



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

March 20, 2012

Ms. Ylise Janssen
Senior School Law Attorney
Austin Independent School District
1111 West Sixth Street
Austin, Texas 78703

OR2012-04041

Dear Ms. Janssen:

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# 452392.

The Austin Independent School District (the "district") received a request for information pertaining to a named teacher. You state the district has released some of the requested information. 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 protected by other statutes, such as section 21.355 of the Education Code, which provides in part that "[a] document evaluating the performance of a teacher or administrator is confidential." *See* Educ. Code § 21.355(a). This office has interpreted section 21.355 to apply to any document that evaluates, as that term is commonly understood, the performance of a teacher or an administrator. *See* Open Records Decision No. 643 (1996). We have determined that for purposes of section 21.355, the word "teacher" means a person who is required to and does in fact hold a teaching certificate under subchapter B of chapter 21 of the Education Code and who is engaged in the process of teaching, as that term is commonly defined, at the time of the evaluation. *See* ORD 643 at 4.

You state the submitted evaluation pertains to an individual who was employed by the district as a teacher when her performance was evaluated. You also state this individual held the appropriate certification under subchapter B of the Education Code. Based on your representations and our review of the information issue, we find the district must withhold the submitted evaluation under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 21.355 of the Education Code.

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 http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index_orl.php, or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General, toll free at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Tamara H. Holland
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

THH/ag

Ref: ID# 452392

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)