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Note: For forms prescribed by the attorney general, see the Attorney General's Public Information website.[1]

Public Information

See GB(LEGAL) for the definition of public information.

Availability of Public Information

Public information is available to the public at a minimum during the normal business hours of a district. Government Code Chapter 552 (Public Information Act [PIA]) does not authorize the withholding of public information or limit the availability of public information to the public, except as expressly provided by the PIA. *Gov't Code 552.006, .021*

Special Rights of Access

Person Whose Information the District Holds

A person or a person's authorized representative has a special right of access, beyond the right of the general public, to information held by the district that relates to the person and that is protected from public disclosure by laws intended to protect that person's privacy interests. A district may not deny this access on the grounds that the information is considered confidential by privacy principles under the Public Information Act but may assert as grounds for denial other provisions of the PIA or other law not intended to protect the person's privacy interests. Access to information under this provision shall be provided in the manner prescribed by Government Code 552.229 (consent to release) and 552.307 (timely release), below. *Gov't Code 552.023(a), (b), (e)*

Board Members

For information on board members' special access rights to district information, see BBE.

Parents

A district that receives a request from a parent for public information relating to the parent's child shall comply with the Public Information Act. *Education Code 26.0085(e)*

For information on parents' special access rights to their child's education records, see FL.

Information That Must Be Disclosed

The following categories of information are public information and not excepted from required disclosure unless made confidential under the Public Information Act or other law:

1. A completed report, audit, evaluation, or investigation made of, for, or by a board or district, except as provided in Government Code 552.108.
2. The name, sex, ethnicity, salary, title, and dates of employment of each employee and officer of a district.
3. Information in an account, voucher, or contract relating to the receipt or expenditure of public or other funds by a board.

4. The name of each official and the final record of voting on all proceedings of a board.
5. All working papers, research material, and information used to estimate the need or expenditure of public funds or taxes by a board, on completion of the estimate.
6. A description of a district's central and campus organization, including where, from whom, and how the public may obtain information, submit information or requests, and obtain decisions.
7. A statement of the general course and method by which a district's functions are channeled and determined, including the nature and requirements of all formal and informal policies and procedures.
8. A rule of procedure, a description of forms available or the places at which forms may be obtained, and instructions relating to the scope and content of all papers, reports, or examinations.
9. A substantive rule of general applicability adopted or issued by a board as authorized by law, and a statement of general policy or interpretation of general applicability formulated and adopted by the board.
10. Each amendment, revision, or repeal of the information described in items 6-9.
11. Final opinions and orders issued in the adjudication of cases.
12. A policy statement or interpretation adopted or issued by a board.
13. Administrative manuals and instructions to staff that affect a member of the public.
14. Information regarded as open to the public under a district's policies.
15. Information that is in a bill for attorney's fees and that is not privileged under the attorney-client privilege.
16. Information that is also contained in a public court record.
17. A settlement agreement to which a board is a party.

Gov't Code 552.022

Contracting Information

Contracting information, as that term is defined in Government Code 552.003(1-a) [see GBAA], is public and must be released unless excepted from disclosure under the Public Information Act.

The exceptions to disclosure provided by Government Code 552.110 (trade secrets) and 552.1101 (proprietary information) do not apply to the types of contracting information listed at Government Code 552.0222(b). *Gov't Code 552.0222(a), (b)* [See GBAA for additional procedures related to contracting information.]

Investment Information

Certain categories of information held by a district relating to its investments, as specified by Government Code 552.0225(b), are public information and not excepted from disclosure under the Public Information Act. *Gov't Code 552.0225*

Confidential Information That Must Not Be Disclosed

A person commits an offense if the person distributes information considered confidential under the terms of the Public Information Act. A violation under this provision also constitutes official misconduct. *Gov't Code 552.352*

Confidential by Law

Information is excepted from public disclosure if it is information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision. *Gov't Code 552.101*

Note: For confidentiality and access provisions addressed by specific statutes other than Government Code Chapter 552 (Public Information Act), see the applicable policy code.

Privileged Attorney-Client Information

The Texas Rules of Civil Procedure and the Texas Rule of Evidence are "other law" within the meaning of Government Code 552.022 (allowing "other law" to make information confidential from required disclosure). A district does not forfeit the attorney-client privilege by failing to timely request an attorney general's decision, and the privilege is sufficiently compelling to rebut the presumption of public disclosure after an untimely request. *In re City of Georgetown, 53 S.W.3d 328, 336 (Tex. 2001); Paxton v. City of Dallas, 509 S.W.3d 247 (Tex. 2017)*

The attorney-client privilege does not apply if the attorney or attorney's representative acts in a capacity other than that of providing or facilitating professional legal services to the client. *Harlandale Indep. Sch. Dist. V. Cornyn, 25 S.W.3d 328 (Tex. App.—Austin 2000, pet. Denied)*

Closed Meeting Records

The certified agenda or tape recording of a closed meeting is available for public inspection only under a court order issued in litigation in a district court involving an alleged violation of the Open Meetings Act. *Gov't Code 551.104(c); Atty. Gen. ORD 684 (2009)*

[For information regarding minutes or recording of an open meeting, see BE.]

Student Education Records

The Public Information Act does not require the release of information contained in education records of the district, except in conformity with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. Section 1232g (FERPA).

In this provision, "student record" means information that constitutes education records as that term is defined by FERPA or information in a record of an applicant for admission to an educational institution, including a transfer applicant.

Information is confidential and excepted from required disclosure if it is information in a student record at a district.

The district is not prohibited from disclosing or providing information included in an education record if the disclosure or provision is authorized by FERPA or other federal law. In addition, a student record shall be made available on the request of district personnel, the student, the student's parents, legal guardian, or spouse, or a person conducting a child abuse investigation required by Family Code Chapter 261, Subchapter D.

Except as provided by Government Code 552.114(e) (information in enrollment or transfer records, below), a district may redact information in a student record from information required to be disclosed under the Public Information Act without requesting a decision from the attorney general.

Gov't Code 552.026, .114 [See FL]

Enrollment or Transfer Information

If an applicant, or a parent or legal guardian of a minor applicant, for admission to an educational institution funded wholly or partly by state revenue requests information in the record of the applicant, the district shall disclose any information that is related to the application for admission and was provided to the district by the applicant. *Gov't Code 552.114(e)*

Student Victim Information

The name of a person who is enrolled in a public or private primary or secondary school and involved in an improper relationship with an educator as provided by Penal Code 21.12(a) may not be released to the public and is not public information subject to disclosure. *Penal Code 21.12(d)*

The name of a student or minor who is the victim of abuse or unlawful conduct by an educator is not public information subject to disclosure. *Education Code 21.006(h)*

Juvenile Law Enforcement Records

Except as provided by Family Code 58.008(c) (person with a determinate sentence), law enforcement records concerning a child, as defined by Family Code 51.02(2), and information concerning a child that are stored by electronic means or otherwise and from

which a record could be generated may not be disclosed to the public. *Family Code 58.008(b)*

Law enforcement records concerning a child may be inspected or copied by:

1. A juvenile justice agency, as defined by Family Code 58.101;
2. A criminal justice agency, as defined by Government Code 411.082;
3. The child;
4. The child's parent or guardian; or
5. The chief executive officer or the officer's designee of a primary or secondary school where the child is enrolled only for the purpose of conducting a threat assessment or preparing a safety plan related to the child. [See FFB]

Family Code 58.008(d), (d-1)

Exclusions

These provisions do not apply to a record relating to a child that is required or authorized to be maintained under the laws regulating the operation of motor vehicles in Texas or subject to disclosure under Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter 62 (registered sex offenders). *Family Code 58.008(a)*

Certain Personnel Information

Note: For previous determinations by the attorney general allowing governmental bodies to withhold specific categories of information in personnel records, including direct deposit forms; employment forms I-9, W-2, W-4; and fingerprints, without the necessity of requesting an attorney general decision, see Attorney General Open Records Decision (ORD) 684 (2009).

Employee Social Security Numbers

The social security number of an employee of a district in the custody of the district is confidential. *Gov't Code 552.147(a-1)*

Invasion of Privacy

Information is excepted from public disclosure if it is information in a personnel file, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, except that all information in the personnel file of a district employee is to be made available to that employee or the employee's designated representative as public information is made available under the Public Information Act. The exception to public disclosure created by this provision is in addition to any exception created by Government Code 552.024. Public access to personnel information covered by Government Code 552.024 is denied to the extent provided by that provision. *Gov't Code 552.102(a)*

Employee Birth Dates

Disclosure of employee birth dates would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, and thus such dates are excepted from disclosure under Government Code 552.102(a). *Texas Comptroller of Public Accts. v. Atty. Gen'l of Texas, 354 S.W.3d 336 (Tex. 2010)*

College Transcripts

Information is excepted from public disclosure if it is a transcript from an institution of higher education maintained in the personnel file of a professional employee, except that this provision does not exempt from disclosure the degree obtained or the curriculum on a transcript in the personnel file of the employee. *Gov't Code 552.102(b)*

Evaluations

A document evaluating the performance of a teacher or administrator is confidential and is not subject to disclosure under the Public Information Act.

At the request of a school district, open-enrollment charter school, or private school at which a teacher or administrator has applied for employment, a district shall give the requesting district or school a document evaluating the performance of a teacher or administrator employed by the school.

A district shall give the Texas Education Agency (TEA) a document evaluating the performance of a teacher or administrator employed by the district for purposes of an investigation conducted by TEA.

Education Code 21.355(a), (c), (d)

Educator Certification Exam

The results of an educator certification examination are confidential and are not subject to disclosure, unless the disclosure is regarding notification to a parent of the assignment of an uncertified teacher to a classroom as required by Education Code 21.057. *Education Code 21.048(c-1)*

Employee Accused of Improper Relationship with Student

A primary or secondary school may not release externally to the general public the name of an employee who is accused of committing an offense under Penal Code 21.12 (improper relationship between educator and student) until the employee is indicted for the offense. The school may release the name of the accused employee regardless of whether the employee has been indicted for the offense as necessary for the school to:

1. Report the accusation:
    a. To TEA, another state agency, or local law enforcement or as otherwise required by law; or
    b. To the school's community in accordance with the school's policies or procedures; or

2. Conduct an investigation of the accusation.

Penal Code 21.12(d-1)

Credit Card, Debit Card, Charge Card, and Access Device Numbers

A credit card, debit card, charge card, or access device number that is collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a district is confidential.

"Access device" means a card, plate, code, account number, personal identification number, electronic serial number, mobile identification number, or other telecommunications service, equipment, or instrument identifier or means of account access that alone or in conjunction with another device may be used to:

1. Obtain money, goods, services, or another thing of value; or
2. Initiate a transfer of funds other than a transfer originated solely by paper instrument.

A district may redact credit card, debit card, charge card, or access device numbers from any information the district discloses without the necessity of requesting a decision from the attorney general. The district shall provide the information required by Government Code 552.136(e) to the requestor on a form prescribed by the attorney general. The requestor is entitled to seek a decision from the attorney general about the matter.

Gov't Code 552.136

Email Addresses of the Public

An email address of a member of the public that is provided for the purpose of communicating electronically with a district is confidential and not subject to disclosure unless the member of the public affirmatively consents to its release.

This confidentiality does not apply to an email address:

1. Provided to a district by a person who has a contractual relationship with the district or by the contractor's agent;
2. Provided to a district by a vendor who seeks to contract with the district or by the vendor's agent;
3. Contained in a response to a request for bids or proposals, contained in a response to similar invitations soliciting offers or information relating to a potential contract, or provided to a district in the course of negotiating the terms of a contract or potential contract;
4. Provided to a district on a letterhead, coversheet, printed document, or other document made available to the public; or

5. Provided to a district for the purpose of receiving orders or decisions from the district, or for the purpose of providing public comment on or receiving notices related to an application for a license. A "license" under this provision includes a state agency permit, certificate, approval, registration, or similar form of permission required by law.

A district may also disclose an email address for any reason to another governmental body or to a federal agency.

Gov't Code 552.137, 2001.003(2); Atty. Gen. ORD 684 (2009)

Individuals Who Inform of Legal Violations

An informer's name or information that would substantially reveal the identity of an informer is excepted from public disclosure.

"Informer" means a student or former student or an employee or former employee of a district who has furnished a report of another person's possible violation of criminal, civil, or regulatory law to the district or the proper regulatory enforcement authority.

This exception does not apply if the informer:

1. If the informer is a student or former student, and the student, student's legal guardian, or student's spouse consents to disclosure of the student's name;

2. If the informer is an employee or former employee who consents to disclosure of the employee's name; or

3. The informer planned, initiated, or participated in the possible violation.

Information may be made available to a law enforcement agency or prosecutor for official purposes upon proper request, made in compliance with applicable law and procedure. However, this exception does not impair the confidentiality of information considered to be confidential by law, including information excepted from disclosure under the Public Information Act.

Gov't Code 552.135

Crime Victim Information

Address Confidentiality Program

Information relating to a participant in the Address Confidentiality Program for Certain Crime Victims (including from family violence, sexual assault or abuse, stalking, child abduction, or trafficking of persons under Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter 58, Subchapter B) is confidential, except as provided by Code of Criminal Procedure 58.061, and may not be disclosed under the Public Information Act. *Code of Criminal Procedure 58.060*

Employee Victims

A district employee who is a victim under Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter 56B (Crime Victims' Compensation Act) regardless of

whether the employee has filed an application for compensation may elect whether to allow public access to information held by the district that would identify or tend to identify the victim, including a photograph or other visual representation of the victim. The election must be made in writing on a form developed by the district, signed by the employee, and filed with the district before the third anniversary of the latest to occur of one of the following:

1. The date the crime was committed;
2. The date employment begins; or
3. The date the district develops the form and provides it to employees.

If the employee fails to make an election, the identifying information is excepted from disclosure until the third anniversary of the date the crime was committed. In case of disability, impairment, or other incapacity of the employee, the election may be made by the guardian of the employee or former employee.

Gov't Code 552.132(d)

Victims of Certain Crimes

Information is confidential and excepted from public disclosure if the information identifies an individual as a victim of:

1. A criminal offense specified by Government Code 552.1315(a)(1)(A) and (B), or
2. Any criminal offense if the victim was younger than 18 years of age when any element of the offense was committed.

Notwithstanding the above, information may be disclosed:

1. To any victim identified by the information;
2. To the parent or guardian of a victim described by item 2 above who is identified by the information;
3. To a law enforcement agency for investigative purposes; or
4. In accordance with a court order requiring the disclosure.

Gov't Code 552.1315

Location or Layout of Shelter Centers

Information that relates to the location or physical layout of a family violence shelter center or victims of trafficking shelter center is confidential. A district may redact this information from any information the district discloses without the necessity of requesting a decision from the attorney general. If a district redacts information under this provision, the district shall provide the information required by Government Code 552.138(e) to the requestor on a form prescribed by

the attorney general. The requestor is entitled to seek a decision from the attorney general about the matter.

Restriction on Release of Licensee Information

A district may not sell or otherwise release certain information listed about a person who holds, previously held, or is an applicant for a license issued by the district if the person meets the requirements under Government Code 552.138.

Gov't Code 552.138(b-1), (c), (d), (f)

Criminal History Records

Information collected to comply with Education Code Chapter 22, Subchapter C (criminal records), including the person's name, address, phone number, social security number, driver's license number, other identification number, and fingerprint records, is confidential and may not be released except to comply with Subchapter C, by court order, or with the consent of the person who is the subject of the information. *Education Code 22.08391*

A district may not release or disclose to any person criminal history record information (CHRI) obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

CHRI obtained by the district or obtained by an entity that contracts to provide services to a district from the Texas Department of Public Safety or any other Texas criminal justice agency may not be released to any person in the original form or any subsequent form except:

1. The individual who is the subject of the information;
2. TEA;
3. The State Board for Educator Certification;
4. The chief personnel officer of the transportation company if the information was obtained under Government Code 411.097(a)(2) with respect to a transportation company that contracts with the district to provide student transportation; or
5. By court order.

Gov't Code 411.097(d) [See CJA, DBAA, and DHB]

Sensitive Crime Scene Image

A sensitive crime scene image in the custody of a district is confidential and excepted from public disclosure, regardless of the date that the image was taken or recorded. A district may not permit a person to view or copy the image unless the person is one of the individuals specified by Government Code 552.1085(d) and the district is not otherwise asserting an exception to disclosure under another provision of the Public Information Act or another law. *Gov't Code 552.1085*

Computer Security

Computer Networks

Information is excepted from public disclosure if it is information that relates to computer network security, to network security information that is restricted under Government Code 2059.055, or to the design, operation, or defense of a computer network.

The following information is confidential:

1. A computer network vulnerability report;
2. Any other assessment of the extent to which data processing operations, a computer, a computer program, network, system, or system interface, or software of a district or of a contractor of a district is vulnerable to unauthorized access or harm, including an assessment of the extent to which a district's or contractor's electronically stored information containing sensitive or critical information is vulnerable to alteration, damage, erasure, or inappropriate use;
3. A photocopy or other copy of an identification badge issued to an official or employee of a district; and
4. Information directly arising from a governmental body's routine efforts to prevent, detect, investigate, or mitigate a computer security incident, including information contained in or derived from an information security log. This does not affect the notification requirements related to a breach of system security as defined by Business and Commerce Code 521.053. [See CQB]

   A district may disclose the information to a bidder if the district determines that providing the information is necessary for the bidder to provide an accurate bid. Such a disclosure is not a voluntary disclosure for purposes of Government Code 552.007 [see Voluntary Disclosure, below].

Gov't Code 552.139

Cybersecurity Information

A cyber threat indicator or defensive measure shared with the federal government under Title 6, United States Code, shall be:

1. Exempt from disclosure under federal freedom of information law and any state or local provision of public information law requiring disclosure of information or records; and
2. Withheld, without discretion, from the public under federal freedom of information law and any state or local provision of public information law requiring disclosure of information or records.

6 U.S.C. 1504(d)(4)(B) [See CQB]

Texas VIRT Information

Information written, produced, collected, assembled, or maintained by a participating district or a volunteer from the district in the implementation of Government Code Chapter 2054, Subchapter N-2 (Texas Volunteer Incident Response Team) is confidential and not subject to disclosure under the Public Information Act if the information:

1. Contains the contact information for a volunteer;
2. Identifies or provides a means of identifying a person who may, as a result of disclosure of the information, become a victim of a cybersecurity event;
3. Consists of a participating district's cybersecurity plans or cybersecurity-related practices; or
4. Is obtained from a participating district or from a participating district's computer system in the course of providing assistance under Subchapter N-2.

Gov't Code 2054.52010

Military Discharge Records

A military veteran's Department of Defense Form DD-214 or other military discharge record that first comes into the possession of a district on or after September 1, 2003, is confidential for the 75 years following the date it comes into the possession of a district. During that period, the district may only permit inspection, copying, or disclosure of the information contained in the record only in accordance with Government Code 552.140 or a court order. The district is authorized to withhold a Form DD-214 or other military discharge record that is first recorded with or that otherwise first comes into the possession of the district on or after September 1, 2003, under this provision without the necessity of requesting an attorney general decision. *Gov't Code 552.140(a), (b); Atty. Gen. ORD 684 (2009)*

Limited Use

A district that obtains this information from another governmental body shall limit the district's use and disclosure of the information to the purpose for which the information was obtained. *Gov't Code 552.140(e)*

Firefighter or EMS Work Schedules

A work schedule or a time sheet of a firefighter or volunteer firefighter or emergency medical services personnel as defined by Health and Safety Code 773.003 is confidential and excepted from public disclosure. *Gov't Code 552.159*

Out-of-State Health-Care Provider Information

Information obtained by a district that was provided by an out-of-state health-care provider in connection with a quality management, peer review, or best practices program that the out-of-state

health-care provider pays for is confidential and excepted from public disclosure. *Gov't Code 552.162*

Applicant for Disaster Recovery Funds

The following information maintained by a district is confidential:

1. The name, social security number, house number, street name, and telephone number of an individual or household that applies for state or federal disaster recovery funds;
2. The name, tax identification number, address, and telephone number of a business entity or an owner of a business entity that applies for state or federal disaster recovery funds; and
3. Any other information the disclosure of which would identify or tend to identify a person or household that applies for state or federal disaster recovery funds.

The street name and census block group of and the amount of disaster recovery funds awarded to a person or household are not confidential after the date on which disaster recovery funds are awarded to the person or household.

Gov't Code 552.160(b), (c)

Threat of Physical Harm

Information in the custody of a district that relates to an employee or officer of the district is excepted from public disclosure if, under the specific circumstances pertaining to the employee or officer, disclosure of the information would subject the employee or officer to a substantial threat of physical harm. *Gov't Code 552.152*

Exceptions to Disclosure

Voluntary Disclosure

The Public Information Act does not prohibit a district or its officer for public information from voluntarily making part or all of its information available to the public, unless the disclosure is expressly prohibited by law or the information is confidential under law. Information voluntarily made available as allowed under this provision must be made available to any person and cannot be withheld from further disclosure. *Gov't Code 552.007; Atty. Gen. ORD 518 (1989)*

Right of Access After 75 Years

Except for social security numbers, the confidentiality provisions of the Public Information Act, or as otherwise provided by law, information that is not confidential but is excepted from required disclosure under Government Code Chapter 552, Subchapter C, is public information and is available to the public on or after the 75th anniversary of the date the information was originally created or received by the district. This paragraph does not limit the authority of a district to establish retention periods for records under applicable law. *Gov't Code 552.0215*

Information Relating to Litigation

Information is excepted from public disclosure if it is information relating to litigation of a civil or criminal nature to which a district is, or

	may be, a party or to which an officer or employee of the district, as a consequence of the office or employment, is or may be a party, but only if the litigation is pending or reasonably anticipated on the date the district's public information officer receives the request. *Gov't Code 552.103(a), (c)*
Election Information	The litigation exception to disclosure does not apply to information requested under the Public Information Act if the information relates to a general, primary, or special election and the information is in the possession of a governmental body that administers elections. *Gov't Code 551.103(d)*
Information Related to Competition or Bidding	Information is excepted from public disclosure if the district demonstrates that the release of the information would harm its interests by providing an advantage to a competitor or bidder in a particular ongoing competitive situation or in a particular competitive situation where the district establishes the situation at issue is set to reoccur or there is a specific and demonstrable intent to enter into the competitive situation again in the future. Required disclosure under Government Code 552.022 does not apply to information that is excepted from required disclosure under this provision.
Parades, Concerts, and Entertainment Events	Information relating to the receipt or expenditure of public or other funds by a district for a parade, concert, or other entertainment event paid for in whole or part with public funds is not excepted from public disclosure. A person, including a district, may not include a provision in a contract related to an event that prohibits or would otherwise prevent the disclosure of this information. A contract provision that violates Government Code 552.104(c) is void. *Gov't Code 552.104*
Certain Information on Real or Personal Property	Information is excepted from public disclosure if it is information relating to the location of real or personal property for a public purpose prior to public announcement of the project, or information relating to appraisals or purchase price of real or personal property for a public purpose prior to the formal award of contracts for the property. *Gov't Code 552.105*
Drafts Involving Legislation	A draft or working paper involved in the preparation of proposed legislation is excepted from public disclosure. *Gov't Code 552.106*
Certain Legal Information	Information is excepted from public disclosure if it is not privileged information but information that an attorney of a district is prohibited from disclosing because of a duty to the board under the Texas Rules of Evidence or the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, or information that a court order has prohibited from disclosure. *Gov't Code 552.107*

Certain Law Enforcement Information

Information (other than basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime) held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime is excepted from public disclosure if:

1. Release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime; or
2. It is information that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime only in relation to an investigation that did not result in conviction or deferred adjudication.

An internal record or notation of a law enforcement agency that is maintained for internal use in matters relating to law enforcement or prosecution is excepted from public disclosure if:

1. Release of the internal record or notation would interfere with law enforcement or prosecution; or
2. The internal record or notation relates to law enforcement only in relation to an investigation that did not result in conviction or deferred adjudication.

Basic Information

A district shall promptly release basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime responsive to a Public Information Act request unless the district seeks to withhold the information as provided by another provision of the PIA. The district shall promptly release the information regardless of whether the district requests an attorney general decision regarding other information subject to the request.

Certain Crime Information

Information that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime only in relation to an investigation that did not result in conviction or deferred adjudication is not excepted from disclosure of information, records, or notations if:

1. A person who is described by or depicted in the information, record, or notation, other than a peace officer, is deceased or incapacitated; or
2. Each person who is described by or depicted in the information, record, or notation, other than a person who is deceased or incapacitated, consents to the release of the information, record, or notation.

Gov't Code 552.108

Private Correspondence of Elected Official

Private correspondence and communications of an elected office holder relating to matters the disclosure of which would constitute an invasion of privacy are excepted from public disclosure. *Gov't*

	Code 552.109; Industrial Foundation of the South v. Texas Indus. Acc. Bd., 540 S.W.2d 668 (Tex. 1976)
Trade Secrets	Except as provided by Government Code 552.0222 (disclosure of contracting information), information is excepted from public disclosure if it is demonstrated based on specific factual evidence that the information is a trade secret, as defined by Government Code 552.110(a). *Gov't Code 552.110(b)*
Certain Commercial and Financial Information	Except as provided by Government Code 552.0222 (disclosure of contracting information), commercial or financial information for which it is demonstrated based on specific factual evidence that disclosure would cause substantial competitive harm to the person from whom the information was obtained is excepted from public disclosure. *Gov't Code 552.110(c)*
Proprietary Information	Except as provided by Government Code 552.0222 (disclosure of contracting information), information submitted to a district by a vendor, contractor, potential vendor, or potential contractor in response to a request for a bid, proposal, or qualification is excepted from public disclosure if the vendor, contractor, potential vendor, or potential contractor demonstrates based on specific factual evidence that disclosure of the information would be proprietary as specified under Government Code 552.1101(a). This exception to disclosure may be asserted only by a vendor, contractor, potential vendor, or potential contractor in the manner described by Government Code 552.305(b) for the purpose of protecting the interests of the vendor, contractor, potential vendor, or potential contractor. A district must decline to release this information as provided by Government Code 552.305(a) to the extent necessary to allow a vendor, contractor, potential vendor, or potential contractor to assert the exception to disclosure provided by Government Code 552.1101(a) (proprietary information). *Gov't Code 552.1101* [See GBAA for additional procedures related to information involving proprietary interests of a vendor, contractor, or potential vendor or contractor.]
Proprietary Records and Trade Secrets in Certain Partnerships	Information in the custody of a district that relates to a proposal for a qualifying project authorized under Government Code Chapter 2267 is excepted from public disclosure if the information and records meet the criteria outlined at Government Code 552.153(b). The district is not authorized to withhold information as outlined by Government Code 552.153(c). *Gov't Code 552.153* [See CDH]

Certain Memoranda

An interagency or intra-agency memorandum or letter that would not be available by law to a party in litigation with a district is excepted from public disclosure. *Gov't Code 552.111; City of Garland v. Dallas Morning News, 22 S.W.3d 351 (Tex. 2000)*

Audit Working Paper

An audit working paper of an auditor of a school district, including any audit relating to the criminal history background check of a public school employee, is excepted from public disclosure. If information in an audit working paper is also maintained in another record, that other record is not excepted.

"Audit" means an audit authorized or required by a statute of Texas or the United States or a resolution or other action of a board of trustees of a school district, including an audit by the district relating to the criminal history background check of a public school employee, and includes an investigation.

"Audit working paper" includes all information, documentary or otherwise, prepared or maintained in conducting an audit or preparing an audit report, including intra-agency and interagency communications and drafts of the audit report or portions of those drafts. *Gov't Code 552.116*

Personal Information of Certain Individuals

Board Members and Others

Option to Restrict Access

Information that relates to the home address, home telephone number, emergency contact information, date of birth, or social security number of an individual to whom Government Code 552.1175(a) applies (including a current or honorably retired peace officer, commissioned security officer, elected public officer, members of the military, or a firefighter or volunteer firefighter), or that reveals whether the individual has family members is confidential and may not be disclosed to the public if the individual to whom the information relates chooses to restrict public access to the information by notifying the district on a form provided by the district with evidence of the individual's status. This choice remains valid until rescinded in writing by the individual.

Redaction and Notice to Requestor

In accordance with Government Code 552.1175(f), a district may redact information that must be withheld under this provision from any information the district discloses under the Public Information Act without the necessity of requesting a decision from the attorney general. If a district redacts information under this provision, the district shall provide the information required by Government Code 552.1175(h) to the requestor on a form prescribed by the attorney general. The requestor is entitled to seek a decision from the attorney general about the matter.

Gov't Code 552.1175

Board Member and Employee Personnel Information

Information is excepted from public disclosure if it is information that relates to the home address, home telephone number, emergency contact information, or social security number of the persons listed at Government Code 552.117(a) or that reveals whether the person has family members. Government Code 552.117(a) includes the following:

1. A current or former district employee or board member, except as provided by Government Code 552.024, below;
2. Certain peace officers, security officers, law enforcement personnel, and first responders; and
3. An elected public officer, regardless of whether the officer complies with Government Code 552.024, below, or .1175, above.

Gov't Code 552.117

Choice To Allow Access

Each current or former employee or board member of a district shall choose whether to allow public access to information in the custody of the district that relates to the person's home address, home telephone number, emergency contact information, or social security number, or that reveals whether the person has family members.

Each current or former employee and board member shall state that person's choice to the main personnel officer of the district in a signed writing not later than the 14th day after the date on which the employee begins employment with the district, the board member is elected or appointed, or the former employee or official ends service with the district.

If the current or former employee or board member fails to state the person's choice within the period established by this provision, the information is subject to public access.

A current or former employee or board member who wishes to close or open public access to the information may request in writing that the main personnel officer of the district close or open access.

Exercising the option to close public access to protect personal information does not apply to a public information request made before the option was exercised.

Gov't Code 552.024; Atty. Gen. ORD 530 (1989)

Redaction and Notice to Requestors

If the current or former employee or board member chooses not to allow public access to the information, the district may redact the information from any information the district discloses without the

necessity of requesting a decision from the attorney general. *Gov't Code 552.024(c)*

A district that redacts or withholds information under this provision shall provide the information required by Government Code 552.024(c-2) to the requestor on a form prescribed by the attorney general. The requestor is entitled to seek a decision from the attorney general about the matter. *Gov't Code 552.024(c-1), (c-2)*

Photograph of Peace Officer

A photograph that depicts a peace officer, the release of which would endanger the life or physical safety of the officer, is excepted from public disclosure unless:

1. The officer is under indictment or charged with an offense by information;
2. The officer is a party in a fire or police civil service hearing or a case in arbitration; or
3. The photograph is introduced as evidence in a judicial proceeding.

If a photograph is exempt from public disclosure as described above, it may be made public only if the officer gives written consent.

Gov't Code 552.119

Testing Items

A test item developed by an educational institution that is funded wholly or in part by state revenue or by a district is excepted from public disclosure. *Gov't Code 552.122*

Certain Library Records

A record of a library or library system, supported in whole or in part by public funds, that identifies or serves to identify a person who requested, obtained, or used a library material or service is excepted from public disclosure, unless the record is disclosed:

1. Because the library determines that disclosure is reasonably necessary for the operation of the library and the records are not confidential under other state or federal law;
2. To a person with a special right of access under Government Code 552.023; or
3. To a law enforcement agency or prosecutor under a court order or a subpoena obtained in compliance with this provision.

Gov't Code 552.124

Superintendent Applicants

The name of an applicant for superintendent of a district is excepted from public disclosure, except that the board must give public notice of the name or names of the finalists being considered for

that position at least 21 days before the date of the meeting at which final action or a vote is to be taken on the applicant's employment. *Gov't Code 552.126*

Certain Motor Vehicle and Personal Identification Information

Information is excepted from public disclosure if the information relates to:

1. A motor vehicle operator's or driver's license or permit issued by an agency of this state or another state or country;
2. A motor vehicle title or registration issued by an agency of this state or another state or country; or
3. A personal identification document issued by an agency of this state, another state or country, or a local agency authorized to issue an identification document.

The motor vehicle record information described above may be released only if, and in the manner, authorized by Transportation Code Chapter 730.

Subject to Transportation Code Chapter 730 (the Motor Vehicle Records Disclosure Act), a district may redact motor vehicle or driver license information (including a Texas driver's license number, a copy of a Texas driver's license, a Texas license plate number, the portion of a photograph that reveals a Texas license plate number, and the portion of any video depicting a discernible Texas license plate number) under this provision from any information the district discloses without the necessity of requesting a decision from the attorney general. The district shall provide the information specified at Government Code 552.130(e) to the requestor on a form prescribed by the attorney general. The requestor is entitled to seek a decision from the attorney general about the matter.

Gov't Code 552.130; Atty. Gen. ORD 684 (2009)

Economic Development Negotiations

Information is excepted from public disclosure if the information relates to economic development negotiations involving a board and a business prospect that the board seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near a district and the information relates to:

1. A trade secret of the business prospect; or
2. Commercial or financial information for which it is demonstrated based on specific factual evidence that disclosure would cause substantial competitive harm to the person from whom the information was obtained.

Gov't Code 552.131(a)

Unless and until an agreement is made with the business prospect, information about a financial or other incentive being offered to a business prospect by a board or by another person is excepted from public disclosure.

After an agreement is made, the exception no longer applies to information about a financial or other incentive being offered to the business prospect:

1. By the board; or
2. By another person, if the financial or other incentive may directly or indirectly result in the expenditure of public funds by a district or a reduction in revenue received by the district from any source.

Gov't Code 552.131(b), (c)

Social Security Numbers of Any Living Person

Except for the social security number of a district employee in the custody of the district, the social security number of a living person is excepted from public disclosure, but is not confidential under the Public Information Act. A district may redact the social security number of a living person from any information the district discloses to the public without the necessity of requesting a decision from the attorney general. *Gov't Code 552.147(a), (c)*

Exclusions from Public Information

Protected Health Information

An individual's protected health information as defined by Health and Safety Code 181.006 is not public information and is not subject to disclosure under the Public Information Act. *Gov't Code 552.002(d)*

Subpoena or Discovery Request

A subpoena duces tecum or a request for discovery that is issued in compliance with a statute or a rule of civil or criminal procedure is not considered to be a request for information under the Public Information Act. The Public Information Act does not affect the scope of civil discovery under the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, and exceptions from disclosure under the PIA do not create new privileges from discovery. *Gov't Code 552.005, .0055*

No Right of Access

Commercially Available Publications

A district is not required under the Public Information Act to allow the inspection of or to provide a copy of information in a commercial book or publication purchased or acquired by the district for research purposes, if the book or publication is commercially available to the public. Although information in a book or publication may be made available to the public as resource material, such as a library book, a district is not required to make a copy of the information in response to a request for public information.

Exception

The district 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 the board or district.

Gov't Code 552.027

Requests from Incarcerated Individuals

A district is not required to accept or comply with a request for information from an individual who is imprisoned or confined in a correctional facility or an agent of that individual, other than the individual's attorney when the attorney is requesting information that is subject to disclosure under the Public Information Act. This provision does not prohibit a district from disclosing to an incarcerated individual or the individual's agent information held by the district that pertains to the individual. *Gov't Code 552.028*

Retirement Eligibility Records

Records, including any identifying information, of individual members, annuitants, retirees, beneficiaries, alternate payees, program participants, or persons eligible for benefits from TRS or another retirement system that are in the custody of the system or in the custody of an administering firm, a carrier, the district, or another governmental body, acting in cooperation with or on behalf of the retirement system are confidential and not subject to public disclosure.

An administering firm, carrier, or the district acting in cooperation with or on behalf of the retirement system is not required to accept or comply with a request for a record or information about a record or to seek an opinion from the attorney general.

For this provision, "participant" means a member, former member, retiree, annuitant, beneficiary, or alternate payee of the retirement system, or an employee or contractor of an employer covered by the retirement system for whom records were received by the retirement system for the purpose of administering the terms of the plan, including for audit or investigative purposes.

Gov't Code 552.0038(c), (h), 825.507(g)

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[1] Office of the Attorney General and the Public Information Act: https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/office-attorney-general-and-public-information-act