



**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF TEXAS**

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

**JOHN L. HILL
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

March 28, 1975

The Honorable Sebron B. Williams
Superintendent of Schools
Deer Park Independent School District
203 Ivy Street
Deer Park, Texas 77536

Open Records Decision No. 74
Re: The obligation of a school
district to compile information
requested under the Open Records
Act.

Dear Dr. Williams:

You state that a recent candidate for the school trustee election has asked you to compile and release to her a "list of teachers and the number of children in the high and average high math and reading groups in the elementary schools." In forwarding this request to us pursuant to section 7(a) of the Open Records Act, article 6252-17a, V. T. C. S., you state that, "This information is not a matter of record, it is not in file as such and it will require administrative, teacher and clerical time to obtain same."

Section 3(a) of the Open Records Act provides, in part:

All information collected, assembled, or maintained by governmental bodies pursuant to law or ordinance in connection with the transaction of official business is public information . . .

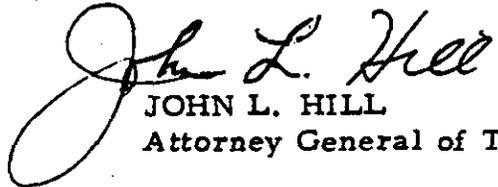
A list of teachers and the number of children in specific classes is information "maintained in connection with the transaction of the official business" of education; therefore the requested information is public information which falls within the purview of section 3(a) of the Open Records Act. We do not find any of the exceptions to section 3(a) applicable to the requested information. Thus, you should release the information to the requestor.

Although you state that the information requested is not on file in an easily accessible form, it is our opinion that the Open Records Act requires that such information be made available to the public. As we stated in Open Records Decision No. 23 (1974):

A request made under the Act must sufficiently identify the information requested and an agency may ask for a clarification if it cannot reasonably understand a particular request. However, once the information sought has been identified and it is determined that it is "public information" subject to disclosure under the Act, there is no provision for denying disclosure because of the volume of information involved.

It is our decision, therefore, that the information requested is public information and should be disclosed. We share your concern about the practical difficulties and costs in making voluminous public information available. As we indicated in Open Records Decision No. 8, November 1, 1973, §§ 9 and 11 of the Act deal with the problems of the costs of providing access to and copies of public information. Subsections (a) and (b) of § 9 delegate the question of costs, at least initially, to the Board of Control and the respective governmental bodies.

Very truly yours,

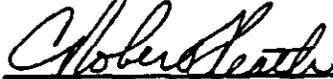


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APPROVED:



DAVID M. KENDALL, First Assistant



C. ROBERT HEATH, Chairman
Opinion Committee