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SAFE SCHOOL ROUTE EVALUATIONS

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Melissa G. Ballard

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill requires a school traffic safety committee to include recommendations for infrastructure improvements in a child access routing plan.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ requires a school traffic safety committee to:
 - submit a child access routing plan to the Department of Transportation and municipal and county highway authorities; and
 - include recommendations for infrastructure improvements in a child access routing plan;
- ▶ requires a highway authority to provide feedback on:
 - the estimated time and cost to complete infrastructure improvements recommended by a school traffic safety committee; and
 - infrastructure improvements the highway authority has prioritized for the following year;
- ▶ requires school traffic safety committees to report to the State Board of Education and the Transportation Advisory Committee on recommended infrastructure improvements included in a child access routing plan, and deliver recommendations for new approved bus routes; and



28 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

29 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

30 None

31 **Other Special Clauses:**

32 None

33 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

34 AMENDS:

35 **53G-4-402**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapters 84, 262, 324, and 345



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

38 Section 1. Section **53G-4-402** is amended to read:

39 **53G-4-402. Powers and duties generally.**

40 (1) A local school board shall:

41 (a) implement the core standards for Utah public schools using instructional materials
42 that best correlate to the core standards for Utah public schools and graduation requirements;

43 (b) administer tests, required by the state board, which measure the progress of each
44 student, and coordinate with the state superintendent and state board to assess results and create
45 plans to improve the student's progress, which shall be submitted to the state board for
46 approval;

47 (c) use progress-based assessments as part of a plan to identify schools, teachers, and
48 students that need remediation and determine the type and amount of federal, state, and local
49 resources to implement remediation;

50 (d) for each grading period and for each course in which a student is enrolled, issue a
51 grade or performance report to the student:

52 (i) that reflects the student's work, including the student's progress based on mastery,
53 for the grading period; and

54 (ii) in accordance with the local school board's adopted grading or performance
55 standards and criteria;

56 (e) develop early warning systems for students or classes failing to make progress;

57 (f) work with the state board to establish a library of documented best practices,
58 consistent with state and federal regulations, for use by the local districts;

59 (g) implement training programs for school administrators, including basic
60 management training, best practices in instructional methods, budget training, staff
61 management, managing for learning results and continuous improvement, and how to help
62 every child achieve optimal learning in basic academic subjects; and

63 (h) ensure that the local school board meets the data collection and reporting standards
64 described in Section [53E-3-501](#).

65 (2) Local school boards shall spend Minimum School Program funds for programs and
66 activities for which the state board has established minimum standards or rules under Section
67 [53E-3-501](#).

68 (3) (a) A local school board may purchase, sell, and make improvements on school
69 sites, buildings, and equipment and construct, erect, and furnish school buildings.

70 (b) School sites or buildings may only be conveyed or sold on local school board
71 resolution affirmed by at least two-thirds of the members.

72 (4) (a) A local school board may participate in the joint construction or operation of a
73 school attended by children residing within the district and children residing in other districts
74 either within or outside the state.

75 (b) Any agreement for the joint operation or construction of a school shall:

76 (i) be signed by the president of the local school board of each participating district;

77 (ii) include a mutually agreed upon pro rata cost; and

78 (iii) be filed with the state board.

79 (5) A local school board may establish, locate, and maintain elementary, secondary,
80 and applied technology schools.

81 (6) Except as provided in Section [53E-3-905](#), a local school board may enroll children
82 in school who are at least five years old before September 2 of the year in which admission is
83 sought.

84 (7) A local school board may establish and support school libraries.

85 (8) A local school board may collect damages for the loss, injury, or destruction of
86 school property.

87 (9) A local school board may authorize guidance and counseling services for children
88 and their parents before, during, or following enrollment of the children in schools.

89 (10) (a) A local school board shall administer and implement federal educational

90 programs in accordance with Title 53E, Chapter 3, Part 8, Implementing Federal or National
91 Education Programs.

92 (b) Federal funds are not considered funds within the school district budget under
93 Chapter 7, Part 3, Budgets.

94 (11) (a) A local school board may organize school safety patrols and adopt policies
95 under which the patrols promote student safety.

96 (b) A student appointed to a safety patrol shall be at least 10 years old and have written
97 parental consent for the appointment.

98 (c) Safety patrol members may not direct vehicular traffic or be stationed in a portion
99 of a highway intended for vehicular traffic use.

100 (d) Liability may not attach to a school district, its employees, officers, or agents or to a
101 safety patrol member, a parent of a safety patrol member, or an authorized volunteer assisting
102 the program by virtue of the organization, maintenance, or operation of a school safety patrol.

103 (12) (a) A local school board may on its own behalf, or on behalf of an educational
104 institution for which the local school board is the direct governing body, accept private grants,
105 loans, gifts, endowments, devises, or bequests that are made for educational purposes.

106 (b) These contributions are not subject to appropriation by the Legislature.

107 (13) (a) A local school board may appoint and fix the compensation of a compliance
108 officer to issue citations for violations of Subsection 76-10-105(2)(b).

109 (b) A person may not be appointed to serve as a compliance officer without the
110 person's consent.

111 (c) A teacher or student may not be appointed as a compliance officer.

112 (14) A local school board shall adopt bylaws and policies for the local school board's
113 own procedures.

114 (15) (a) A local school board shall make and enforce policies necessary for the control
115 and management of the district schools.

116 (b) Local school board policies shall be in writing, filed, and referenced for public
117 access.

118 (16) A local school board may hold school on legal holidays other than Sundays.

119 (17) (a) As used in this Subsection (17):

120 (i) "Committee" means the school traffic safety committee established in Subsection

121 (17)(b).

122 (ii) "Highway" means the same as that term is defined in Section 72-1-102.

123 (iii) "Highway authority" means the same as that term is defined in Section 72-1-102.

124 ~~[(a)]~~ (b) A local school board shall establish for each school year a school traffic safety
125 committee to implement this Subsection (17).

126 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) The committee shall be composed of one representative of:

127 (i) the schools within the district;

128 (ii) the Parent Teachers' Association of the schools within the district;

129 (iii) the municipality or county;

130 (iv) state or local law enforcement; and

131 (v) state or local traffic safety engineering.

132 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) The committee shall:

133 (i) receive suggestions from school community councils, parents, teachers, and others
134 and recommend school traffic safety improvements, boundary changes to enhance safety, and
135 school traffic safety program measures;

136 ~~[(ii) review and submit annually to the Department of Transportation and affected
137 municipalities and counties a child access routing plan for each elementary, middle, and junior
138 high school within the district;]~~

139 ~~[(iii)]~~ (ii) consult the Utah Safety Council and the Division of Family Health Services
140 and provide training to all school children in kindergarten through grade 6, within the district,
141 on school crossing safety and use; and

142 ~~[(iv)]~~ (iii) help ensure the district's compliance with rules made by the Department of
143 Transportation under Section 41-6a-303.

144 (e) (i) The committee shall, for each elementary, middle, and junior high school within
145 the district:

146 (A) annually submit a child access routing plan to the Department of Transportation
147 and the municipal or county highway authority that governs each highway included in the child
148 access routing plan; and

149 (B) ensure that the child access routing plan complies with Subsection (17)(e)(ii).

150 (ii) The committee shall ensure that the child access routing plan described in
151 Subsection (17)(e)(i):

152 (A) includes recommendations for improvements to enhance safety, including the
153 recommendations received by the committee under Subsection (17)(d)(i); and

154 (B) considers the criteria and specifications established by Department of
155 Transportation rule made under Subsection 41-6a-303(6).

156 (iii) A municipal or county highway authority shall:

157 (A) evaluate the recommendations for improvements in the child access routing plan;
158 and

159 (B) within 30 calendar days after the day on which the committee submits the child
160 access routing plan, provide feedback to the committee on the improvements recommended in
161 the child access routing plan, including the improvements the municipal or county highway
162 authority has prioritized for the following year and the actions the municipal or county highway
163 authority will take to mitigate risks and improve safety in relation to the child access routing
164 plan.

165 (iv) The Department of Transportation may review a child access routing plan as
166 resources allow and provide feedback to the committee on recommended improvements.

167 (f) The committee shall annually submit to the state board and the Transportation
168 Advisory Committee described in Section 53F-2-403, a report that:

169 (i) includes the information provided in a child access routing plan;

170 (ii) indicates whether recommended improvements in a child access routing plan have
171 been included in an infrastructure grant under the program described in Section 72-8-109;

172 (iii) summarizes the response from relevant municipal and county highway authorities
173 under Subsection (17)(e)(iii); and

174 (iv) if necessary, makes recommendations to approve new bus routes.

175 ~~(d)~~ (g) The committee may establish subcommittees as needed to assist in
176 accomplishing the committee's duties under ~~Subsection (17)(e)] Subsections (17)(d), (17)(e),~~
177 and (17)(f).

178 (18) (a) A local school board shall adopt and implement a comprehensive emergency
179 response plan to prevent and combat violence in the local school board's public schools, on
180 school grounds, on its school vehicles, and in connection with school-related activities or
181 events.

182 (b) The plan shall:

- 183 (i) include prevention, intervention, and response components;
- 184 (ii) be consistent with the student conduct and discipline policies required for school
185 districts under Chapter 11, Part 2, Miscellaneous Requirements;
- 186 (iii) require professional learning for all district and school building staff on what their
187 roles are in the emergency response plan;
- 188 (iv) provide for coordination with local law enforcement and other public safety
189 representatives in preventing, intervening, and responding to violence in the areas and activities
190 referred to in Subsection (18)(a); and
- 191 (v) include procedures to notify a student, to the extent practicable, who is off campus
192 at the time of a school violence emergency because the student is:
- 193 (A) participating in a school-related activity; or
- 194 (B) excused from school for a period of time during the regular school day to
195 participate in religious instruction at the request of the student's parent.
- 196 (c) The state board, through the state superintendent, shall develop comprehensive
197 emergency response plan models that local school boards may use, where appropriate, to
198 comply with Subsection (18)(a).
- 199 (d) A local school board shall, by July 1 of each year, certify to the state board that its
200 plan has been practiced at the school level and presented to and reviewed by its teachers,
201 administrators, students, and their parents and local law enforcement and public safety
202 representatives.
- 203 (19) (a) A local school board may adopt an emergency response plan for the treatment
204 of sports-related injuries that occur during school sports practices and events.
- 205 (b) The plan may be implemented by each secondary school in the district that has a
206 sports program for students.
- 207 (c) The plan may:
- 208 (i) include emergency personnel, emergency communication, and emergency
209 equipment components;
- 210 (ii) require professional learning on the emergency response plan for school personnel
211 who are involved in sports programs in the district's secondary schools; and
- 212 (iii) provide for coordination with individuals and agency representatives who:
- 213 (A) are not employees of the school district; and

214 (B) would be involved in providing emergency services to students injured while
215 participating in sports events.

216 (d) The local school board, in collaboration with the schools referred to in Subsection
217 (19)(b), may review the plan each year and make revisions when required to improve or
218 enhance the plan.

219 (e) The state board, through the state superintendent, shall provide local school boards
220 with an emergency plan response model that local school boards may use to comply with the
221 requirements of this Subsection (19).

222 (20) A local school board shall do all other things necessary for the maintenance,
223 prosperity, and success of the schools and the promotion of education.

224 (21) (a) Before closing a school or changing the boundaries of a school, a local school
225 board shall:

226 (i) at least 120 days before approving the school closure or school boundary change,
227 provide notice to the following that the local school board is considering the closure or
228 boundary change:

229 (A) parents of students enrolled in the school, using the same form of communication
230 the local school board regularly uses to communicate with parents;

231 (B) parents of students enrolled in other schools within the school district that may be
232 affected by the closure or boundary change, using the same form of communication the local
233 school board regularly uses to communicate with parents; and

234 (C) the governing council and the mayor of the municipality in which the school is
235 located;

236 (ii) provide an opportunity for public comment on the proposed school closure or
237 school boundary change during at least two public local school board meetings; and

238 (iii) hold a public hearing as defined in Section [10-9a-103](#) and provide public notice of
239 the public hearing as described in Subsection (21)(b).

240 (b) The notice of a public hearing required under Subsection (21)(a)(iii) shall:

241 (i) indicate the:

242 (A) school or schools under consideration for closure or boundary change; and

243 (B) the date, time, and location of the public hearing;

244 (ii) at least 10 days before the public hearing, be:

- 245 (A) published:
- 246 (I) in a newspaper of general circulation in the area; and
- 247 (II) on the Utah Public Notice Website created in Section [63A-16-601](#); and
- 248 (B) posted in at least three public locations within the municipality in which the school
- 249 is located on the school district's official website, and prominently at the school; and
- 250 (iii) at least 30 days before the public hearing described in Subsection (21)(a)(iii), be
- 251 provided as described in Subsections (21)(a)(i)(A), (B), and (C).
- 252 (22) A local school board may implement a facility energy efficiency program
- 253 established under Title 11, Chapter 44, Performance Efficiency Act.
- 254 (23) A local school board may establish or partner with a certified youth court in
- 255 accordance with Section [80-6-902](#) or establish or partner with a comparable restorative justice
- 256 program, in coordination with schools in that district. A school may refer a student to a youth
- 257 court or a comparable restorative justice program in accordance with Section [53G-8-211](#).
- 258 (24) A local school board shall:
- 259 (a) make curriculum that the school district uses readily accessible and available for a
- 260 parent to view;
- 261 (b) annually notify a parent of a student enrolled in the school district of how to access
- 262 the information described in Subsection (24)(a); and
- 263 (c) include on the school district's website information about how to access the
- 264 information described in Subsection (24)(a).