



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

April 11, 2014

Ms. Julie C. Allen
General Counsel
Spring Independent School District
16717 Ella Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77090

OR2014-06056

Dear Ms. Allen:

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# 519640.

The Spring Independent School District (the "district") received a request for the bid submitted by eSPED, Inc. ("eSPED") in response to an RFP for Individualized Education Plan Software Management System, including a scoring sheet. You state you have released some information. Although you take no position with respect to the public availability of the remaining requested information, you state release of this information may implicate the proprietary interests of eSPED.¹ Accordingly, you state and provide documentation showing, you have notified eSPED of the request for information and of its right to submit arguments to this office as to why the requested information should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305 (permitting interested third party to submit to attorney general reasons why requested information should not be released); Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permitted governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception to disclosure under the circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted information.

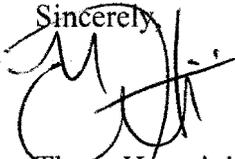
¹Although you raise sections 552.101, 552.104, and 552.110 of the Government Code, you make no arguments to support these exceptions. Therefore, we assume you have withdrawn your claim that these exceptions apply to the submitted information. *See* Gov't Code §§ 552.301, .302.

An interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, we have not received arguments from eSPED. Thus, eSPED has not demonstrated it has a protected proprietary interest in any of the submitted information. *See id.* § 552.110(a)-(b); Open Records Decision Nos. 661 at 5-6 (1999) (to prevent disclosure of commercial or financial information, party must show by specific factual evidence, not conclusory or generalized allegations, that release of requested information would cause that party substantial competitive harm), 552 at 5 (1990) (party must establish *prima facie* case that information is trade secret), 542 at 3. Accordingly, the district may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interests eSPED may have in the information. As no exceptions against disclosure have been raised, the submitted information must be released.

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.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml, 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 may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Thana Hussaini
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

TH/som

Ref: ID# 519640

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Ms. George P. Dhionis
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(w/o enclosures)