

R. Neil Walter proposes the following substitute bill:

Firearm Safety in Schools Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Rex P. Shipp

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses firearm safety instruction in public schools.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- requires the State Board of Education to establish minimum standards for firearm safety

instruction in public schools;

- requires a local education agency to provide firearm safety instruction to students;

▸ provides guidelines on how a local education agency may provide the firearm safety instruction; and

- requires that individuals providing instruction with an actual firearm have certain authority to possess a firearm.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

53E-4-207, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **53E-4-207** is enacted to read:

53E-4-207 . Firearm safety minimum standards and instruction.

(1) As used in this section:

- (a) "Firearm" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-10-501.

- 29 (b) "On or about school premises" means the same as that term is defined in Section
30 76-10-505.5.
- 31 (2) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
32 state board shall make rules that establish minimum standards for firearm safety
33 instruction as described in Subsection (4), including:
- 34 (a) understanding that a firearm is not a toy;
35 (b) recognizing that a firearm can be dangerous and that special rules exist to ensure
36 safety;
37 (c) knowing to stop and leave a firearm alone when encountering a firearm;
38 (d) educating others about firearm safety;
39 (e) telling an adult upon finding or observing a firearm; and
40 (f) reporting threats involving a firearm with the appropriate authorities.
- 41 (3) An LEA shall, in accordance with the minimum standards established under Subsection
42 (2), provide an instructional session on firearm safety to each grade level as described in
43 Subsection (4).
- 44 (4) An LEA shall present firearm safety instruction:
- 45 (a) to each grade level, once per school year, from kindergarten through grade 6;
46 (b) to a student, at least once, while the student is attending middle school or high school;
47 (c) in a manner that is developmentally appropriate to the grade level receiving the
48 instruction; and
49 (d) emphasizing the best practices and guidelines for the safe handling and storage of a
50 firearm to prevent accidents and ensure personal safety.
- 51 (5) An LEA providing the instruction described in Subsection (4):
- 52 (a) may provide the instruction:
- 53 (i) in a public school using live instruction, a video, or online materials;
54 (ii) with an existing hunter safety course; or
55 (iii) with physical education curriculum;
56 (b) may use firearm safety curricula and materials the attorney general's office
57 previously created; and
58 (c) shall ensure that any statement regarding a firearm is politically neutral.
- 59 (6) If a firearm safety instruction under this section entails the display or functionality of an
60 actual firearm on or about school premises, the individual who provides the firearm
61 safety instruction shall:
- 62 (a) have a concealed carry permit issued under Section 53-5-704;

- 63 (b) have a temporary concealed permit issued under Section 53-5-705; or
- 64 (c) be a person exempt from certain weapons laws as described in Subsection
- 65 76-10-523(1)(a) through (f).
- 66 (7) An individual providing firearm safety instruction under Subsection (6) is not required
- 67 to conceal the firearm during the firearm safety instruction if the individual is otherwise
- 68 required to conceal the firearm under another state or federal law while on or about
- 69 school premises.
- 70 (8)(a) A school shall, before providing firearm safety instruction, notify a student's
- 71 parent or legal guardian of the instruction and provide details on how to opt out.
- 72 (b) A school shall provide an alternative educational activity to a student whose parent
- 73 or legal guardian opts the student out of firearm safety instruction.

74 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

75 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.