



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

October 4, 2016

Ms. Lauren M. Wood  
Counsel for the Rockwall Independent School District  
Abernathy, Roeder, Boyd & Hullett, P.C.  
P.O. Box 1210  
McKinney, Texas 75070-1210

OR2016-22296

Dear Ms. Wood:

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# 628948.

The Rockwall Independent School District (the "district"), which you represent, received a request for information pertaining to a specified settlement agreement. The district states it has redacted student-identifying information pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), section 1232g of title 20 of the United States Code.<sup>1</sup> Although the district takes no position as to whether the submitted information is excepted under the Act, the district informs us release of this information may implicate the privacy interests of an individual. Accordingly, the district states, and provides documentation showing, it notified the individual of the request for information and of her right to submit arguments to this office as to why the information at issue should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.304 (providing that interested party may submit comments stating why information should or

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<sup>1</sup>The United States Department of Education Family Policy Compliance Office (the "DOE") has informed this office FERPA does not permit state and local educational authorities to disclose to this office, without parental or student consent, unredacted, personally identifiable information contained in education records for the purpose of our review in the open records ruling process under the Act. The DOE has determined FERPA determinations must be made by the educational authority in possession of the education records. A copy of this letter may be found on the Office of the Attorney General's website: <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/files/og/20060725usdoe.pdf>.

should not be released). As of the date of this letter, we have not received comments from the individual explaining why the submitted information should not be released. Upon review of the submitted information, we find it must be released to the requestor.

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](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,



Rahat Huq  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

RSH/som

Ref: ID# 628948

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

Third Party  
(w/o enclosures)