



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

August 3, 2022

Ms. Amber K. King
General Counsel
Lake Travis Independent School District
3322 Ranch Road 620 South
Austin, Texas 78738

OR2022-22874

Dear Ms. King:

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# 963462 (District ID No. 2022-214).

The Lake Travis Independent School District (the "district") received a request for all materials, documents, and communications given to district employees at a specified conference. You claim the requested information is subject to section 552.027 of the Government Code. We have considered your argument and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.¹

Section 552.027 of the Government Code provides as follows:

(a) A governmental body is not required under this chapter to allow the inspection of or to provide a copy of information in a commercial book or publication purchased or acquired by the governmental body for research purposes if the book or publication is commercially available to the public.

(b) Although information in a book or publication may be made available to the public as a resource material, such as a library book, a governmental body is not required to make a copy of the information in response to a request for public information.

¹ We assume the "representative sample" of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

(c) A governmental body shall allow the inspection of information in a book or publication that is made part of, incorporated into, or referred to in a rule or policy of a governmental body.

Gov't Code § 552.027. Section 552.027 is designed to alleviate the burden of providing copies of commercially available books, publications, and resource materials maintained by governmental bodies, such as telephone directories, dictionaries, encyclopedias, statutes, and periodicals. You state the requested books were received by city staff at the specified conference. You also inform us the requested books are commercially available to members of the public. Accordingly, based on your representations, we conclude the requested books are commercially available information that falls within the scope of section 552.027 and need not be released to the requestor. Upon review, we find you have failed to demonstrate the remaining information at issue came from the type of commercial book or publication purchased or acquired by a governmental body for research purposes as contemplated by section 552.027. *See id.* § 552.027(a). Therefore, the remaining information at issue is not subject to section 552.027, and must be released unless it falls within an exception to disclosure. *Id.* §§ 552.006, .021, .301, .302. As you have not raised any exceptions to disclosure, the district must release the remaining requested information.

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,

Nick Ybarra
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

NY/jxd

Ref: ID# 963462

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)