



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

September 8, 2022

Ms. Christie Hobbs  
General Counsel  
Northwest Independent School District  
2001 Texan Drive  
Justin, Texas 76247

OR2022-27425

Dear Ms. Hobbs:

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# 971111 (Ref. No. 22-136).

The Northwest Independent School District (the "district") received a request for work orders pertaining to doors and locks during a specified timeframe. You claim the submitted 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 section encompasses information that is made confidential by other statutes, such as sections 418.181 and 418.182 of the Government Code, which were added to chapter 418 of the Government Code as part of the Texas Homeland Security Act (the "HSA"). Section 418.181 provides "[t]hose documents or portions of documents in the possession of a governmental entity are confidential if they identify the technical details of particular vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure to an act of terrorism." *Id.* § 418.181. Section 418.182 provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

- (a) [I]nformation . . . in the possession of a governmental entity that relates to the specifications, operating procedures, or location of a security system

used to protect public or private property from an act of terrorism or related criminal activity is confidential.

*Id.* § 418.182(a). The fact that information may relate to a governmental body's security concerns does not make the information *per se* confidential under the HSA. *See* Open Records Decision No. 649 at 3 (1996) (language of confidentiality provision controls scope of its protection). Furthermore, the mere recitation by a governmental body of a statute's key terms is not sufficient to demonstrate the applicability of a claimed provision. As with any confidentiality provision, a governmental body asserting one of the confidentiality provisions of the HSA must adequately explain how the responsive information falls within the scope of the claimed provision. *See* Gov't Code § 552.301(e)(1)(A) (governmental body must explain how claimed exception to disclosure applies).

You explain the submitted information consists of "information about repairs to school doors and locks." You state the release of this information could allow criminals or terrorists to identify "the most effective place to gain unauthorized entry to school buildings." We agree the district's schools are critical infrastructure for purposes of section 418.181 of the Government Code. *See generally id.* § 421.001(2) (defining "critical infrastructure" to include "all public or private assets, systems, and functions vital to the security, governance, public health and safety, economy, or morale of the state or the nation"). Based upon your representations and our review, we find you have demonstrated some of the information at issue would identify the technical details of particular vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure to an act of terrorism. Thus, the district must withhold the information we have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 418.181 of the Government Code. However, we find you have failed to demonstrate the remaining information identifies the technical details of particular vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure to an act of terrorism. Additionally, we find you have failed to demonstrate the remaining information relates to the specifications, operating procedures, or location of a security system used to protect public or private property from an act of terrorism or related criminal activity. Consequently, we find the district may not withhold the remaining information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 418.181 or section 418.182(a) of the Government Code. The district must release the remaining 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,

Chase D. Young  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

CDY/mo

Ref: ID# 971111

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)