

School Security Amendments

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: 9 voting for 0 voting against 7 absent

General Description:

This bill creates the School Safety Support Program to provide funding for school safety requirements and infrastructure.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- creates the School Safety Support Program (program) to fund school safety personnel, building standards, emergency protocols, and security infrastructure;
- establishes a distribution formula that allocates funding to charter schools and school districts based on enrollment and base amounts;
- requires local education agencies to submit safety plans and annual reports to receive funding;
- adds the program to the list of education programs eligible for annual inflation and enrollment growth adjustments;
- protects the program from funding reductions due to negative enrollment growth;
- directs the state board to collaborate with the School Safety Center and state security chief to establish rules and monitor implementation; and
- makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53F-2-208, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 6, 165

31 ENACTS:

32 **53F-2-424**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

33

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

35 Section 1. Section **53F-2-208** is amended to read:

36 **53F-2-208 . Cost of adjustments for growth and inflation.**

37 (1) In accordance with Subsection (5), the Legislature shall annually determine:

38 (a) the estimated state cost of adjusting for inflation in the next fiscal year, based on a
39 rolling five-year average ending in the current fiscal year, ongoing state tax fund
40 appropriations to the following programs:

41 (i) education for youth in care, described in Section 53E-3-503;

42 (ii) concurrent enrollment courses for accelerated foreign language students described
43 in Section 53E-10-307;

44 (iii) the Basic Program, described in Part 3, Basic Program (Weighted Pupil Units);

45 (iv) the Adult Education Program, described in Section 53F-2-401;

46 (v) state support of pupil transportation, described in Section 53F-2-402;

47 (vi) the Enhancement for Accelerated Students Program, described in Section
48 53F-2-408;

49 (vii) the Concurrent Enrollment Program, described in Section 53F-2-409;

50 (viii) the juvenile gang and other violent crime prevention and intervention program,
51 described in Section 53F-2-410;

52 (ix) the School Safety Support Program, described in Section 53F-2-424;

53 (x) the flexible allocation, described in Section 53F-2-421; and

54 [~~(x)~~] (xi) dual language immersion, described in Section 53F-2-502; and

55 (b) the estimated state cost of adjusting for enrollment growth, in the next fiscal year, the
56 current fiscal year's ongoing state tax fund appropriations to the following programs:

57 (i) a program described in Subsection (1)(a);

58 (ii) educator salary adjustments, described in Section 53F-2-405;

59 (iii) the Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators Program, described in
60 Section 53F-2-504;

61 (iv) the Voted and Board Local Levy Guarantee programs, described in Section
62 53F-2-601; and

63 (v) charter school local replacement funding, described in Section 53F-2-702.

64 (2) The state board shall provide all information necessary to calculate adjustments

65 described in Subsection (1) to the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst no later than
66 October 15 of each year.

67 (3) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
68 state board shall make rules to ensure compliance with Subsection (2), including:

69 (a) establishing the necessary information from the LEA, including:

70 (i) fall student enrollment counts;

71 (ii) the number of educators the LEA employs; and

72 (iii) other information as the Utah Code identifies for each program described in
73 Subsection (1); and

74 (b) requiring a deadline for an LEA to provide the information necessary for the state
75 board to comply with Subsection (2).

76 (4) If an LEA does not meet the deadline or provide the required information described in
77 Subsection (3), the state board may not use the LEA's information to calculate growth as
78 described in Subsection (1)(b).

79 (5)(a) In or before December each year, the Executive Appropriations Committee shall
80 determine:

81 (i) the cost of the inflation adjustment described in Subsection (1)(a); and

82 (ii) the cost of the enrollment growth adjustment described in Subsection (1)(b).

83 (b) The Executive Appropriations Committee shall make the determinations described in
84 Subsection (5)(a) based on recommendations developed by the Office of the
85 Legislative Fiscal Analyst, in consultation with the state board and the Governor's
86 Office of Planning and Budget.

87 (6) Beginning in the 2026 fiscal year, if the Executive Appropriations Committee includes
88 in the public education base budget or the final public education budget an increase in
89 the value of the WPU in excess of the amounts described in Subsection (1)(a), the
90 Executive Appropriations Committee shall also include an appropriation to the Local
91 Levy Growth Account established in Section 53F-9-305 in an amount equivalent to at
92 least 0.5% of the total amount appropriated for WPUs in the relevant budget.

93 (7) Notwithstanding Subsection (1)(b), the School Safety Support Program, described in
94 Section 53F-2-424, may not receive funding reductions based on negative enrollment
95 growth.

96 Section 2. Section **53F-2-424** is enacted to read:

97 **53F-2-424 . The School Safety Support Program -- Distribution formula -- State**
98 **board duties.**

- 99 (1) As used in this section:
- 100 (a) "Participating LEA" means an LEA that receives money appropriated under this
- 101 section.
- 102 (b) "Program" means the School Safety Support Program created in this section.
- 103 (c) "School Safety Center" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53G-8-801.
- 104 (d) "State security chief" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-22-101.
- 105 (2) There is created the School Safety Support Program to provide funding to an LEA to
- 106 implement and maintain:
- 107 (a) school safety personnel requirements described in:
- 108 (i) Section 53-22-102; and
- 109 (ii) Section 53G-8-701.5;
- 110 (b) building and safety standards described in:
- 111 (i) Section 53-22-102; and
- 112 (ii) Section 53E-3-706;
- 113 (c) emergency response protocols described in:
- 114 (i) Section 53-22-102; and
- 115 (ii) Section 53G-8-803;
- 116 (d) safety and security devices and infrastructure described in:
- 117 (i) Section 53-22-102; and
- 118 (ii) Section 53G-8-805;
- 119 (e) safety needs identified from the LEA's school safety needs assessment described in
- 120 Section 53G-8-701.5; and
- 121 (f) other school safety requirements or needs established in:
- 122 (i) Title 53, Chapter 22, School Security Act;
- 123 (ii) Title 53G, Chapter 8, Part 7, School Safety Personnel; and
- 124 (iii) Title 53G, Chapter 8, Part 8, State Safety and Support Program.
- 125 (3) In accordance with Subsection (4) and subject to legislative appropriations, the state
- 126 board shall:
- 127 (a) distribute money appropriated under this section to an LEA to implement school
- 128 safety requirements and needs as described in Subsection (2); and
- 129 (b) distribute the money as follows:
- 130 (i) to charter schools, an amount equal to:
- 131 (A) the total charter school enrollment on October 1 in the prior year, or projected
- 132 enrollment for a charter school in the charter school's first year of operations,

- 133 divided by enrollment on October 1 in public schools statewide in the prior
 134 year multiplied by the total amount available for distribution; and
 135 (B) the amount described in Subsection (3)(b)(i)(A) allocated to each charter
 136 school with 20% divided equally among all charter schools, and 80%
 137 distributed on a per-student basis; and
 138 (ii) to school districts, the remainder of funds available after the distribution to
 139 charter schools under Subsection (3)(b)(i), allocated as follows:
 140 (A) \$250,000 for a school district with enrollment less than 1% of total state
 141 enrollment;
 142 (B) \$175,000 for a school district with enrollment of between 1% and 5% of total
 143 state enrollment;
 144 (C) \$100,000 for a school district with enrollment greater than 5% of total state
 145 enrollment; and
 146 (D) the remainder distributed on a per-student basis.
- 147 (4) In accordance with Subsection (5), to receive money under this section, an LEA shall
 148 submit to the School Safety Center:
 149 (a) a plan that includes:
 150 (i) the LEA's proposed use of program money as the uses align with school safety
 151 requirements and needs described in Subsection (2);
 152 (ii) measurable goals for improving school safety;
 153 (iii) proposed safety compliance timelines; and
 154 (iv) coordination efforts with local law enforcement described in Section 53-25-601;
 155 and
 156 (b) an annual report that includes:
 157 (i) progress toward achieving the goals submitted under Subsection (4)(a);
 158 (ii) expenditure of program money; and
 159 (iii) compliance with school safety requirements.
- 160 (5)(a) Before the calculation is performed in Subsection (3), the state board shall set
 161 aside 10% of the appropriation for training reimbursement to law enforcement
 162 entities performing the training requirements described in Section 53-22-105.
 163 (b) An LEA shall pay a law enforcement entity for the training of school safety
 164 personnel described in Section 53-22-105.
 165 (c) An LEA shall submit reimbursement requests to the state board to cover expenses for
 166 the training of school safety personnel described in Subsections (5)(a) and (b).

167 (6) The state board in collaboration with the School Safety Center and the state security
168 chief, shall:

169 (a) make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
170 Rulemaking Act, to establish:

171 (i) procedures for submitting a plan and distributing money under this section;

172 (ii) permitted uses of program money; and

173 (iii) reporting requirements; and

174 (b) monitor the program's implementation.

175 (7) To reduce administrative burden to an LEA, the state board shall use methods to
176 automate reporting requirements established under this section wherever possible.

177 Section 3. **Effective Date.**

178 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.