

Rex P. Shipp proposes the following substitute bill:

Firearm Safety in Schools Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Rex P. Shipp

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LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses firearm safety instruction in public schools.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- requires the state board to establish standards for firearm safety instruction in public schools;
- requires a local education agency to provide firearm safety instruction to students; and
- requires that individuals providing firearm safety instruction 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 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 76-10-505.5.

(2) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the state board shall make rules that establish standards for firearm safety instruction as described in Subsection (4).

- 31 (3) An LEA shall, in accordance with the standards established under Subsection (2),
32 provide an instructional session on firearm safety to all students in the grade levels
33 described in Subsection (4).
- 34 (4) An LEA shall present firearm safety instruction:
35 (a) to every student, once per school year, from kindergarten through grade 6;
36 (b) to every student, at least once, while the student is attending middle school and at
37 least once while the student is attending high school;
38 (c) in a manner that is developmentally appropriate to the grade level receiving the
39 instruction; and
40 (d) emphasizing the best practices and guidelines for the safe handling and storage of
41 firearms to prevent accidents and ensure personal safety.
- 42 (5) An LEA may provide the firearm safety instruction described in Subsection (4) with:
43 (a) an existing hunter safety course;
44 (b) physical education curriculum; or
45 (c) suicide prevention instruction.
- 46 (6) If a firearm safety instruction under this section entails the display or functionality of an
47 actual firearm on or about school premises, the individual who provides the firearm
48 safety instruction shall:
49 (a) have a concealed carry permit issued under Section 53-5-704;
50 (b) have a temporary concealed permit issued under Section 53-5-705; or
51 (c) be a person exempt from certain weapons laws as described in Subsection
52 76-10-523(1)(a) through (f).
- 53 (7) An individual providing firearm safety instruction under Subsection (6) is not required
54 to conceal the firearm during the firearm safety instruction if the individual is otherwise
55 required to conceal the firearm under another state or federal law while on or about
56 school premises.
- 57 (8)(a) A school shall, before providing firearm safety instruction, notify a student's
58 parent or legal guardian of the instruction and provide details on how to opt out.
59 (b) A school shall provide an alternative educational activity to a student whose parent
60 or legal guardian opts the student out of firearm safety instruction.

61 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

62 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.