

# PTA Superintendent's Report

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

## HB 84 Information

[Link to the bill](#)

### School Guardians

- If you have a full-time SRO, you must have a back-up person trained; if you do not have an SRO, the school would be required to have a minimum of two individuals trained
- A number of district personnel must be trained to serve as back-ups out in schools
- Someone armed at the school during the regular school day
- Psychological Evaluation required
- Training through Utah County Sheriff's Department
- Requirement of weapons certification that exceeds the requirements for police officers
- Gun (guardian may use their own gun, if it is one of the weapons approved by the State Security Chief)
- Ammunition
- School Security Specialist cannot serve as the armed guardian
- If you do not have a current employee willing to serve as an armed guardian, you have to hire specifically for this position.
- Only law enforcement and principal are supposed to know who the school guardian is.

Total Number of School Guardians needed for Provo: **41**

- 2 for each elementary school (13 x 2)= 26
- 1 for each middle school = 2
- 1 for each high school = 3
- District back-ups = 10

### Expenses for Provo City School District for School Guardians:

Requirement	Individual Cost	Total Cost
Psychological Evaluation	\$500	\$20,500
Armed Guardian Training (2 full days)	\$500	\$20,500
Weapon Certification (class is provided free of charge)	\$50	\$2050
Weapons	\$500	\$20,500
Ammunition (1 box of ammunition each)	\$15	\$615
Full-time employees (approximately 5)	\$60,000	\$300,000
<b>Total Cost</b>		<b>\$364,165</b>

**Expenses for Provo City School District resulting from HB 84:**

Requirement	Individual Cost	Total Cost
Needs Assessment for each school (3 hours per site w/ 3 employees)	\$450	\$8100
Wearable panic buttons		\$180,000
Upgrading radio equipment (bi-directional antenna & radio repeater)	TBD	TBD
Security film for schools where not yet installed \$350,000 for Shoreline We do not have bids yet for Timpview or Wasatch.		
Total Cost:		TBD

**Expenses that the State covers:**

Requirement	Individual Cost	Total Cost
Biometric safe for school guardian weapon	\$500	\$20,500
Stipend for School Security Specialist	\$3000	\$54,000

**Total Cost that Provo City School District covers:** **No less than \$1 million**

Total ongoing money required would be no less than \$350,000 per year.

**Total Cost so far for Provo City School District (including state contributions): TBD**

**Talking Points:**

- Safety is our top priority. It should be the state's top priority. Fund HB 84 in its entirety without taking away money for instruction.
  - Money should not be taken from per pupil spending (also known as the WPU) because this money should be used for instruction.
- Concern about an armed guardian not having undergone the same level of psychological evaluation that a police officer is required to undergo, yet this person will have access to a weapon at all times.
  - If we increase the requirements for the psychological evaluation, the state needs to be willing to pay for this. This level of psychological evaluation is in excess of \$2000/person.
  - Will we have escalations of situations that could otherwise have been avoided?

- While we would prefer to have full-time SROs in every school, we already can't hire enough police officers statewide. This is not a viable solution at this time.
- While the bill provides for an armed guardian during instructional time, schools are actually more vulnerable when hosting large activities with greater access. Armed guardians are not required to be present at this time, and schools assume the cost if they ask a police officer to be present. An amount of money needs to be made available in the operations of schools for these kinds of events.
  - Example:
    - 100 events per high school w/ at least two officers (\$150/hour x 2=\$300/hour)
    - most events lasting at least 3 hours=\$900 per event
    - additional \$90,000 for each high school
    - \$180,000 total for Provo and Timpview
  - Example:
    - 10 events for an elementary or middle school w/ at least one officer (\$150/hour)
    - most events last 2 hours=\$300 total
    - \$3000 per school
    - total of \$45,000 for elementary and middle schools
- Focus security measures on preventing individuals from entering school buildings.
  - Get rid of multiple points of entry.
- Better training of school personnel for identifying the signs of a student who may be at-risk for carrying out threats of violence.
- Do armed guardians who are not trained police officers have the disposition to approach a dangerous situation to resolve it?
- Are there other solutions or ideas that we need to think about?

### **Legislators to contact:**

#### Bill Sponsor:

Representative Wilcox:	<a href="mailto:ryanwilcox@le.utah.gov">ryanwilcox@le.utah.gov</a>	385-600-3306
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#### Provo Representation:

Representative Thurston:	<a href="mailto:normthurston@le.utah.gov">normthurston@le.utah.gov</a>	801-477-5348
Representative Stratton:	<a href="mailto:kstratton@le.utah.gov">kstratton@le.utah.gov</a>	801-836-6010
Representative Clancy:	<a href="mailto:tclancy@le.utah.gov">tclancy@le.utah.gov</a>	801-598-0052
Senator Grover:	<a href="mailto:keithgrover@le.utah.gov">keithgrover@le.utah.gov</a>	801-319-0170
Senator McKell:	<a href="mailto:mmckell@le.utah.gov">mmckell@le.utah.gov</a>	801-210-1495

#### Senate Majority Leadership:

President Stuart Adams	<a href="mailto:jsadams@le.utah.gov">jsadams@le.utah.gov</a>	801-593-1776
Senator Vickers	<a href="mailto:evickers@le.utah.gov">evickers@le.utah.gov</a>	435-817-5565
Senator Millner	<a href="mailto:amillner@le.utah.gov">amillner@le.utah.gov</a>	801-900-3897

Senator Stevenson	<a href="mailto:jwstevenson@le.utah.gov">jwstevenson@le.utah.gov</a>	801-678-3147
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Senate Minority Leadership:

Senator Escamilla	<a href="mailto:lescamilla@le.utah.gov">lescamilla@le.utah.gov</a>	801-550-6434
Senator Riebe	<a href="mailto:kriebe@le.utah.gov">kriebe@le.utah.gov</a>	801-599-5753

House Majority Leadership:

Speaker Mike Schultz	<a href="mailto:mikeschultz@le.utah.gov">mikeschultz@le.utah.gov</a>	801-538-1029
Representative Moss	<a href="mailto:jeffersonmoss@le.utah.gov">jeffersonmoss@le.utah.gov</a>	385-250-6738
Karianne Lisonbee	<a href="mailto:karilisonbee@le.utah.gov">karilisonbee@le.utah.gov</a>	801-589-2934

House Minority Leadership:

Representative Romero	<a href="mailto:angelaromero@le.utah.gov">angelaromero@le.utah.gov</a>	801-722-4972
Rep. Dailey-Provost	<a href="mailto:jdprovost@le.utah.gov">jdprovost@le.utah.gov</a>	385-321-7827

**Other Legislative Items:**

- School fees for any activity leading to a grade or to a diploma have to be eliminated beginning in 2025-2026.
  - Work with legislators to ensure that additional funding is provided for schools or programs will have to be cut.
  - Talking points and examples will be forthcoming.
- Mental health funding for schools:
  - Group of legislators that want to divert all mental health funding from schools to local health departments.
  - Reduce our at-risk funding and siphon this off to local providers.
  - Desire to eliminate social workers from school settings.
  - Counselors serve as career counselors only and not in responsive service capacity.

**Provo High/Timpview Situation**

- Email will be going out today or tomorrow with an update.
- Investigation concluded.
- Disciplinary consequences for student involved.
- Assistant Superintendent Darrell Jensen and Superintendent Dau have met with Coach Chambers, administration of both schools, and parents.
- Principal Alvarez and Principal Tu'ua are working with our Student Advisory Council and student leaders on next steps to bring the two communities together.

### **Provo High School Threat**

- Principal Alvarez has worked closely with Provo City Police Department
  - No specific evidence produced
  - Not a credible threat
- Threat assessments conducted; appropriate responses put in place

### **Wasatch Elementary**

- Expected completion by January 1, 2025. Waiting on key equipment.
  - As soon as we have information about this equipment arriving in the next week or two, Hogan Construction will update their timeline.
  - Communicate timeline to teachers and community about the specifics of the move to the new building
- Shari Payne, Kindergarten teacher, will be honored by State Superintendent Dickson on Friday at 9:00 a.m. for being one of 5 finalists for Utah's teacher of the year.

### **Destination Provo**

- Specific feedback and recognition in the moment (for both employees and students)
- Working towards improving our data systems so that we can be more responsive to student needs and improve student outcomes