

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION MODIFICATIONS

2014 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Rich Cunningham

Senate Sponsor: Curtis S. Bramble

Cosponsors: John Knotwell Earl D. Tanner
Jim Bird Daniel McCay
Ken Ivory

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill enacts language related to school construction guidelines.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ requires the State Board of Education to adopt school construction guidelines;
- ▶ requires a public school to review and take into consideration those guidelines when planning public school construction; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill takes effect on July 1, 2014.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53A-20-104.5, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2005, Chapter 7

ENACTS:

53A-20-110, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

30 Section 1. Section **53A-20-104.5** is amended to read:

31 **53A-20-104.5. School building construction and inspection manual -- Annual**
32 **construction and inspection conference -- Verification of school construction inspections.**

33 (1) (a) The State Board of Education, through the state superintendent of public
34 instruction, shall develop and distribute to each school district a school building construction
35 and inspection resource manual.

36 (b) The manual shall be provided to a charter school upon request of the charter school.

37 (2) (a) The manual shall include:

38 (i) current legal requirements; and

39 (ii) information on school building construction and inspections, including the
40 guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance with Section [53A-20-110](#).

41 (b) The state superintendent shall review and update the manual at least once every
42 three years.

43 (3) The board shall provide for an annual school construction conference to allow a
44 representative from each school district and charter school to:

45 (a) receive current information on the design, construction, and inspection of school
46 buildings;

47 (b) receive training on such matters as:

48 (i) using properly certified building inspectors;

49 (ii) filing construction inspection summary reports and the final inspection certification
50 with the local governmental authority's building official;

51 (iii) the roles and relationships between a school district or charter school and the local
52 governmental authority, either a county or municipality, as related to the construction and
53 inspection of school buildings; and

54 (iv) adequate documentation of school building inspections; and

55 (c) provide input on any changes that may be needed to improve the existing school

56 building inspection program.

57 (4) The board shall develop a process to verify that inspections by qualified inspectors
58 occur in each school district or charter school.

59 Section 2. Section **53A-20-110** is enacted to read:

60 **53A-20-110. Board to adopt public school construction guidelines.**

61 (1) As used in this section:

62 (a) "Board" means the State Board of Education.

63 (b) "Public school construction" means construction work on a new public school.

64 (2) (a) The board shall:

65 (i) adopt guidelines for public school construction; and

66 (ii) consult with the Division of Facilities Construction and Management
67 Administration on proposed guidelines before adoption.

68 (b) The board shall ensure that guidelines adopted under Subsection (2)(a)(i) maximize
69 funds used for public school construction and reflect efficient and economic use of those funds,
70 including adopting guidelines that address a school's essential needs rather than encouraging or
71 endorsing excessive costs per square foot of construction or nonessential facilities, design, or
72 furnishings.

73 (3) Before a school district or charter school may begin public school construction, the
74 school district or charter school shall:

75 (a) review the guidelines adopted by the board under this section; and

76 (b) take into consideration the guidelines when planning the public school
77 construction.

78 (4) In adopting the guidelines for public school construction, the board shall consider
79 the following and adopt alternative guidelines as needed:

80 (a) location factors, including whether the school is in a rural or urban setting, and
81 climate factors;

82 (b) variations in guidelines for significant or minimal projected student population
83 growth;

84 (c) guidelines specific to schools that serve various populations and grades, including
85 high schools, junior high schools, middle schools, elementary schools, alternative schools, and
86 schools for people with disabilities; and

87 (d) year-round use.

88 (5) The guidelines shall address the following:

89 (a) square footage per student;

90 (b) minimum and maximum required real property for a public school;

91 (c) athletic facilities and fields, playgrounds, and hard surface play areas;

92 (d) cost per square foot;

93 (e) minimum and maximum qualities and costs for building materials;

94 (f) design efficiency;

95 (g) parking;

96 (h) furnishing;

97 (i) proof of compliance with applicable building codes; and

98 (j) safety.

99 Section 3. **Effective date.**

100 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2014.