



Approved: 9/18/2025

School Guardian Program Policy

Policy No 2018

Purpose

Freedom Prep Academy is committed to providing a secure and supportive learning environment for all students and staff. To enhance on-campus safety, Freedom Prep Academy designates trained School Guardians at each campus in accordance with Utah Code Subsection 53G-8-701.5(3). These individuals are equipped to respond immediately to serious threats of violence during school hours. This policy outlines the qualifications, training, responsibilities, and reporting procedures for School Guardians in accordance with applicable law.

Definitions

1. Annual Training:

A four-hour training session conducted yearly that:

- Is organized by the county security chief (or designee) in partnership with local law enforcement;
- Receives approval from the state security chief;
- Is adaptable to the specific needs of the local school environment;
- Includes firearms proficiency exercises using the Guardian's designated weapon;
- Covers topics such as:
 - Safe firearm handling and storage;
 - De-escalation strategies;
 - Mental health awareness;
 - Disability awareness and interaction;
 - Additional components as determined by the state security chief.

2. Biannual Training:

Two mandatory sessions per year (minimum of four hours each, spaced at least three months apart) that:

- Are approved by the state security chief and led by the county security chief with law enforcement coordination;
- Include:
 - Building-specific security walkthroughs;

- Emergency resource identification;
- Live-action response simulations.

3. Initial Training:

In-person training required before program entry, including:

- Firearms safety and handling;
- Use-of-force protocols and de-escalation;
- Tactical coordination with law enforcement;
- Trauma first aid;
- Scenario-based evaluations (e.g., scene security, notification, and communication);
- Completion of a state-approved mental health and “fit-to-carry” assessment.

4. Firearm:

As defined by Utah Code 76-10-501.

5. School Guardian:

A school employee who has met the qualifications and ongoing requirements set forth in this policy and state law to serve in a defensive safety role.

6. School Employee:

Any employee required to be physically present on campus during school hours. This does not typically include teachers or principals or individual whose primary responsibilities require the employee to be primarily present in a classroom to teach, care for, or interact with students.

Program Structure

Oversight and Administration

- The program is supervised by the state security chief and implemented locally by the county security chief.
- The county sheriff may collaborate with other counties or law enforcement agencies to support the program.

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a school employee.
- Participation is voluntary.
- Must be approved by the school principal.
- Must hold a valid Utah concealed carry permit.
- Must complete the Initial Training prior to becoming school guardian.
- Must undergo a state-approved mental health screening and remain compliant with standards consistent with law enforcement evaluations.
- Must formally declare intent to serve as a School Guardian to the local sheriff’s office.

Ongoing Requirements

- School Guardians must complete both Annual and Biannual Training to maintain active status.
- Training must reflect site-specific security protocols and emergency practices.

Duties and Conduct

Firearm Storage and Carry

- A School Guardian may store their firearm on campus only if:
 - It is secured in a biometric safe;
 - The safe is located in the Guardian's designated office space;
 - The Guardian is physically present at the school while the firearm is stored.
- Firearms must be carried in a concealed manner at all times.
- Open carry or visible display of firearms is prohibited except during an active threat scenario.

Note: This section does not prohibit an individual who has a valid concealed carry permit but is not participating in the program from carrying a firearm on the grounds of a public school or charter school under Subsection 76-10-505.5 (4).

Authority

- Guardians do **not** possess law enforcement authority and should not act in a law enforcement capacity.
- May only intervene:
 - To stop or reduce an imminent threat;
 - To detain an individual suspected of committing or about to commit a forcible felony, as defined in state law as described in Utah Code 76-2-402.

Liability Protection

A School guardian who has active status in the guardian program is not liable for any civil damages or penalties if the school guardian:

- Is carrying or storing a firearm:
 - is acting in good faith; and
 - is not grossly negligent; or
 - threatens, draws, or otherwise uses a firearm reasonably believing the action to be necessary in compliance with Section 76-2-402.
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Reporting Requirements

Any time a School Guardian points a firearm at an individual during duty performance, they must submit a written incident report within 48 hours to:

- The site principal;
- The school safety and security director;
- The state security chief.

The report must include:

- A factual summary of the event;
- Names of involved individuals;
- Other required details as specified by state guidelines.

Training-related activities are exempt from this reporting requirement.

Revocation and Records

- The Guardian designation may be revoked at any time by the school principal, county sheriff, or state security chief.
- Records related to Guardian participation, including identity and training logs, are considered **private or protected** under the Government Records Access and Management Act (GRAMA) and are accessible only to:
 - The state security chief;
 - School administration;
 - Relevant law enforcement agencies;
 - School safety officers as identified by Utah Code 53G-8-701.5;
 - Authorized county personnel.

An individual who intentionally or knowingly provides the information described in Subsection (15)(a) to an individual or entity not listed in Subsection (15)(ii) is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

Compensation

To support and recognize their additional responsibilities, Freedom Prep Academy will provide the following for active School Guardians:

- Reimbursement (amount to be determined by Executive leadership) for qualifying equipment, including a firearm, ammunition, and concealment accessories;
- A one-time stipend of **\$500** upon program entry;
- An **annual stipend**, determined by Executive leadership, in recognition of their role in protecting campus safety and the ongoing cost of supplies.