

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: Ronald M. Winterton

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**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

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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) 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 ~~Ŧ~~ **twice** **three times** ~~Ŧ~~, while a student is attending
- 33a           kindergarten through
- 33a           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 ~~Ŧ~~ :
- 54a           (i) ~~[-] ~~Ŧ~~ the ~~Ŧ~~ **firearm safety** ~~Ŧ~~ instruction ~~Ŧ~~ ;~~
- 54b           (ii) ~~[-] **best practices and guidelines for the safe storage of a firearm;** ~~Ŧ~~~~
- 54c           and
- 54d           ~~Ŧ~~ (iii) ~~[provide details on-] ~~Ŧ~~ how to opt out ~~Ŧ~~ of the firearm safety~~
- 54e           instruction ~~Ŧ~~ .
- 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.