

School Security Personnel Standards

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ryan D. Wilcox

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**Committee Note:**

The Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee recommended this bill.

Legislative Vote: 11 voting for 0 voting against 5 absent

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;
- ▶ provides protocols for a school guardian or armed school security guard for an incident using deadly force;
- ▶ establishes visitor management protocols for an LEA;
- ▶ removes duplicative language; and
- ▶ makes conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

31 AMENDS:

32 **53-22-103**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388

33 **53-22-105**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 173, 208, 388, and 470

34 **53G-8-101**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 3

35 **53G-8-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 348, 388

36 **53G-8-301**, as repealed and reenacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 327

37 **53G-8-701**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388

38 **53G-8-701.5**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388

39 **53G-8-704**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 208, 388

40 **53G-8-802**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388

41 **53G-8-805**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388

42 ENACTS:

43 **53G-8-806**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

44

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

46 Section 1. Section **53-22-103** is amended to read:

47 **53-22-103 . County sheriff responsibilities -- Coordination.**

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

52 (2) The county security chief shall:

53 (a) in collaboration with the school safety and security specialist described in Section
 54 53G-8-701.6 and a member of the local law enforcement agency of relevant
 55 jurisdiction as described in Section 53-25-701:

56 (i) administer or coordinate with a designee from the local law enforcement agency
 57 of relevant jurisdiction to participate in, by any appropriate means the county
 58 security chief determines, the school safety needs assessment described in Section
 59 53G-8-701.5; and

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

63 (b) collaborate and maintain effective communications regarding school safety with
 64 each:

- 65 (i) school safety and security specialist in the county security chief's county, as
 66 described in Section 53G-8-701.6;
- 67 (ii) school safety and security director in the county security chief's county, as
 68 described in Section 53G-8-701.8; and
- 69 (iii) local law enforcement agency within the county;
- 70 (c) administer, or, if a local education agency chooses, designate qualified entities to
 71 administer, with the corresponding police chiefs whose jurisdiction includes a public
 72 school, the trainings described in Sections 53-22-105 and 53G-8-704, including:
- 73 (i) assessing if an individual is capable of the duties and responsibilities that the
 74 trainings cover;
- 75 (ii) denying an individual the ability to be any of the school safety personnel
 76 described in Section 53G-8-701.5 if the county security chief finds the individual
 77 is not capable of the duties and responsibilities that the trainings cover; and
- 78 (iii) for any designated entity under this Subsection (2)(c):
- 79 (A) ensuring the designated entity meets minimum training standards established
 80 by the state security chief;
- 81 (B) providing written approval of the designation;
- 82 (C) ensuring the designated entity coordinates with local law enforcement of the
 83 relevant jurisdiction; and
- 84 (D) maintaining oversight and final authority over all training administration; and
- 85 ~~administer with the corresponding police chiefs whose jurisdiction includes a public~~
 86 ~~school, the trainings described in Sections 53-22-105 and 53G-8-704, including:]~~
- 87 ~~[(i) assessing if an individual is capable of the duties and responsibilities that the~~
 88 ~~trainings cover; and]~~
- 89 ~~[(ii) denying an individual the ability to be a school safety personnel described in~~
 90 ~~Section 53G-8-701.5 if the county security chief finds the individual is not~~
 91 ~~capable of the duties and responsibilities that the trainings cover; and]~~
- 92 (d) in conjunction with the state security chief, administer the school guardian program
 93 established in Section 53-22-105 at any school participating in the program in the
 94 county security chief's county.

95 Section 2. Section **53-22-105** is amended to read:

96 **53-22-105 . School guardian program.**

97 (1) As used in this section:

- 98 (a) "Annual training" means an annual four-hour training that:

- 99 (i) a county security chief or a designee administers in coordination with personnel
100 from local law enforcement of relevant jurisdiction as described in ~~[Section]~~
101 Subsection 53-25-701(2)(b);
- 102 (ii) the state security chief approves;
- 103 (iii) can be tailored to local needs;
- 104 (iv) allows an individual to practice and demonstrate firearms proficiency at a
105 firearms range using the firearm the individual carries for self defense and defense
106 of others;
- 107 (v) includes the following components:
- 108 (A) firearm safety, including safe storage of a firearm;
- 109 (B) de-escalation tactics;
- 110 (C) the role of mental health in incidents; and
- 111 (D) disability awareness and interactions; and
- 112 (vi) contains other training needs as determined by the state security chief.
- 113 (b) "Biannual training" means a twice-yearly training that:
- 114 (i) is at least four hours, unless otherwise approved by the state security chief;
- 115 (ii) a county security chief or a designee administers in coordination with personnel
116 from local law enforcement of relevant jurisdiction as described in ~~[Section]~~
117 Subsection 53-25-701(2)(b);
- 118 (iii) the state security chief approves;
- 119 (iv) can be tailored to local needs;
- 120 (v) through which a school guardian at a school or simulated school environment:
- 121 (A) receives training on the specifics of the building or buildings of the school,
122 including the location of emergency supplies and security infrastructure; and
- 123 (B) participates in a live-action practice plan with school administrators in
124 responding to active threats at the school; and
- 125 (vi) shall be taken with at least three months in between the two trainings.
- 126 (c) "Deadly force" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-2-408.
- 127 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) "Firearm" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-11-101.
- 128 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) "Initial training" means an in-person training that:
- 129 (i) a county security chief or a designee administers in coordination with personnel
130 from local law enforcement of relevant jurisdiction as described in ~~[Section]~~
131 Subsection 53-25-701(2)(b);
- 132 (ii) the state security chief approves;

- 133 (iii) can be tailored to local needs; and
- 134 (iv) provides:
- 135 (A) training on general familiarity with the types of firearms that can be concealed
- 136 for self-defense and defense of others;
- 137 (B) training on the safe loading, unloading, storage, and carrying of firearms in a
- 138 school setting;
- 139 (C) training at a firearms range with instruction regarding firearms fundamentals,
- 140 marksmanship, the demonstration and explanation of the difference between
- 141 sight picture, sight alignment, and trigger control, and a recognized pistol
- 142 course;
- 143 (D) current laws dealing with the lawful use of a firearm by a private citizen,
- 144 including laws on self-defense, defense of others, transportation of firearms,
- 145 and concealment of firearms;
- 146 (E) coordination with law enforcement officers in the event of an active threat;
- 147 (F) basic trauma first aid;
- 148 (G) the appropriate use of force, emphasizing the de-escalation of force and
- 149 alternatives to using force; and
- 150 (H) situational response evaluations, including:
- 151 (I) protecting and securing a crime or accident scene;
- 152 (II) notifying law enforcement;
- 153 (III) controlling information; and
- 154 (IV) other training that the county sheriff, designee, or department deems
- 155 appropriate.
- 156 [(e)] (f) "Program" means the school guardian program created in this section.
- 157 [(f)] (g)(i) "School employee" means an employee of a school whose duties and
- 158 responsibilities require the employee to be physically present at a school's campus
- 159 while school is in session.
- 160 (ii) "School employee" does not include a principal, teacher, or individual whose
- 161 primary responsibilities require the employee to be primarily present in a
- 162 classroom to teach, care for, or interact with students, unless:
- 163 (A) the principal, teacher, or individual is employed at a school with 350 or fewer
- 164 students;
- 165 (B) the principal, teacher, or individual is employed at a school with adjacent
- 166 campuses as determined by the state security chief; or

- 167 (C) as provided in Subsection 53G-8-701.5(3).
- 168 [~~(g)~~] (h) "School guardian" means a school employee who meets the requirements of
169 Subsection (3).
- 170 (2)(a)(i) There is created within the department the school guardian program.
- 171 (ii) The state security chief shall oversee the school guardian program.
- 172 (iii) The applicable county security chief shall administer the school guardian
173 program in each county.
- 174 (b) The state security chief shall ensure that the school guardian program includes:
- 175 (i) initial training;
- 176 (ii) biannual training; and
- 177 (iii) annual training.
- 178 (c) A county sheriff may partner or contract with:
- 179 (i) another county sheriff to support the respective county security chiefs in jointly
180 administering the school guardian program in the relevant counties; and
- 181 (ii) a local law enforcement agency of relevant jurisdiction to provide the:
- 182 (A) initial training;
- 183 (B) biannual training; and
- 184 (C) annual training.
- 185 (3)(a) A school employee that volunteers to participate is eligible to join the program as
186 a school guardian if:
- 187 (i) the school administrator approves the volunteer school employee to be designated
188 as a school guardian;
- 189 (ii) the school employee satisfactorily completes initial training within six months
190 before the day on which the school employee joins the program;
- 191 (iii) the school employee holds a valid concealed carry permit issued under Chapter
192 5a, Part 3, Concealed Firearm Permits;
- 193 (iv) the school employee certifies to the sheriff of the county where the school is
194 located that the school employee has undergone the training in accordance with
195 Subsection (3)(a)(ii) and intends to serve as a school guardian; and
- 196 (v) the school employee:
- 197 (A) completes an initial "fit to carry" assessment the Department of Health and
198 Human Services approves and a provider administers; and
- 199 (B) maintains compliance with mental health screening requirements consistent
200 with law enforcement standards.

- 201 (b) After joining the program a school guardian shall complete annual training and
202 biannual training to retain the designation of a school guardian in the program.
- 203 (4) The state security chief shall:
- 204 (a) for each school that participates in the program, track each school guardian at the
205 school by collecting the photograph and the name and contact information for each
206 guardian;
- 207 (b) make the information described in Subsection (4)(a) readily available to each law
208 enforcement agency in the state categorized by school; and
- 209 (c) ~~[provide each school guardian with a one-time stipend of \$500.]~~ in accordance with
210 Section 53G-8-701.5, and subject to legislative appropriations, consult with the State
211 Board of Education to provide each school guardian with a one-time stipend.
- 212 (5) A school guardian:
- 213 ~~[(a) may store the school guardian's firearm on the grounds of a school only if:]~~
214 ~~[(i) the firearm is stored in a biometric gun safe;]~~
215 ~~[(ii) the biometric gun safe is located in the school guardian's office; and]~~
216 ~~[(iii) the school guardian is physically present on the grounds of the school while the~~
217 ~~firearm is stored in the safe;]~~
- 218 ~~[(b) shall carry the school guardian's firearm in a concealed manner; and]~~
- 219 ~~[(c) may not, unless during an active threat, display or open carry a firearm while on~~
220 ~~school grounds.]~~
- 221 (a) shall carry the school guardian's firearm on the school guardian's person in a
222 concealed manner at all times while on duty during school hours;
- 223 (b) may temporarily store the school guardian's firearm in a biometric gun safe located
224 in the school guardian's office only:
- 225 (i) for brief personal needs such as restroom use;
226 (ii) during required activities where carrying is physically impractical and approved
227 by the school administrator; or
228 (iii) at the end of the school guardian's shift;
- 229 (c) shall ensure that any temporary storage under Subsection (5)(b):
- 230 (i) does not exceed 15 minutes per occasion, except as approved by the school
231 administrator for documented necessity;
- 232 (ii) occurs only when the school guardian is physically present on school grounds; and
233 (iii) is immediately retrievable by the school guardian;
- 234 (d) may not, unless during an active threat, display or open carry a firearm while on

- 235 school grounds; and
236 (e) shall ensure the firearm is immediately accessible to respond to active threats during
237 the school guardian's assigned duty hours.
- 238 (6) Except as provided in Subsection [(5)(e)] (5)(d), this section does not prohibit an
239 individual who has a valid concealed carry permit but is not participating in the program
240 from carrying a firearm on the grounds of a public school or charter school under
241 Subsection 76-11-205(4).
- 242 (7) A school guardian:
243 (a) does not have authority to act in a law enforcement capacity; and
244 (b) may, at the school where the school guardian is employed:
245 (i) take actions necessary to prevent or abate an active threat; and
246 (ii) temporarily detain an individual when the school guardian has reasonable cause
247 to believe the individual has committed or is about to commit a forcible felony, as
248 that term is defined in Section 76-2-402.
- 249 (8) A school may designate a single volunteer or multiple volunteers to participate in the
250 school guardian program to satisfy the school safety personnel requirements of Section
251 53G-8-701.5.
- 252 (9) The department may adopt, according to Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
253 Rulemaking Act, rules to administer this section.
- 254 (10) A school guardian who has active status in the guardian program is not liable for any
255 civil damages or penalties if the school guardian:
256 (a) when carrying or storing a firearm:
257 (i) is acting in good faith; and
258 (ii) is not grossly negligent; or
259 (b) threatens, draws, or otherwise uses a firearm reasonably believing the action to be
260 necessary in compliance with Section 76-2-402.
- 261 (11) A school guardian shall file a report described in Subsection (12) if, during the
262 performance of the school guardian's duties, the school guardian points a firearm at an
263 individual.
- 264 (12)(a) A report described in Subsection (11) shall include:
265 (i) a description of the incident;
266 (ii) the identification of the individuals involved in the incident; and
267 (iii) any other information required by the state security chief.
268 (b) A school guardian shall submit a report required under Subsection (11) to the school

269 administrator, school safety and security director, and the state security chief within
270 48 hours after the incident.

271 (c) The school administrator, school safety and security director, and the state security
272 chief shall consult and review the report submitted under Subsection (12)(b).

273 (13) The requirements of Subsections (11) and (12) do not apply to a training exercise.

274 (14) If a school guardian uses deadly force, the guardian shall:

275 (a) be placed on administrative leave pending investigation;

276 (b) not be required to provide a written report described in Subsections (11) and (12);

277 (c) participate in an interview no sooner than two sleep cycles after the incident; and

278 (d) follow the same protocol established for officer-involved shootings under Section
279 76-2-408.

280 [~~(14)~~] (15) A school guardian may have the designation of school guardian revoked at any
281 time by the school principal, county sheriff, or state security chief.

282 [~~(15)~~] (16)(a) Any information or record created detailing a school guardian's
283 participation in the program is:

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

286 (ii) available only to:

287 (A) the state security chief;

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

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

290 (D) a local law enforcement agency that would respond to the school in case of an
291 emergency; and

292 (E) the individual designated by the county sheriff in accordance with Section
293 53-22-103 of the county of the school where the school guardian in the
294 program is located.

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

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

303 Section 3. Section **53G-8-101** is amended to read:

304 **53G-8-101 . General provisions.**

305 [~~This chapter is known as "Discipline and Safety."~~] Reserved.

306 Section 4. Section **53G-8-102** is amended to read:

307 **53G-8-102 . Definitions for chapter.**

308 As used in this chapter:

- 309 (1) "Climate" means the perceptions and experiences of students, staff, parents, and the
310 community regarding the school's environment and the resources that support the
311 experiences.
- 312 (2) "Culture" means the beliefs, values, and practices that shape how a school functions and
313 influences student learning and well-being through policies, procedures, and safety
314 protocols.
- 315 (3) "Forcible felony" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-2-402.
- 316 (4) "K-12 School Campus" means an LEA governed property or building where K-12
317 students gather daily for instructional purposes and has an assigned administrator.
- 318 (5) "Physical Space" means the way in which a building is designed and structured to
319 promote safety including the minimum safety and security standards as described in
320 Section 53-22-102.
- 321 (6) "School safety" means the physical space, culture, and climate of a school.
- 322 (7) "School safety personnel" means the personnel described in Section 53G-8-701.5.

323 Section 5. Section **53G-8-301** is amended to read:

324 **53G-8-301 . Emergency safety interventions -- Appropriate uses -- Penalties.**

- 325 (1) As used in this section:
- 326 (a) "Corporal punishment" means the intentional infliction of physical pain upon the
327 body of a student as a disciplinary measure.
- 328 (b) "Emergency safety intervention" means the use of seclusion or physical restraint
329 when a student presents an immediate danger to self or others.
- 330 (c) "Physical escort" means a temporary touching or holding of the hand, wrist, arm,
331 shoulder, or back for the purpose of guiding a student to another location.
- 332 (d) "Physical restraint" means a personal restriction that immobilizes or significantly
333 reduces the ability of a student to move the student's arms, legs, body, or head freely.
- 334 (e) "School" means a public or private elementary school, secondary school, or
335 preschool.
- 336 (f) "Seclusion" means seclusionary time out that is the involuntary confinement of a

- 337 student alone in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from
338 leaving, including:
- 339 (i) placing a student in a locked room; or
 - 340 (ii) placing a student in a room where the door is blocked by furniture or held closed
341 by staff.
- 342 (g) "Student" means an individual who is:
- 343 (i) under ~~[the age of 19]~~ 19 years old and receiving educational services; or
 - 344 (ii) under ~~[the age of 23]~~ 23 years old and receiving educational services as an
345 individual with a disability.
- 346 (2)(a) A school employee shall first use the least restrictive intervention available to the
347 school employee, including a physical escort, to address circumstances described in
348 Subsection (4).
- 349 (b) Nothing in this section prohibits a school employee from subsequently using less
350 restrictive interventions to address circumstances described in Subsection (4).
- 351 (3)(a) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act,
352 the state board shall make rules to:
- 353 (i) establish guidelines and best practices that consider individual student needs
354 related to emergency safety interventions described in Subsection (10)(b);
 - 355 (ii) establish intervention reporting requirements;
 - 356 (iii) create school staff training standards that may be included in an existing training;
 - 357 (iv) develop parental notification procedures;
 - 358 (v) implement data collection and review processes;
 - 359 (vi) establish investigation protocols;
 - 360 (vii) establish data collection and reporting requirements for an LEA regarding:
 - 361 (A) incidents of seclusion;
 - 362 (B) alternative interventions used;
 - 363 (C) student demographic information, including sex, ~~[gender,]~~ age, grade in
364 school, and applicable disability status; and
 - 365 (D) incident outcomes.
- 366 (b) The state board shall include the information described in Subsection (3)(a) in the
367 State Superintendent's Annual Report described in Section 53E-1-203.
- 368 (4) A school employee may use reasonable and necessary physical restraint only:
- 369 (a) in self defense;
 - 370 (b) to obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object in the possession or

- 371 under the control of a student;
- 372 (c) to protect a student or another individual from physical injury;
- 373 (d) to remove from a situation a student who is violent; or
- 374 (e) to protect property from being damaged, when physical safety is at risk.
- 375 (5)(a) A school employee may not inflict or cause the infliction of corporal punishment
- 376 upon a student.
- 377 (b) The reporting and investigation requirements of Title 80, Chapter 2, Part 6, Child
- 378 Abuse and Neglect Reports, apply to complaints on corporal punishment.
- 379 (c) Evidence of corporal punishment that would qualify as reasonable discipline under
- 380 Section 76-2-401 is insufficient to establish liability in a civil or criminal action.
- 381 (d) Subject to the Rules of Evidence, evidence of corporal punishment that exceeds
- 382 reasonable discipline under Section 76-2-401 may be used by a court to establish
- 383 civil or criminal liability.
- 384 (6) School authorities shall take prompt and appropriate action, including in-service
- 385 training and other administrative action, upon confirming a violation of this section.
- 386 (7) The Division of Child and Family Services shall maintain all violation reports made in
- 387 accordance with this section under the confidentiality requirements of Section 80-2-1005.
- 388 (8) A school or individual who makes a good faith report or cooperates in an investigation
- 389 shall receive immunity from civil or criminal liability.
- 390 (9) A court with jurisdiction under Title 78A, Judiciary and Judicial Administration, may
- 391 take appropriate action against any employing entity if the court finds that the
- 392 employing entity has not taken reasonable steps to enforce the provisions of this part.
- 393 (10) A school:
- 394 (a) may not:
- 395 (i) enforce any rule, policy, or directive that permits acts prohibited by this section;
- 396 (ii) sanction an employee who refuses to commit a prohibited act; or
- 397 (iii) except as provided in Subsection (10)(b), use seclusion:
- 398 (A) as an intervention or disciplinary practice;
- 399 (B) for coercion, retaliation, or humiliation; or
- 400 (C) due to inadequate staffing or for the staff member's convenience;
- 401 (b) for a student in grade 1 or higher, may use seclusion as an emergency safety
- 402 intervention only when:
- 403 (i) the LEA has developed and implemented written policies and procedures that:
- 404 (A) describe the circumstances under which a staff member may use seclusion;

- 405 (B) describe which staff members are authorized to use seclusion;
- 406 (C) describe procedures for monitoring a student that is in seclusion;
- 407 (D) describe time limitations on the use of seclusion;
- 408 (E) require immediate and continuous review of the decision to use seclusion;
- 409 (F) require documenting the use of seclusion;
- 410 (G) describe record keeping requirements for records related to the use of
- 411 seclusion; and
- 412 (H) require debriefing of all witnesses, involved staff members, the student who
- 413 was secluded, and the parent of the student who was secluded;
- 414 (ii) a student poses an immediate and significant threat to the student or others;
- 415 (iii) less restrictive interventions have failed;
- 416 (iv) a staff member who is familiar to the student is actively supervising the student
- 417 for the duration of the seclusion; and
- 418 (v) the use is time-limited to a maximum time of 30 minutes and monitored;
- 419 (c) if seclusion was used, shall document the reason for its use, duration, and any
- 420 alternative strategies attempted; and
- 421 (d) shall notify parents immediately, and not to exceed 15 minutes after the use, of any
- 422 emergency safety intervention used on the parent's child, including seclusion or
- 423 physical restraint.
- 424 (11) An LEA shall collect and report data to the state board annually regarding:
- 425 (a) an incident; and
- 426 (b) for each incident, the:
- 427 (i) duration of an intervention used to respond to the incident;
- 428 (ii) stated purpose for any intervention used;
- 429 (iii) alternative interventions attempted;
- 430 (iv) student demographic information, including sex, [~~gender,~~]age, grade in school,
- 431 and applicable disability status; and
- 432 (v) relevant training offered to staff and if the staff involved received the relevant
- 433 training without revealing the identity of the staff member.
- 434 (12) This section does not apply to:
- 435 (a) a law enforcement officer as defined in Section 53-13-103;
- 436 (b) a parochial or private school that:
- 437 (i) does not receive state funds;
- 438 (ii) adopts a policy of exemption from this section; and

- 439 (iii) notifies the parents of students in the school of the exemption; or
 440 (c) behavior support intervention which is in compliance with:
 441 (i) Section 76-2-401; and
 442 (ii) state and local rules adopted under Section 53E-7-204.
- 443 (13) Any violations of this section, including violations of any standards for seclusion or
 444 physical restraint established by the state board pursuant to this section, shall:
 445 (a) constitute an act of unlawful detention and is subject to the penalty described in
 446 Section 76-5-304; and
 447 (b) result in a referral to:
 448 (i) local law enforcement; and
 449 (ii) the Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission established in Section
 450 53E-6-501.

451 Section 6. Section **53G-8-701** is amended to read:

452 **53G-8-701 . Definitions.**

453 As used in this part:

- 454 (1) "Armed school security guard" means the same as that term is defined in Section
 455 53G-8-704.
- 456 (2) "County security chief" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-22-101.
- 457 (3) "Law enforcement agency" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-1-102.
- 458 (4) "Public school" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53G-9-205.1.
- 459 (5) "School guardian" means the same as that term is defined in Section [~~53-22-106~~]
 460 53-22-105.
- 461 (6) "School is in session" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53E-3-516.
- 462 (7) "School resource officer" means a law enforcement officer, as defined in Section
 463 53-13-103, who contracts with or whose law enforcement agency contracts with an LEA
 464 to provide law enforcement services for the LEA.
- 465 (8) "School safety and security director" means an individual whom an LEA designates in
 466 accordance with Section 53G-8-701.8.
- 467 (9) "School safety and security specialist" means a school employee designated under
 468 Section 53G-8-701.6 who is responsible for supporting school safety initiatives.
- 469 (10) "School Safety Center" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53G-8-801.
- 470 (11) "State security chief" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-22-101.

471 Section 7. Section **53G-8-701.5** is amended to read:

472 **53G-8-701.5 . School safety needs assessment -- School safety personnel --**

473 **Alternative requirements.**

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

476 (i) ensure a school safety needs assessment the state security chief selects in
 477 collaboration with the school safety center is conducted in accordance with
 478 Subsection (1)(b) for each school or K-12 campus within the LEA to determine
 479 the needs and deficiencies regarding:

480 (A) appropriate school safety personnel, including necessary supports, training,
 481 and policy creation for the personnel;

482 (B) physical building security and safety, including required upgrades to facilities
 483 and safety technology;

484 (C) a school's current threat and emergency response protocols, including any
 485 emergency response agreements with local law enforcement;

486 (D) a school's current visitor management protocols, including alignment with the
 487 requirements described in Section 53G-8-806;

488 ~~(D)~~ (E) cardiac emergency preparedness, including an inventory of whether
 489 automated external defibrillators are present and accessible, maintenance
 490 status, and current staff training offerings; and

491 ~~(E)~~ (F) compliance with universal access key box requirements under Section
 492 53G-8-805; and

493 (ii) report the results of the school safety needs assessment for each school within the
 494 LEA to the state security chief and the School Safety Center.

495 (b)(i) The school safety specialist described in Section 53G-8-701.6, in collaboration
 496 with the county security chief, and with the local law enforcement of relevant
 497 jurisdiction over the school as described in Section 53-25-701, shall conduct the
 498 school safety needs assessment for each school.

499 (ii) A school safety and security director may fulfill the role of a school safety and
 500 security specialist in conducting the school safety needs assessment.

501 (c) The school safety needs assessment required under Subsection (1)(a)(i) shall be
 502 conducted at least once every three years for each school or K-12 campus.

503 (d) An LEA may implement a rotating or staggered schedule for conducting school
 504 safety needs assessments among the buildings within the LEA, provided that:

505 (i) each school within a K-12 campus is assessed at least once every three years; and

506 (ii) the LEA documents the rotating or staggered assessment schedule and shares this

507 schedule with the state security chief, the School Safety Center, the county
508 security chief, and the local law enforcement of relevant jurisdiction as described
509 in Section 53-25-701.

510 (e) The LEA shall update the assessment schedule as necessary to ensure compliance
511 with the three-year assessment requirement under Subsection (1)(c).

512 (f) The state board shall use the results of the school safety needs assessment for each
513 school within an LEA to award a grant to an LEA in accordance with Section
514 53F-5-220.

515 (g) Any information or record detailing a school's needs assessment results is:

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

518 (ii) available only to:

519 (A) the state security chief;

520 (B) the School Safety Center;

521 (C) members of an LEA governing board;

522 (D) administrators of the LEA and school the needs assessment concerns;

523 (E) only to the extent necessary to award a grant under Section 53F-5-220, the
524 state board;

525 (F) the applicable school safety personnel described in Subsection (2);

526 (G) a local law enforcement agency that would respond to the school in case of an
527 emergency; and

528 (H) the county security chief.

529 (h) An individual who intentionally or knowingly provides the information described in
530 Subsection (1)(g) to an individual or entity not listed in Subsection (1)(g)(ii) is guilty
531 of a class B misdemeanor.

532 (2)(a) An LEA shall ensure each school within the LEA has the following school safety
533 personnel:

534 (i) a school safety and security specialist described in Section 53G-8-701.6; and

535 (ii) based on the results of the needs assessment described in Subsection (1), at least
536 one of the following:

537 (A) a school resource officer;

538 (B) a school guardian; or

539 (C) an armed school security guard.

540 (b) In addition to the school safety personnel described in Subsection (2)(a), an LEA

- 541 shall designate a school safety and security director described in Section 53G-8-701.8.
- 542 (c) The same individual may serve in more than one of the roles listed in Subsections
 543 (2)(a) and (b) if the school notifies the School Safety Center and the state security
 544 chief of the decision to have the same individual serve in multiple roles as described
 545 in this Subsection (2).
- 546 (d) An LEA that designates a school guardian under Subsection (2)(a)(ii)(B) shall ensure
 547 that:
- 548 (i) the school guardian carries the firearm on the guardian's person during assigned
 549 duty hours as required in Section 53-22-105; and
- 550 (ii) the LEA does not adopt policies that require or encourage school guardians to
 551 store firearms in a manner that prevents immediate access during school hours.
- 552 [(d)] (e) An LEA may implement the requirements of Subsection (2)(a)(ii) before the
 553 LEA has completed the school safety needs assessment described in Subsection (1).
- 554 [(e)] (f) The state security chief in consultation with the School Safety Center shall
 555 establish a timeline for an LEA to comply with the school safety personnel
 556 requirements of this Subsection (2).
- 557 (3)(a) An LEA, school administrator, or private school may apply to the state security
 558 chief for an approved alternative to the requirements described in:
- 559 (i) Section 53-22-105;
- 560 (ii) this section;
- 561 (iii) Section 53G-8-701.6;
- 562 (iv) Section 53G-8-701.8; and
- 563 (v) Section 53G-8-704.
- 564 (b) In approving or denying an application described in Subsection (3)(a), the state
 565 security chief may consider factors that impact a school or LEA's ability to adhere to
 566 the requirements of this section, including the school or LEA's:
- 567 (i) population size;
- 568 (ii) staffing needs or capacity;
- 569 (iii) geographic location;
- 570 (iv) available funding; or
- 571 (v) general demonstration of need for an alternative to the requirements of this
 572 section.
- 573 (4) A private school shall identify an individual at the private school to serve as the safety
 574 liaison with the local law enforcement of relevant jurisdiction and the state security chief.

- 575 (5)(a) Notwithstanding Subsections (5)(b) and (c), an LEA may:
- 576 (i) pay guardian stipends using local funds when state funding is exhausted; or
- 577 (ii) supplement state funding with local funds.
- 578 (b) In accordance with Subsection (5)(c), the state board shall be responsible for
- 579 administering guardian stipend funding in coordination with the state security chief.
- 580 (c)(i) The state security chief shall:
- 581 (A) verify that a school guardian has met all requirements to be eligible for a
- 582 stipend; and
- 583 (B) certify each eligible school guardian to the state board through completion of
- 584 required training and active status in the program.
- 585 (ii) Upon certification by the state security chief, and subject to legislative
- 586 appropriations, the state board shall provide each eligible school guardian with a
- 587 one-time stipend.
- 588 (iii) The state board shall determine the amount of the stipend for each fiscal year
- 589 based on:
- 590 (A) the amount appropriated by the Legislature for school guardian stipends;
- 591 (B) the projected number of school guardians statewide based on historical data
- 592 and current program enrollment trends;
- 593 (C) a reserve allocation of up to 10% of the total appropriation to account for
- 594 school guardians who join the program after the beginning of the school year;
- 595 and
- 596 (D) any other factors the state board determines necessary to ensure equal
- 597 distribution of the funds.
- 598 (iv) All school guardians certified as eligible during the same fiscal year shall receive
- 599 the same stipend amount, regardless of:
- 600 (A) when during the fiscal year the school guardian completed training and
- 601 became eligible; or
- 602 (B) the size, location, or type of school where the guardian serves.
- 603 (v) The state board shall:
- 604 (A) announce the stipend amount for each fiscal year no later than August 1, or
- 605 within 30 days of legislative appropriations if appropriated after July 1;
- 606 (B) distribute stipends within 60 days of certification by the state security chief;
- 607 (C) maintain a reserve for school guardians who become eligible later in the fiscal
- 608 year;

- 609 (D) if funds remain unallocated at the end of the fiscal year due to fewer school
 610 guardians than projected, carry forward the remaining funds to supplement the
 611 next fiscal year's stipend amount; and
- 612 (E) if eligible school guardians exceed projections and available funding, pro-rate
 613 the stipend amount equally among all eligible school guardians for that fiscal
 614 year and report the shortfall to the Legislature.
- 615 (vi) A school guardian is eligible to receive only one stipend regardless of:
- 616 (A) serving at multiple schools; or
- 617 (B) leaving and rejoining the program within the same fiscal year.
- 618 (vii) If a school guardian leaves the program for any reason after receiving a stipend,
 619 the school guardian is not required to return the stipend unless the state security
 620 chief determines the school guardian:
- 621 (A) obtained the stipend through fraud or misrepresentation; or
- 622 (B) failed to actually meet the eligibility requirements under Section 53-22-105.

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

624 **53G-8-704 . Contracts between an LEA and a contract security company for**
 625 **armed school security guards.**

626 (1) As used in this section:

- 627 (a) "Armed private security officer" means the same as that term is defined in Section
 628 58-63-102.
- 629 (b) "Armed school security guard" means:
- 630 (i) an armed private security officer who:
- 631 [(+)] (A) is licensed as an armed private security officer under Title 58, Chapter 63,
 632 Security Personnel Licensing Act; and
- 633 [(+)] (B) has met the requirements described in Subsection (4)(a)[-] ; or
- 634 (ii) a special function officer.
- 635 (c) "Contract security company" means:
- 636 (i) for an armed private security officer, the same as that term is defined in Section
 637 58-63-102[-] ; and
- 638 (ii) for a special function officer, the special function officer's employing agency.
- 639 (d) "Deadly force" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-2-408.
- 640 (e) "Special function officer" means the same as that term is defined in Section
 641 53-13-105.
- 642 [(+)] (f) "State security chief" means the same as that term is defined in Section

643 53-22-102.

644 (2)(a) An LEA may use an armed school security guard to satisfy the school safety
645 personnel requirements of Section 53G-8-701.5.

646 (b) An LEA that uses an armed school security guard under Subsection (2)(a) shall have
647 a contract with a contract security company or a contract with a law enforcement
648 agency, in accordance with Section 53G-8-703, to provide armed school security
649 guards at each school within the LEA.

650 (3) The contract described in Subsection (2)(b) shall include a detailed description of:

651 (a) the rights of a student under state and federal law with regard to:

652 (i) searches;

653 (ii) questioning;

654 (iii) arrests; and

655 (iv) information privacy;

656 (b) job assignment and duties of an armed school security guard, including:

657 (i) the school to which an armed school security guard will be assigned;

658 (ii) the hours an armed school security guard is present at the school;

659 (iii) the point of contact at the school that an armed school security guard will contact
660 in case of an emergency;

661 (iv) specific responsibilities for providing and receiving information;

662 (v) types of records to be kept, and by whom; and

663 (vi) training requirements; and

664 (c) other expectations of the contract security company in relation to school security at
665 the LEA.

666 (4)(a) In addition to the requirements for licensure under Title 58, Chapter 63, Security
667 Personnel Licensing Act, an armed private security officer may only serve as an
668 armed school security guard under a contract described in Subsection (2)(b) if the
669 armed private security officer:

670 (i) has a valid concealed carry permit issued under Title 53, Chapter 5a, Part 3,
671 Concealed Firearm Permits;

672 (ii) has undergone training from a county security chief or local law enforcement
673 agency regarding:

674 (A) the safe loading, unloading, storage, and carrying of firearms in a school
675 setting;

676 (B) the role of armed security guards in a school setting; and

- 677 (C) coordination with law enforcement and school officials during an active threat;
678 (iii) completes an initial "fit to carry" assessment the Department of Health and
679 Human Services approves and a provider administers; and
680 (iv) maintains compliance with mental health screening requirements consistent with
681 law enforcement standards.
- 682 (b) An armed school security guard that meets the requirements of Subsection (4)(a)
683 shall, in order to remain eligible to be assigned as an armed school security guard at
684 any school under a contract described in Subsection (2)(b), participate in and satisfy
685 the training requirements of the initial, annual, and biannual trainings as defined in
686 Section 53-22-105.
- 687 (5) An armed school security guard may conceal or openly carry a firearm at the school at
688 which the armed school security guard is employed under the contract described in
689 Subsection (2)(b).
- 690 (6) An LEA that enters a contract under this section shall inform the state security chief and
691 the relevant county security chief of the contract and provide the contact information of
692 the contract security company employing the armed security guard for use during an
693 emergency.
- 694 (7) The state security chief shall:
- 695 (a) for each LEA that contracts with a contract security company under this section,
696 track each contract security company providing armed school security guards by
697 name and the contact information for use in case of an emergency; and
698 (b) make the information described in Subsection (7)(a) readily available to each law
699 enforcement agency in the state by school.
- 700 (8) An armed school security guard shall file a report described in Subsection (9) if, during
701 the performance of the armed school security guard's duties, the armed school security
702 guard:
- 703 (a) points a firearm at an individual; or
704 (b) aims a conductive energy device at an individual and displays the electrical current.
- 705 (9)(a) A report described in Subsection (8) shall include:
- 706 (i) a description of the incident;
707 (ii) the identification of the individuals involved in the incident; and
708 (iii) any other information required by the state security chief.
- 709 (b) An armed school security guard shall submit a report required under Subsection (8)
710 to the school administrator, school safety and security director, and the state security

711 chief within 48 hours after the incident.
 712 (c) The school administrator, school safety and security director, and the state security
 713 chief shall consult and review the report submitted under Subsection (9)(b).

714 (10) If an armed school security guard uses deadly force, the guardian shall:

- 715 (a) be placed on administrative leave pending investigation;
- 716 (b) not be required to provide a written report described in Subsections (8) and (9);
- 717 (c) participate in an interview no sooner than two sleep cycles after the incident; and
- 718 (d) follow the same protocol established for officer-involved shootings under Section
 719 76-2-408.

720 Section 9. Section **53G-8-802** is amended to read:

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

722 **53G-8-802 . State Safety and Support Program -- State board duties -- LEA**

723 **duties.**

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

725 (2) The School Safety Center shall:

- 726 (a) develop in conjunction with the Office of Substance Use and Mental Health and the
 727 state security chief model student safety and support policies for an LEA, including:
 - 728 (i) requiring an evidence-based behavior threat assessment that includes
 729 recommended interventions with an individual whose behavior poses a threat to
 730 school safety;
 - 731 (ii) procedures for referrals to law enforcement; and
 - 732 (iii) procedures for referrals to a community services entity, a family support
 733 organization, or a health care provider for evaluation or treatment;
- 734 (b) provide training in consultation with the state security chief:
 - 735 (i) in school safety;
 - 736 (ii) in evidence-based approaches to improve school climate and address and correct
 737 bullying behavior;
 - 738 (iii) in evidence-based approaches in identifying an individual who may pose a threat
 739 to the school community;
 - 740 (iv) in evidence-based approaches in identifying an individual who may be showing
 741 signs or symptoms of mental illness;
 - 742 (v) on permitted disclosures of student data to law enforcement and other support
 743 services under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec.
 744 1232g;

- 745 (vi) on permitted collection of student data under 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232h and Sections
746 53E-9-203 and 53E-9-305; and
- 747 (vii) for administrators on rights and prohibited acts under:
- 748 (A) Chapter 9, Part 6, Bullying and Hazing;
- 749 (B) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 2000d et seq.;
- 750 (C) Title IX of Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681 et seq.;
- 751 (D) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 701 et seq.; and
- 752 (E) the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.;
- 753 (c) conduct and disseminate evidence-based research on school safety concerns;
- 754 (d) disseminate information on effective school safety initiatives;
- 755 (e) encourage partnerships between public and private sectors to promote school safety;
- 756 (f) provide technical assistance to an LEA in the development and implementation of
757 school safety initiatives;
- 758 (g) in conjunction with the state security chief, make available to an LEA the model
759 critical incident response training program a school and law enforcement agency
760 shall use during a threat;
- 761 (h) provide space for the public safety liaison described in Section 53-1-106 and the
762 school-based mental health specialist described in Section 26B-5-102;
- 763 (i) collaborate with the state security chief to determine appropriate application of school
764 safety requirements in Utah Code to an online school;
- 765 (j) create a model school climate survey that may be used by an LEA to assess
766 stakeholder perception of a school environment;
- 767 (k) in accordance with Section 53G-5-202, establish a charter school liaison including
768 defined responsibilities for charter school communication and coordination with the
769 School Safety Center;[~~and~~]
- 770 (l) assist a foundation described in Section 53-22-108 in distributing school safety
771 products if a foundation seeks assistance;
- 772 (m) establishes defined roles for a multidisciplinary team and school safety personnel
773 described in Chapter 8, Part 7, School Safety Personnel;
- 774 (n) assist LEAs in implementing and maintaining universal access key box requirements
775 under Section 53G-8-805;
- 776 (o) in consultation with the state security chief, select a system to track relevant data,
777 including the tracking required in Sections 53-22-105, 53G-8-701.5, 53G-8-701.8,
778 and 53G-8-704; and

- 779 (p) collect aggregate data and school climate survey results from an LEA that
 780 administers the model school climate survey described in Subsection (2)(j).
- 781 (3) Nothing in this section requires:
- 782 (a) an individual to respond to a school climate survey; or
 783 (b) an LEA to use the model school climate survey or any specified questions in the
 784 model school climate survey described in Subsection (2)(j).
- 785 (4) The state board shall require an LEA to:
- 786 (a)(i) if an LEA administers a school climate survey, review school climate data for
 787 each school within the LEA; and
 788 (ii) based on the review described in Subsection (4)(a)(i):
- 789 (A) revise practices, policies, and training to eliminate harassment and
 790 discrimination in each school within the LEA;
 791 (B) adopt a plan for harassment- and discrimination-free learning; and
 792 (C) host outreach events or assemblies to inform students and parents of the plan
 793 adopted under Subsection (4)(a)(ii)(B);
- 794 (b) no later than September 1 of each school year, send a notice to each student, parent,
 795 and LEA staff member stating the LEA's commitment to maintaining a school
 796 climate that is free of harassment and discrimination; and
 797 (c) report to the state board annually on the LEA's implementation of the plan under
 798 Subsection (4)(a)(ii)(B) and progress.

799 Section 10. Section **53G-8-805** is amended to read:

800 **53G-8-805 . Panic alert device -- Security cameras -- Key box.**

- 801 (1) As used in this section:
- 802 (a) "Universal access key box" means a UL Standard 1037 compliant secure container
 803 designed to store and protect emergency access keys and devices.
 804 (b) "Emergency responder" means law enforcement, fire service, or emergency medical
 805 personnel authorized by local authorities to respond to school emergencies.
- 806 (2) In accordance with the results of the school safety needs assessment described in
 807 Section 53G-8-701.5, an LEA shall provide the ~~[lead teacher in each classroom]~~
 808 following with a wearable panic alert device that shall communicate directly with public
 809 safety answering points[-] :
- 810 (a) the lead teacher in each classroom; and
 811 (b) the appropriate school safety personnel described in Subsection 53G-8-701.5(2).
- 812 (3) An LEA shall ensure, before the school year begins, all school building personnel

813 receive training on the protocol and appropriate use of the panic alert device described in
814 Subsection (2).

815 (4) An LEA shall:

816 (a) ensure all security cameras within a school building are accessible by:

817 (i) a local law enforcement agency; and

818 (ii) public safety answering points;

819 (b) coordinate with a local law enforcement agency to establish appropriate access
820 protocols; and

821 (c) physically mark all hallways and doorways consistent with the incident response
822 method or system the state security chief creates.

823 (5) A school building shall include universal access key boxes that:

824 (a) are installed at main entry points;

825 (b) contain master keys and access devices providing complete access to all areas of the
826 school;

827 (c) are accessible only to authorized emergency responders;

828 (d) are electronically monitored for tampering; and

829 (e) are weather-resistant and vandal-resistant.

830 (6) An LEA shall:

831 (a) maintain universal access key boxes by:

832 (i) conducting quarterly inspections;

833 (ii) updating contents within 24 hours of any lock or access control changes;

834 (iii) maintaining current key and access device inventories;

835 (iv) documenting all inspections and updates; and

836 (v) immediately replacing any damaged or malfunctioning boxes;

837 (b) coordinate with local emergency responders to:

838 (i) determine optimal box placement;

839 (ii) establish access protocols;

840 (iii) maintain current emergency contact information; and

841 (iv) conduct annual reviews of box usage and effectiveness; and

842 (c) include universal access key box locations and protocols in:

843 (i) school emergency response plans;

844 (ii) building schematic diagrams provided to emergency responders; and

845 (iii) school safety and security training materials.

846 (7) The state board shall:

- 847 (a) establish standards for:
- 848 (i) box installation and placement;
- 849 (ii) access control and monitoring;
- 850 (iii) maintenance schedules; and
- 851 (iv) compliance verification;
- 852 (b) in direct coordination with the state security chief, ensure new construction or major
- 853 remodeling of a school building shall include the installation of automated external
- 854 defibrillators in appropriate locations as the state board determines; and
- 855 (c) provide technical assistance to LEAs implementing this section.
- 856 (8) Nothing in this section:
- 857 (a) affects requirements for fire department key boxes under applicable building or fire
- 858 codes; or
- 859 (b) restricts additional security measures implemented by LEAs that exceed these
- 860 requirements.
- 861 (9) This section is not subject to the restrictions in Section 41-6a-2003.
- 862 Section 11. Section **53G-8-806** is enacted to read:
- 863 **53G-8-806 . School visitor management protocols -- Requirements -- LEA**
- 864 **responsibilities.**
- 865 (1) As used in this section:
- 866 (a) "Controlled access point" means a designated entry point to a school building that:
- 867 (i) school personnel or electronic surveillance monitors during school hours; and
- 868 (ii) requires visitors to follow check-in procedures before accessing the school
- 869 building interior.
- 870 (b) "School hours" means the period during which students are present in the school
- 871 building for instructional purposes.
- 872 (c) "Visitor" means any individual who is not a current student or employee of the
- 873 school, including:
- 874 (i) parents;
- 875 (ii) contractors and service providers;
- 876 (iii) volunteers; and
- 877 (iv) guests.
- 878 (d) "Visitor management system" means a process or technology an LEA uses to track,
- 879 monitor, and manage visitors entering school facilities.
- 880 (2) An LEA shall establish and implement visitor management protocols for each school

- 881 within the LEA that include:
- 882 (a) designated controlled access points that require all visitors to:
- 883 (i) enter the school building through a main entrance or other designated entry point
- 884 during school hours;
- 885 (ii) report immediately to a central office or reception area before accessing other
- 886 areas of the school building; and
- 887 (iii) present valid government-issued identification or other acceptable identification
- 888 the LEA determines in LEA policy;
- 889 (b) a visitor sign-in and sign-out process that records at minimum:
- 890 (i) the visitor's name;
- 891 (ii) the date and time of entry and exit;
- 892 (iii) the purpose of the visit; and
- 893 (iv) the specific location or individual the visitor intends to visit;
- 894 (c) procedures for:
- 895 (i) issuing visible identification, including a visitor badge or pass, that visitors must
- 896 display prominently while on school grounds; and
- 897 (ii) distinguishing between different types of visitors, such as parents, volunteers,
- 898 contractors, and other guests;
- 899 (d) protocols for monitoring and supervising visitors while on school grounds, including:
- 900 (i) requiring school personnel to accompany visitors when visitors access areas where
- 901 students are present, except as LEA policy otherwise provides for parents or
- 902 authorized volunteers;
- 903 (ii) prohibiting visitor access to restricted areas; and
- 904 (iii) procedures school personnel shall follow to challenge or question any individual
- 905 without visible identification;
- 906 (e) procedures for responding to visitors who:
- 907 (i) refuse to comply with visitor management protocols;
- 908 (ii) pose a potential threat to school safety; or
- 909 (iii) the LEA denies entry to the school;
- 910 (f) clear signage at all school building entrances that:
- 911 (i) directs visitors to the designated controlled access point;
- 912 (ii) notifies visitors of the requirement to check in and obtain authorization before
- 913 entering; and
- 914 (iii) states that the LEA prohibits unauthorized entry and that unauthorized entry may

- 915 result in criminal prosecution under Section 76-6-206; and
- 916 (g) annual training for school personnel on:
- 917 (i) implementing and enforcing visitor management protocols;
- 918 (ii) identifying and responding to unauthorized individuals on school grounds; and
- 919 (iii) communication procedures with the school safety and security specialist
- 920 described in Section 53G-8-701.6 or school safety and security director described
- 921 in Section 53G-8-701.8.
- 922 (3)(a) An LEA may implement an electronic visitor management system that includes
- 923 capabilities such as:
- 924 (i) automated identification verification;
- 925 (ii) integration with sex offender registry databases;
- 926 (iii) digital badge printing;
- 927 (iv) automated visitor tracking and reporting; and
- 928 (v) emergency notification capabilities.
- 929 (b) If an LEA implements an electronic visitor management system, the LEA shall
- 930 ensure that:
- 931 (i) the LEA maintains visitor data in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 2,
- 932 Government Records Access and Management Act;
- 933 (ii) the LEA protects personally identifiable information and uses such information
- 934 solely for school safety purposes; and
- 935 (iii) the LEA notifies visitors of data collection practices in accordance with
- 936 applicable privacy laws.
- 937 (4)(a) An LEA may establish reasonable exceptions to the visitor management
- 938 requirements described in Subsection (2) for:
- 939 (i) emergency situations requiring immediate access to the school building;
- 940 (ii) law enforcement officers, firefighters, or emergency medical personnel
- 941 responding to an emergency;
- 942 (iii) volunteers or employees of an educational foundation who have successfully
- 943 completed a background check and ongoing monitoring as required in Section
- 944 53G-11-402;
- 945 (iv) brief visits to exterior areas of the school campus that do not require entry into
- 946 school buildings;
- 947 (v) school-sponsored events held during regular school hours with larger than normal
- 948 numbers of visitors on the school campus;

- 949 (vi) school-sponsored public events held outside of regular school hours.
- 950 (b) An LEA shall provide reasonable accommodations in visitor management
- 951 procedures for individuals with disabilities in compliance with the Americans with
- 952 Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.
- 953 (5) The school safety needs assessment an LEA conducts under Subsection 53G-8-701.5(1)
- 954 shall include an evaluation of:
- 955 (a) the adequacy of current visitor management protocols;
- 956 (b) physical infrastructure supporting controlled access, including entry vestibules,
- 957 secure reception areas, and electronic access control systems; and
- 958 (c) recommendations for improvements to visitor management protocols and
- 959 infrastructure.
- 960 (6)(a) An LEA shall include information about visitor management protocols and
- 961 compliance in the LEA's annual school safety report to the state security chief and the
- 962 School Safety Center.
- 963 (b) The School Safety Center described in Section 53G-8-802 shall:
- 964 (i) develop model visitor management policies and best practices for an LEA;
- 965 (ii) provide technical assistance to an LEA in implementing visitor management
- 966 protocols; and
- 967 (iii) compile and analyze data on visitor management protocol effectiveness across
- 968 the state.
- 969 (7)(a) An LEA shall implement visitor management protocols in full compliance with
- 970 this section no later than July 1, 2027.
- 971 (b) The state security chief in consultation with the School Safety Center may grant an
- 972 extension of up to one year for an LEA that demonstrates good cause, including
- 973 budgetary constraints or facility infrastructure limitations.
- 974 Section 12. **Effective Date.**
- 975 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.