HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
SPRING UPDATE
SENATE BILL 571

Office of Human Resources
January 2026

Types of Abuse

- Physical
  - Harm to a child
  - Failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent another person from causing harm
- Sexual
  - Continuous abuse
  - Indecency
  - Aggravated assault
- Neglect
  - Failure to supervise
  - Basic Needs
  - Medical
  - Abandonment
  - Refusal to accept parental responsibility
- Failure to Act
  - Failure to report
- Trafficking and Exploitation
  - Solicitation
  - Filming or photography
- Emotional and Mental Injury
  - Child Development or Psychological health
- Substance Abuse
  - Drugs or controlled substance

Senate Bill 571

Texas Family Code now includes conduct that harms a student's mental, emotional, or physical welfare, including conduct that constitutes an improper relationship between an educator and a student under Texas Penal Code §21.12.

This makes it clear that inappropriate relationships between school staff and students are legally considered abuse.

The law clarifies which law enforcement agencies will be involved:

Texas Department of Public Safety
School District Police Department
Municipal Police Department
County Sheriff's Office
County Constable's Office

Warning Signs in Students

- Sudden changes in friendships, behavior, attitude, or academic performance
- New or increased anxiety, fear, or reluctance to attend school or be around a specific adult
- Rapid weight loss or gain without a medical explanation
- Dressing in unusually provocative or modest clothing
- Sudden interest in makeup or appearance changes
- Withdrawal from family, friends, or usual interests
- Possessing expensive items or unexplained money

Misconduct and Consequences in Key Takeaways

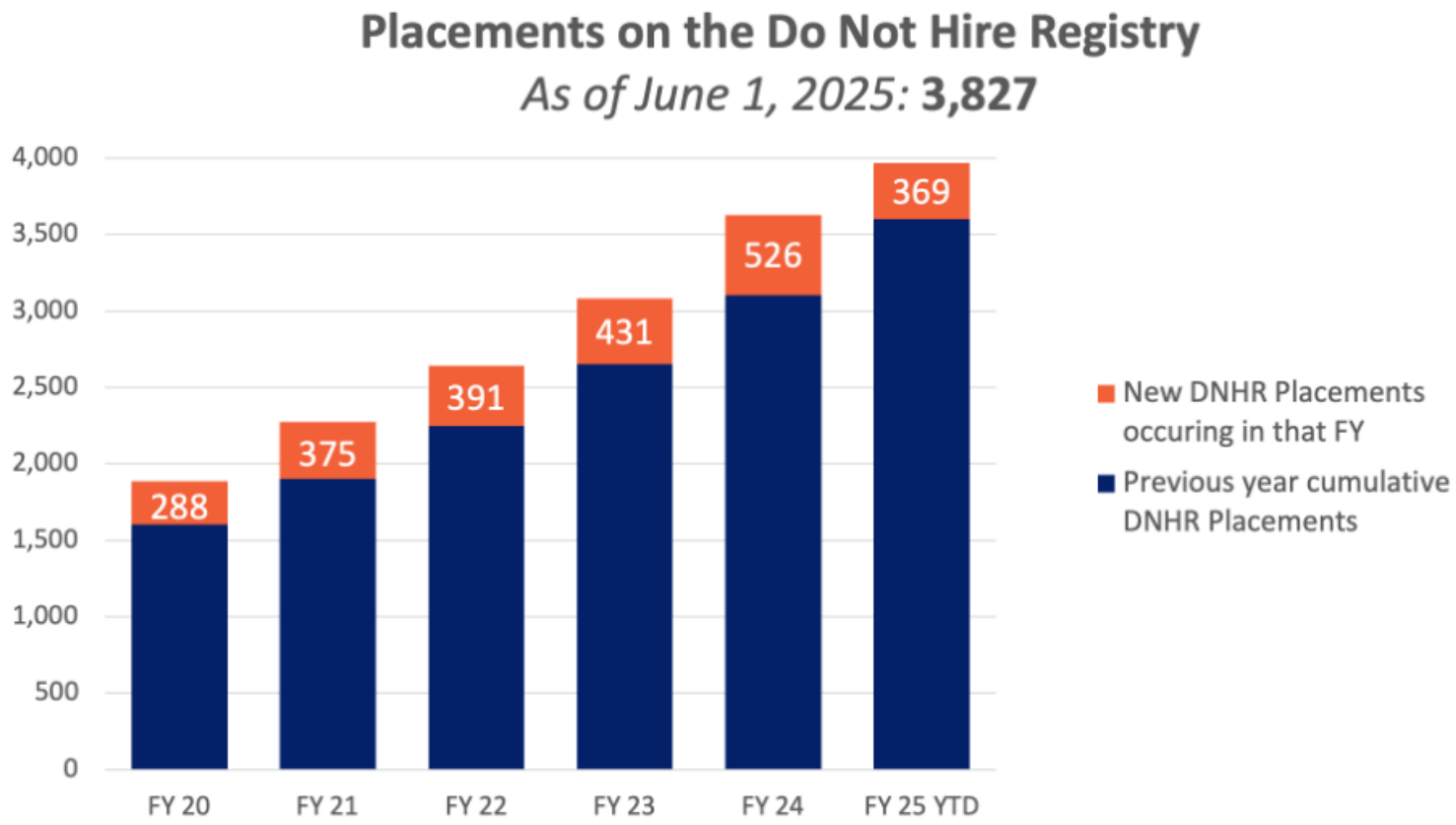
Physical force must never be used in anger or retaliation. Even if a student is disruptive, staff must follow approved de-escalation and discipline procedures

Losing control can end a career. The teacher's actions, though possibly triggered by frustration, crossed a clear line into misconduct

Documentation matters. Video, photos, and witness accounts play a critical role in the investigation and outcome

Ethics and professionalism are non-negotiable. Educators are held to higher standards of conduct, especially in interactions with students

Why this new training?



Time Reporting Change	From seven days to forty-eight hours
Penalties for Non-Reporting	Confinement in jail for 180 days to 2 years A fine of up to $10,000
Consequences	Dissolution of Retirement annuities Loss of certification Addition to the Do Not Hire Registry
Parental Notification	Parents or guardians will receive a district letter with the educator's name and status of employment

Your Duty to Report: What, When and How

Keep in contact with your campus administrator.

Document for yourself specific details.