

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 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;
- requires that individuals providing instruction with an actual firearm have certain authority to possess a firearm; and
- includes an opt-out provision.

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.

(b) "On or about school premises" means the same as that term is defined in Section

- 29 76-10-505.5.
- 30 (2) An LEA shall, in accordance with state board standards, provide an instructional session
31 on firearm safety to each grade level as described in Subsection (3).
- 32 (3) An LEA shall present firearm safety instruction:
- 33 (a) to a grade, at least twice, while a student is attending kindergarten through grade 6;
34 (b) to a grade, at least twice, once while a student is attending middle school and once
35 while a student is attending high school;
36 (c) in a manner that is developmentally appropriate to the grade level receiving the
37 instruction; and
- 38 (d) emphasizing the best practices and guidelines for the safe handling and storage of a
39 firearm to prevent accidents and ensure personal safety.
- 40 (4) An LEA providing the instruction described in Subsection (3):
- 41 (a) may provide the instruction:
- 42 (i) in a public school using live instruction, a video, or online materials;
43 (ii) with an existing hunter safety course;
44 (iii) with the health education curriculum; or
45 (iv) with the physical education curriculum;
- 46 (b) may use firearm safety curricula and materials the attorney general's office
47 previously created; and
- 48 (c) shall ensure that any statement regarding a firearm is politically neutral.
- 49 (5) If a firearm safety instruction under this section entails the display or functionality of an
50 actual firearm on or about school premises, the LEA shall ensure that the individual who
51 provides the firearm safety instruction is a person exempt from certain weapons laws as
52 described in Subsections 76-10-523(1)(a) through (f).
- 53 (6)(a) A school shall, before providing firearm safety instruction, notify a student's
54 parent or legal guardian of the instruction and provide details on how to opt out.
- 55 (b) A school may provide an alternative educational activity to a student whose parent or
56 legal guardian opts the student out of firearm safety instruction.

57 Section 2. **Effective Date.**

58 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.