

**Rex P. Shipp** proposes the following substitute bill:

**Firearm Safety in Schools Amendments**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Rex P. Shipp**

Senate Sponsor:

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**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 according to certain curricula; 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

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*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) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the  
31       state board shall make rules that establish minimum standards for firearm safety  
32       instruction as described in Subsection (4).
- 33    (3) An LEA shall, in accordance with the minimum standards established under Subsection  
34       (2), provide an instructional session on firearm safety to all students in the grade levels  
35       described in Subsection (4).
- 36    (4) An LEA shall present firearm safety instruction:
- 37       (a) to every student, once per school year, from kindergarten through grade 6;  
38       (b) to every student, at least once, while the student is attending middle school and at  
39       least once while the student is attending high school;  
40       (c) in a manner that is developmentally appropriate to the grade level receiving the  
41       instruction; and  
42       (d) emphasizing the best practices and guidelines for the safe handling and storage of a  
43       firearm to prevent accidents and ensure personal safety.
- 44    (5) An LEA providing the instruction described in Subsection (4):
- 45       (a) may provide the instruction:
- 46           (i) in a public school using live instruction, a video, or online materials;  
47           (ii) with an existing hunter safety course; or  
48           (iii) with physical education curriculum; and
- 49       (b) shall ensure that any statement regarding a firearm is politically neutral.
- 50    (6) A school providing the instruction described in Subsection (4) shall create and  
51       implement curricula and activities:
- 52       (a) in accordance with the minimum standards the state board establishes under  
53       Subsection (2); and
- 54       (b) that provide a thorough explanation of firearm safety and principles including:
- 55           (i) understanding that a firearm is not a toy;  
56           (ii) recognizing that a firearm can be dangerous and that special rules exist to ensure  
57           safety;  
58           (iii) knowing to stop and leave a firearm alone when encountering a firearm;  
59           (iv) educating others about firearm safety;  
60           (v) telling an adult upon finding or observing a firearm; and  
61           (vi) reporting threats involving a firearm with the appropriate authorities.
- 62    (7) If a firearm safety instruction under this section entails the display or functionality of an

- 63 actual firearm on or about school premises, the individual who provides the firearm  
64 safety instruction shall:
- 65 (a) have a concealed carry permit issued under Section 53-5-704;  
66 (b) have a temporary concealed permit issued under Section 53-5-705; or  
67 (c) be a person exempt from certain weapons laws as described in Subsection  
68 76-10-523(1)(a) through (f).
- 69 (8) An individual providing firearm safety instruction under Subsection (6) is not required  
70 to conceal the firearm during the firearm safety instruction if the individual is otherwise  
71 required to conceal the firearm under another state or federal law while on or about  
72 school premises.
- 73 (9)(a) A school shall, before providing firearm safety instruction, notify a student's  
74 parent or legal guardian of the instruction and provide details on how to opt out.
- 75 (b) A school shall provide an alternative educational activity to a student whose parent  
76 or legal guardian opts the student out of firearm safety instruction.
- 77 **Section 2. Effective Date.**
- 78 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.