

Ryan D. Wilcox proposes the following substitute bill:

School Security Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ryan D. Wilcox

Senate Sponsor:

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LONG TITLE

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General Description:

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

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Highlighted Provisions:

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This bill:

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▸ creates the School Safety Support Program (program) to fund school safety personnel, building standards, emergency protocols, and security infrastructure;

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▸ establishes a distribution formula that allocates funding to charter schools and school districts based on enrollment and base amounts;

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▸ requires local education agencies to submit safety plans and annual reports to receive funding;

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▸ adds the program to the list of education programs eligible for annual inflation and enrollment growth adjustments;

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▸ protects the program from funding reductions due to negative enrollment growth;

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▸ directs the state board to collaborate with the School Safety Center and state security chief to establish rules and monitor implementation; and

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▸ makes technical changes.

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Money Appropriated in this Bill:

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None

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Other Special Clauses:

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None

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Utah Code Sections Affected:

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AMENDS:

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

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53F-9-204, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 413, 433

29 ENACTS:

30 **53F-2-424**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

31

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

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

34 **53F-2-208 . Cost of adjustments for growth and inflation.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

45 (vi) the Enhancement for Accelerated Students Program, described in Section
46 53F-2-408;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

59 (iv) the Voted and Board Local Levy Guarantee programs, described in Section
60 53F-2-601; and

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

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

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

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

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

68 (i) fall student enrollment counts;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

95 **53F-2-424 . The School Safety Support Program -- Distribution formula -- State**
96 **board duties.**

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

- 131 divided by enrollment on October 1 in public schools statewide in the prior
 132 year multiplied by the total amount available for distribution; and
 133 (B) the amount described in Subsection (3)(b)(i)(A) allocated to each charter
 134 school with 20% divided equally among all charter schools, and 80%
 135 distributed on a per-student basis; and
 136 (ii) to school districts, the remainder of funds available after the distribution to
 137 charter schools under Subsection (3)(b)(i), allocated as follows:
 138 (A) \$250,000 for a school district with enrollment less than 1% of total state
 139 enrollment;
 140 (B) \$175,000 for a school district with enrollment of between 1% and 5% of total
 141 state enrollment;
 142 (C) \$100,000 for a school district with enrollment greater than 5% of total state
 143 enrollment; and
 144 (D) the remainder distributed on a per-student basis.
 144a **Ĥ→ (iii) if the funds appropriated under this Subsection (3)(b)(ii) are**
 144b **insufficient to fully fund the distribution described, the state board shall distribute**
 144c **the funds on a pro rata basis. ←Ĥ**
 145 (4) In accordance with Subsection (5), to receive money under this section, an LEA shall
 146 submit to the School Safety Center:
 147 (a) a plan that includes:
 148 (i) the LEA's proposed use of program money as the uses align with school safety
 149 requirements and needs described in Subsection (2);
 150 (ii) measurable goals for improving school safety;
 151 (iii) proposed safety compliance timelines; and
 152 (iv) coordination efforts with local law enforcement described in Section Ĥ→ [
 152a **~~53-25-601~~ 53-25-701 ←Ĥ ;**
 153 and
 154 (b) an annual report that includes:
 155 (i) progress toward achieving the goals submitted under Subsection (4)(a);
 156 (ii) expenditure of program money; and
 157 (iii) compliance with school safety requirements.
 158 (5)(a) Before the calculation is performed in Subsection (3), the state board shall set
 159 aside 10% of the appropriation for training reimbursement to law enforcement
 160 entities performing the training requirements described in Section 53-22-105.

- 161 (b) An LEA shall pay a law enforcement entity for the training of school safety
 162 personnel described in Section 53-22-105.
- 163 (c) An LEA shall submit reimbursement requests to the state board to cover expenses for
 164 the training of school safety personnel described in Subsections (5)(a) and (b).
- 165 (6) The state board in collaboration with the School Safety Center and the state security
 166 chief, shall:
- 167 (a) make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
 168 Rulemaking Act, to establish:
- 169 (i) procedures for submitting a plan and distributing money under this section;
 170 (ii) permitted uses of program money; and
 171 (iii) reporting requirements; and
- 172 (b) monitor the program's implementation.
- 173 (7) To reduce administrative burden to an LEA, the state board shall use methods to
 174 automate reporting requirements established under this section wherever possible.
- 175 Section 3. Section **53F-9-204** is amended to read:
- 176 **53F-9-204 . Public Education Economic Stabilization Restricted Account.**
- 177 (1) There is created within the Uniform School Fund a restricted account known as the
 178 "Public Education Economic Stabilization Restricted Account."
- 179 (2)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), the account shall be funded from the
 180 following revenue sources:
- 181 (i) 15% of the difference between, as determined by the Office of the Legislative
 182 Fiscal Analyst:
- 183 (A) the estimated amount of ongoing Income Tax Fund and Uniform School Fund
 184 revenue available for the Legislature to appropriate for the next fiscal year; and
 185 (B) the amount of ongoing appropriations from the Income Tax Fund and Uniform
 186 School Fund in the current fiscal year; and
- 187 (ii) other appropriations as the Legislature may designate.
- 188 (b)(i) If the appropriation described in Subsection (2)(a) would cause the ongoing
 189 appropriations to the account to exceed 11% of Uniform School Fund
 190 appropriations described in Section 53F-9-201.1 for the same fiscal year, the
 191 Legislature shall appropriate only those funds necessary to ensure that the ongoing
 192 appropriations to the account equal 11% of Uniform School Fund appropriations
 193 for that fiscal year.
- 194 (ii) If the appropriation described in Subsection (2)(a) would cause the ongoing

195 appropriations to the account to exceed the limit described in Subsection (2)(b)(i),
196 the Legislature may appropriate to the School Safety Support Program described
197 in Section 53F-2-424 an amount up to 1% of the total weighted pupil unit value
198 for that fiscal year from the revenue that would otherwise be appropriated to the
199 account under Subsection (2)(a).

200 (3) Subject to the availability of ongoing appropriations to the account, in accordance with
201 Utah Constitution, Article X, Section 5, Subsection (4), the ongoing appropriation to the
202 account shall be used to fund:

203 (a) except for a year described in Subsection (3)(b) or (c), one-time appropriations to the
204 public education system, including at least \$65,000,000 to the Catalyst Center Grant
205 Program described in Section 53E-3-507.1;

206 (b) the Minimum School Program for a year in which Income Tax Fund revenue and
207 Uniform School Fund revenue are insufficient to fund:

208 (i) ongoing appropriations to the public education system; and

209 (ii) enrollment growth and inflation estimates, as defined in Section 53F-9-201.1; and

210 (c) the minimum basic local amount as defined in Section 53F-2-301 for a year in which
211 the minimum basic tax rate, as defined in Section 53F-2-301, is insufficient to
212 generate the amount described in Subsection 53F-2-301(2)(a).

213 (4)(a) The account shall earn interest.

214 (b) All interest earned on account money shall be deposited in the account.

215 (5) On or before December 31, 2023, and every three years thereafter, the Office of the
216 Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall:

217 (a) review the percentages described in Subsections (2)(a)(i) and (2)(b); and

218 (b) recommend to the Executive Appropriations Committee any changes based on the
219 review described in Subsection (5)(a).

220 (6) In preparing budget bills for a given fiscal year, the Executive Appropriations
221 Committee shall make the one-time appropriations described in Subsection (3)(a) by
222 appropriating at least the lesser of 10% of the total amount of the one-time
223 appropriations to:

224 (a) the cost of providing 32 paid professional hours for teachers in accordance with
225 Section 53F-7-203;

226 (b) the amount to make the distribution required under Section 53F-2-527;

227 (c) the cost of the Stipends for Future Educators Grant Program described in Section
228 53F-5-223; and

229 (d) the cost of the Rural School Sports Facilities Grant Program described in Section
230 53F-10-303.

231 (7) No later than October 15 of each year, the state board shall report to the Office of the
232 Legislative Fiscal Analyst an estimated cost for each of the one-time appropriations
233 described in Subsection (6).

234 Section 4. **Effective Date.**

235 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.