



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

December 20, 2019

Ms. Kristi Godden  
Counsel for Hidalgo Independent School District  
O'Hanlon, Demerath & Castillo  
808 West Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78701

OR2019-36312

Dear Ms. Godden:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 803318 (Reference No. HISD-19-021).

The Hidalgo Independent School District (the "district"), which you represent, received a request for information pertaining to an investigation of a named individual. You claim the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. This exception encompasses information other statutes make confidential, such as section 21.062 of the Education Code. Section 21.062 provides, in relevant part:

(a) During an investigation by the commissioner for an alleged incident of misconduct, the commissioner may issue a subpoena to compel:

...

(2) the production, for inspection or copying, of relevant evidence that is located in this state.

...

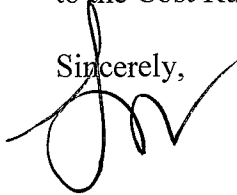
(d) All information and materials subpoenaed or compiled in connection with an investigation described by Subsection (a) are confidential and not subject to disclosure under [the Act].

Educ. Code § 21.062(a)(2), (d); *see id.* §§ 5.001(3) (“commissioner” means the commissioner of education), 21.001(1) (“commissioner” includes a person designated by the commissioner). The district states the requested information was subpoenaed or compiled in an investigation of an educator under section 21.062 of the Education Code. The district indicates the information was submitted to the Texas Education Agency in response to a subpoena issued by the commissioner. Based on the district’s representations and our review, we agree the district must withhold the requested information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 21.062(d) of the Education Code.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/members-public/what-expect-after-ruling-issued> or call the OAG’s Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Public Information Act may be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the OAG, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Jahanna Ward  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JW/gw

Ref: ID# 803318

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)