G-8-701.6; and
    - (ii) based on the results of the needs assessment described in Subsection (1), at least one of the following:
      - (A) a school resource officer;
      - (B) a school guardian; or
      - (C) an armed school security guard.
  - (b) In addition to the school safety personnel described in Subsection (2)(a), an LEA shall designate a school safety and security director described in Section 53G-8-701.8.
  - (c) If a school has more than 350 students enrolled at the school, the same individual may not serve in more than one of the roles listed in Subsections (2)(a) and (b).
  - (d) An LEA may implement the requirements of Subsection (2)(a)(ii) before the LEA has completed the school safety needs assessment described in Subsection (1).
  - (e) The state security chief in consultation with the School Safety Center shall establish a timeline for an LEA to comply with the school safety personnel requirements of this Subsection (2).
- (3)
- (a) An LEA, school administrator, or private school may apply to the state security chief for an approved alternative to the requirements described in:
    - (i) Section 53-22-105;
    - (ii) this section;
    - (iii) Section 53G-8-701.6;
    - (iv) Section 53G-8-701.8; and
    - (v) Section 53G-8-704.
  - (b) In approving or denying an application described in Subsection (3)(a), the state security chief may consider factors that impact a school or LEA's ability to adhere to the requirements of this section, including the school or LEA's:
    - (i) population size;
    - (ii) staffing needs or capacity;
    - (iii) geographic location;
    - (iv) available funding; or
    - (v) general demonstration of need for an alternative to the requirements of this section.

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

Repealed and Re-enacted by Chapter 21, 2024 General Session

**53G-8-701.6 School safety and security specialist.**

- (1) As used in this section, "principal" means the chief administrator at a public school, including:
  - (a) a school principal;
  - (b) a charter school director; or
  - (c) the superintendent of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.
- (2)
  - (a) Subject to Subsection (2)(b) and except as provided in Subsection 53G-8-701.5(3), every campus within an LEA shall designate a school safety and security specialist from the employees of the relevant campus.
  - (b) The school safety and security specialist:
    - (i) may not be a principal; and
    - (ii) may be the school safety and security director at one campus within the LEA.
- (3) The school safety and security specialist shall:
  - (a) report directly to the principal;
  - (b) oversee school safety and security practices to ensure a safe and secure school environment for students and staff;
  - (c) ensure adherence with all policies, procedures, protocols, rules, and regulations relating to school safety and security through collaborating and maintaining effective communications with the following as applicable:
    - (i) the principal;
    - (ii) school staff;
    - (iii) the school resource officer;
    - (iv) the armed school security guard;
    - (v) the school guardian;
    - (vi) local law enforcement;
    - (vii) the county security chief;
    - (viii) the school safety and security director;
    - (ix) the LEA; and
    - (x) school-based behavioral and mental health professionals;
  - (d) in collaboration with the county security chief or designee described in Section 53-22-103:
    - (i) conduct the school safety needs assessment described in Section 53G-8-701.5; and
    - (ii) conduct a building safety evaluation at least annually using the results of the school safety needs assessment to recommend and implement improvements to school facilities, policies, procedures, protocols, rules, and regulations relating to school safety and security;
  - (e) if the specialist is also an employee of an LEA, participate on the multidisciplinary team that the LEA establishes;
  - (f) conduct a behavioral threat assessment when the school safety and security specialist deems necessary using an evidence-based tool the state security chief recommends in consultation with the school safety center and the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health;
  - (g) regularly monitor and report to the principal, local law enforcement, and, if applicable, the LEA superintendent or designee, security risks for the school resulting from:
    - (i) issues with school facilities; or

- (ii) the implementation of practices, policies, procedures, and protocols relating to school safety and security;
  - (h) coordinate with local first responder agencies to implement and monitor safety and security drills in accordance with policy and applicable procedures and protocols;
  - (i) ensure that school staff, and, when appropriate, students, receive training on and remain current on the school's safety and security procedures and protocols;
  - (j) following an event where security of the school has been significantly compromised, organize a debriefing with the individuals listed in Subsection (3)(c) regarding strengthening school safety and security practices, policies, procedures, and protocols;
  - (k) abide by any LEA, school, or law enforcement agency policy outlining the chain of command;
  - (l) during an emergency, coordinate with the following individuals as applicable, the:
    - (i) school resource officer;
    - (ii) school guardians;
    - (iii) armed school security guards;
    - (iv) school administrators; and
    - (v) responding law enforcement officers;
  - (m) follow any LEA, school, or law enforcement agency student privacy policies, including state and federal privacy laws;
  - (n) participate in an annual training the state security chief selects in consultation with the School Safety Center; and
  - (o) remain current on:
    - (i) a comprehensive school guideline the state security chief selects;
    - (ii) the duties of a school safety and security specialist described in this Subsection (3); and
    - (iii) the school's emergency response plan.
- (4) During an active emergency at the school, the school safety and security specialist is subordinate to any responding law enforcement officers.

Enacted by Chapter 21, 2024 General Session

**53G-8-701.8 School safety and security director.**

- (1) Except as provided in Subsection 53G-8-701.5(3), an LEA shall designate a school safety and security director as the LEA point of contact for the county security chief, local law enforcement, and the state security chief.
- (2) A school safety and security director shall:
  - (a) participate in and satisfy the training requirements, including the annual and biannual requirements, described in:
    - (i) Section 53-22-105 for school guardians;
    - (ii) Section 53G-8-702 for school resource officers; and
    - (iii) Section 53G-8-704 for armed school security guards;
  - (b) have a valid concealed carry permit issued under Title 53, Chapter 5, Part 7, Concealed Firearm Act;
  - (c) if the designee is an employee of an LEA, participate on the multidisciplinary team the LEA establishes;
  - (d) coordinate security responses among, if applicable, the following individuals in the LEA that employs the school safety and security director:
    - (i) school safety and security specialists;
    - (ii) school resource officers;
    - (iii) armed school security guards; and

- (iv) school guardians; and
  - (e) collaborate and maintain effective communications with local law enforcement, a county security chief, the LEA, and school-based behavioral and mental health professionals to ensure adherence with all policies, procedures, protocols, rules, and regulations relating to school safety and security.
- (3) A school safety and security director:
- (a) does not have authority to act in a law enforcement capacity; and
  - (b) may, at the LEA that employs the director:
    - (i) take actions necessary to prevent or abate an active threat;
    - (ii) temporarily detain an individual when the school safety and security director has reasonable cause to believe the individual has committed or is about to commit a forcible felony, as that term is defined in Section 76-2-402;
- (4) Notwithstanding Subsection 76-10-505.5(4), if a school safety and security director is carrying a firearm, the school safety and security director shall carry the school safety and security director's firearm in a concealed manner and may not, unless during an active threat, display or open carry a firearm while on school grounds.
- (5) A school may use the services of the school safety and security director on a temporary basis to satisfy the school safety personnel requirement of Subsection 53G-8-701.5(2).
- (6) The state security chief shall:
- (a) for each school safety and security director, track each school safety and security director by collecting the photograph and the name and contact information for each school safety and security director; and
  - (b) make the information described in Subsection (6)(a) readily available to each law enforcement agency in the state categorized by LEA.

Enacted by Chapter 21, 2024 General Session

**53G-8-702 School administrator and school resource officer training -- Curriculum.**

- (1) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the state security chief appointed under Section 53-22-102 in consultation with the state board, shall make rules that prepare and make available an annual program for school principals, school personnel, school safety personnel described in Section 53G-8-701.5, and school resource officers to attend.
- (2) To create the curriculum and materials for the training program described in Subsection (1), the state security chief, in consultation with the School Safety Center, shall:
- (a) work in conjunction with the State Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice created in Section 63M-7-201;
  - (b) solicit input from local school boards, charter school governing boards, and the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind;
  - (c) consult with a nationally recognized organization that provides resources and training for school resource officers;
  - (d) solicit input from local law enforcement and other interested community stakeholders; and
  - (e) consider the current United States Department of Education recommendations on school discipline and the role of a school resource officer.
- (3) The training program described in Subsection (1) shall be for a minimum time established by the state security chief in accordance with Subsection (1) and may include training on the following:
- (a) childhood and adolescent development;

- (b) responding age-appropriately to students;
  - (c) working with disabled students;
  - (d) techniques to de-escalate and resolve conflict;
  - (e) cultural awareness;
  - (f) restorative justice practices;
  - (g) identifying a student exposed to violence or trauma and referring the student to appropriate resources;
  - (h) student privacy rights;
  - (i) negative consequences associated with youth involvement in the juvenile and criminal justice systems;
  - (j) strategies to reduce juvenile justice involvement;
  - (k) roles of and distinctions between a school resource officer and other school staff who help keep a school secure;
  - (l) the standard response protocol and drills described in Section 53G-8-803;
  - (m) an overview of the agreement described in Section 53G-8-703;
  - (n) developing and supporting successful relationships with students; and
  - (o) legal parameters of searching and questioning students on school property.
- (4) The School Safety Center shall work together with the Department of Public Safety, the State Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, and state and local law enforcement to establish policies, procedures, and training requirements for school resource officers.

Amended by Chapter 21, 2024 General Session

**53G-8-703 Contracts between an LEA and law enforcement for school resource officer services -- Requirements -- LEA establishment of a school resource officer policy -- Public comment.**

- (1)
- (a) An LEA may use a school resource officer to satisfy the school safety personnel requirements of Section 53G-8-701.5.
  - (b) An LEA that uses a school resource officer under Subsection (1)(a) shall contract with a local law enforcement agency to provide school resource officer services.
- (2) An LEA contract with a law enforcement agency to provide school resource officer services at the LEA shall require in the contract:
- (a) an acknowledgment by the law enforcement agency that a school resource officer hired under the contract shall:
    - (i) provide for and maintain a safe, healthy, and productive learning environment in a school;
    - (ii) act as a positive role model to students;
    - (iii) work to create a cooperative, proactive, and problem-solving partnership between law enforcement and the LEA;
    - (iv) emphasize the use of restorative approaches to address negative behavior; and
    - (v) at the request of the LEA, teach a vocational law enforcement class;
  - (b) a description of the shared understanding of the LEA and the law enforcement agency regarding the roles and responsibilities of law enforcement and the LEA to:
    - (i) maintain safe schools;
    - (ii) improve school climate; and
    - (iii) support educational opportunities for students;
  - (c) a designation of student offenses that, in accordance with Section 53G-8-211, the school resource officer:

- (i) may refer to the juvenile court;
  - (ii) shall confer with the LEA to resolve; and
  - (iii) shall refer to a school administrator for resolution as an administrative issue with the understanding that the school resource officer will be informed of the outcome of the administrative issue;
- (d) a detailed description of the rights of a student under state and federal law with regard to:
- (i) searches;
  - (ii) questioning;
  - (iii) arrests; and
  - (iv) information privacy;
- (e) a detailed description of:
- (i) job assignment and duties, including:
    - (A) the school to which the school resource officer will be assigned;
    - (B) the hours the school resource officer is expected to be present at the school;
    - (C) the point of contact at the school;
    - (D) specific responsibilities for providing and receiving information; and
    - (E) types of records to be kept, and by whom;
  - (ii) training requirements; and
  - (iii) other expectations of the school resource officer and school administration in relation to law enforcement at the LEA;
- (f) that a school resource officer who is hired under the contract and the principal at the school where a school resource officer will be working, or the principal's designee, will jointly complete the school resource officer training described in Section 53G-8-702;
- (g) that both parties agree to jointly discuss school resource officer applicants;
- (h) that the law enforcement agency will, at least annually, seek out and accept feedback from an LEA about a school resource officer's performance; and
- (i) a designation of the school resource officer or the law enforcement agency's designee as "school officials" for purposes of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 34 C.F.R. Part 99.
- (3) An LEA may not require or prohibit mandatory rotations of school resource officers as part of the contract described in Subsection (2).
- (4) An LEA that uses a school resource officer under Subsection (1)(a) shall establish a school resource officer policy.
- (5) The school resource officer policy described in Subsection (4) shall include:
- (a) the contract described in Subsection (2); and
  - (b) all other procedures and requirements governing the relationship between the LEA and a school resource officer.
- (6) Before implementing the school resource officer policy described in Subsection (4), the LEA shall present the school resource officer policy at a public meeting and receive public comment on the school resource officer policy.

Amended by Chapter 21, 2024 General Session

**53G-8-704 Contracts between an LEA and a contract security company for armed school security guards.**

- (1) As used in this section:
- (a) "Armed private security officer" means the same as that term is defined in Section 58-63-102.
  - (b) "Armed school security guard" means an armed private security officer who is:

- (i) licensed as an armed private security officer under Title 58, Chapter 63, Security Personnel Licensing Act; and
  - (ii) has met the requirements described in Subsection (4)(a).
  - (c) "Contract security company" means the same as that term is defined in Section 58-63-102.
  - (d) "State security chief" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-22-102.
- (2)
- (a) An LEA may use an armed school security guard to satisfy the school safety personnel requirements of Section 53G-8-701.5.
  - (b) An LEA that uses an armed school security guard under Subsection (2)(a) shall contract with a contract security company to provide armed school security guards at each school within the LEA.
- (3) The contract described in Subsection (2)(b) shall include a detailed description of:
- (a) the rights of a student under state and federal law with regard to:
    - (i) searches;
    - (ii) questioning;
    - (iii) arrests; and
    - (iv) information privacy;
  - (b) job assignment and duties of an armed school security guard, including:
    - (i) the school to which an armed school security guard will be assigned;
    - (ii) the hours an armed school security guard is present at the school;
    - (iii) the point of contact at the school that an armed school security guard will contact in case of an emergency;
    - (iv) specific responsibilities for providing and receiving information;
    - (v) types of records to be kept, and by whom;
    - (vi) training requirements; and
  - (c) other expectations of the contract security company in relation to school security at the LEA.
- (4)
- (a) In addition to the requirements for licensure under Title 58, Chapter 63, Security Personnel Licensing Act, an armed private security officer may only serve as an armed school security guard under a contract described in Subsection (2)(b) if the armed private security officer:
    - (i) has a valid concealed carry permit issued under Title 53, Chapter 5, Part 7, Concealed Firearm Act; and
    - (ii) has undergone training from a county security chief regarding:
      - (A) the safe loading, unloading, storage, and carrying of firearms in a school setting;
      - (B) the role of armed security guards in a school setting; and
      - (C) coordination with law enforcement and school officials during an active threat.
  - (b) An armed school security guard that meets the requirements of Subsection (4)(a) shall, in order to remain eligible to be assigned as an armed school security guard at any school under a contract described in Subsection (2)(b), participate in and satisfy the training requirements of the initial, annual, and biannual trainings as defined in Section 53-22-105.
- (5) An armed school security guard may conceal or openly carry a firearm at the school at which the armed school security guard is employed under the contract described in Subsection (2)(b).
- (6) An LEA that enters a contract under this section shall inform the state security chief and the relevant county security chief of the contract and provide the contact information of the contract security company employing the armed security guard for use during an emergency.
- (7) The state security chief shall:



- (a) for each LEA that contracts with a contract security company under this section, track each contract security company providing armed school security guards by name and the contact information for use in case of an emergency; and
  - (b) make the information described in Subsection (7)(a) readily available to each law enforcement agency in the state by school.
- (8) An armed school security guard shall file a report described in Subsection (9) if, during the performance of the armed school security guard's duties, the armed school security guard:
- (a) points a firearm at an individual; or
  - (b) aims a conductive energy device at an individual and displays the electrical current.
- (9)
- (a) A report described in Subsection (8) shall include:
    - (i) a description of the incident;
    - (ii) the identification of the individuals involved in the incident; and
    - (iii) any other information required by the state security chief.
  - (b) An armed school security guard shall submit a report required under Subsection (8) to the school administrator, school safety and security director, and the state security chief within 48 hours after the incident.
  - (c) The school administrator, school safety and security director, and the state security chief shall consult and review the report submitted under Subsection (9)(b).

Enacted by Chapter 21, 2024 General Session