



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

March 22, 2022

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

OR2022-08205

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# 937062 (Ref. No. 21-026 and TEA ID# 51564).

The Edcouch Elsa Independent School District (the "district"), which you represent, received a request for the personnel file, copy of letter of resignation, and any complaints filed against the requestor's client. You state the district has already released some information. Although the district takes no position as to whether the submitted information is excepted under the Act, the district states release of the submitted information may implicate the interests of the Texas Education Agency (the "TEA"). Accordingly, you state, and provides documentation showing, it notified the TEA of the request for information and of the right to submit arguments to this office as to why the submitted information should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.304 (interested party may submit comments stating why information should or should not be released). We have received comments from the TEA. We have reviewed the submitted information and considered the submitted arguments.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." *Id.* § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses information made confidential by other statutes, 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 TEA states the submitted information was subpoenaed or compiled in an investigation of an educator conducted by the TEA under section 21.062 of the Education Code. The TEA states the submitted information was submitted to the TEA in response to a subpoena issued by the commissioner. Based upon these representations and our review, we conclude the district must withhold the submitted information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 21.062(d) of the Education Code.<sup>1</sup>

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,

Chase D. Young  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

CDY/jxd

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<sup>1</sup> As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address the remaining argument against disclosure of this information.

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Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

Third Party  
(w/o enclosures)