

TEA Proposed Rules for Cameras in Classrooms

The Texas Education Agency posted the proposed rules for SB 507, which requires video cameras to be placed in certain special education classrooms. The comment period is from April 8 through May 9, 2016. The earliest effective date is June 16, 2016. School districts may submit comments during the comment period to rules@tea.texas.gov.

As you may recall, the Texas Education Agency submitted a request for an opinion on various components of SB 507 to the Attorney General's Office. Specifically, the Agency requested guidance on the following questions:

1. Can section 29.022(a) reasonably be construed to mean that a request for video surveillance only requires that video surveillance be conducted in one self-contained instructional setting?
2. If your response to question 1 is "no," can the statute reasonably be construed to allow a request or to limit his or her request for video surveillance to one or more specific instructional settings? For example, if a parent's request reflects that the parent only wants video surveillance in his or her child's classroom, would it be permissible for the school district or charter school to only place and operate video cameras in that specific classroom?
3. Can the term "staff member" in section 29.022 reasonably be construed to mean only a campus employee who is assigned to a self-contained instructional setting described in the statute and certain campus employees with supervisory authority, such as a principal and assistant principal?
4. Can section 29.022(b) reasonably be construed to allow a school district or charter school to discontinue video surveillance in a self-contained instructional setting if the circumstances surrounding the request have changed substantially (e.g., the student whose parent requested video surveillance is no longer assigned to the classroom or has left the campus or district, the teacher who requested video surveillance is no longer assigned to the classroom, the term of office of the trustee who requested video surveillance has ended, etc.)?

Potential responses to these questions may impact the final rules adopted by the Agency.

The TEA letter to the Attorney General's Office is attached along with the draft rules.

Associated Downloads

Click the links below to download.



[Chapter 103 1301 - Item - TEC - Proposed](#)

[TAC.pdf](#)



[3-11-16 - Letter to OAG - Ken Paxton.pdf](#)