

From: "Holmes, Melissa" <Melissa.Holmes@tea.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 3:07 PM
To: Sydney Gaitan <sydni.gaitan@gov.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: Media Report from yesterday

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

[REDACTED]

From: Holmes, Melissa
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 3:01 PM
To: Sydney Gaitan <sydni.gaitan@gov.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: Media Report from yesterday

[REDACTED]

From: Sydney Gaitan <sydni.gaitan@gov.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 2:51 PM
To: Holmes, Melissa <Melissa.Holmes@tea.texas.gov>
Subject: Re: Media Report from yesterday

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Thank you! [REDACTED]

Sydni Mitchell Gaitan | Budget and Policy Advisor
Office of Texas Governor Greg Abbott
1100 San Jacinto Blvd. | Austin, Texas 78701
[512.463.1744](tel:512.463.1744) | sydni.gaitan@gov.texas.gov

From: Holmes, Melissa <Melissa.Holmes@tea.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 2:47:40 PM
To: Sydney Gaitan <sydni.gaitan@gov.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: Media Report from yesterday

[WARNING] - The sender of this email could not be validated, and may not match the display name.

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

Haha! Here you go.

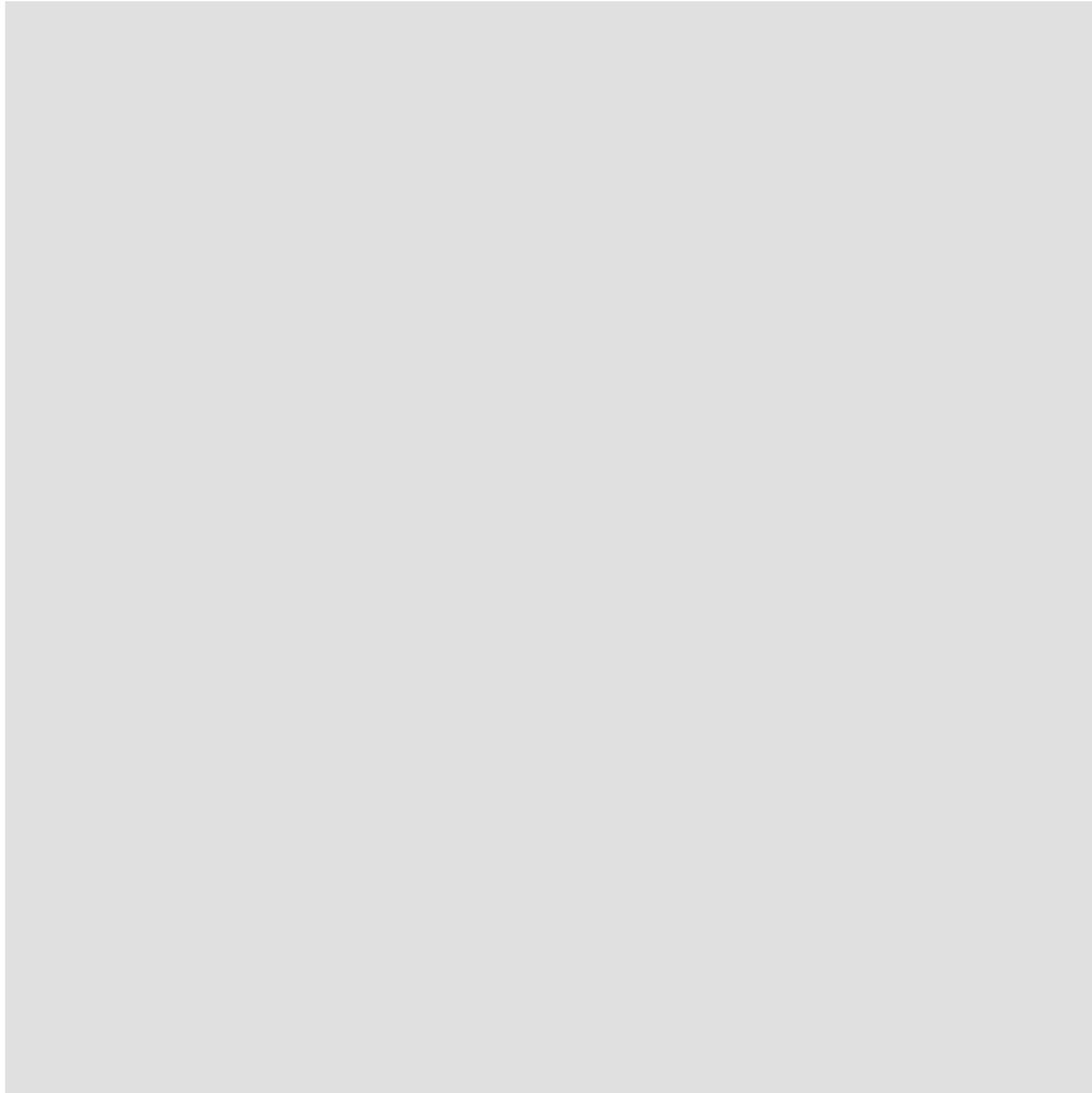
CBS 11 (DFW)

- Date of inquiry: 10.11.22
- Deadline: 10.11.22
- Reporter: Brian New

- Inquiry: KHOU reported on the data from SSP data collection questionnaire for 2021-22 that was required by SB11. <https://www.khou.com/article/news/investigations/greater-houston-school-threat-reports/285-e070cacc-0156-46bc-94b8-48cbae2cf554>

I am wanting to see if you could point me to that data, in particular the data pertaining to North Texas schools districts. I also wanted to know what's defined as a "threat" with these threat reports?

-



KXAN-TV (NBC, Austin)

- Date of inquiry: 10.11.22
- Deadline: 10.12.22
- Reporter: Kelly Wiley
- Inquiry: What date did SBEC receive the report from Round Rock ISD on Jacob L Thomas I?

- [REDACTED]

El Paso Times

- Date of inquiry: 10.11.22
- Deadline: 10.12.22
- Reporter: Julia Lucero
- Inquiry: I was wondering if I could pick someone's brain about school bond issues we might be seeing this upcoming midterm election?

- [REDACTED]
-

Hearst Newspapers / San Antonio Express-News

- Date of inquiry: 10.7.22
- Deadline: 10.13.22
- Reporter: Libby Seline
- Inquiry: Hearst Newspapers is wrapping up its investigation series on restraint/seclusion in schools across the nation. For our Texas story, we have several questions we would like to talk to TEA representatives about.

Data

As you are likely aware, Hearst Newspapers/San Antonio Express-News requested data about restraint in schools. We have some questions about the conclusions we can make from this data.

For instance, each document we received from TEA has a different number of restraint incident totals for every year. As in, one document will say 44,000-some restraints in 2018-19 and another document will say 42,000-some restraints in that school year. Why is that?

Additionally, I'm curious about data with restraints broken down by disability. To my understanding, TEA data technically only reflects restraints among students with disabilities. But there are categories that suggest the student didn't have a disability. So, is it possible to say that [percentage] of restraints were among students without disabilities?

I also noticed there's a downward trend in the number of restraints. Is that due to the pandemic? How many students learned remotely during the 20-21 school year? What percentage of those students had a disability?

I have some more questions, but those are some of the big ones in regard to the data.

Policy

I certainly do not envy the jobs of teachers across the nation. Staffing shortages and remote learning certainly provided challenges for educators who are trying to do the best for their children.

I'm interested to know TEA's goals for the school year — especially in terms of helping special need students. What challenges does TEA face when attempting to meet these goals?

Regarding restraint, I understand the restraint training was delayed due to the pandemic. How has that changed in recent months? Also, what does training entail?

I also have some questions about the data review. I know TEA will conduct desk reviews on certain LEAs every year. How often would one school district be reviewed? What other questions are asked during a desk review? Regarding restraints, what were the findings of desk reviews? Were schools mostly following protocol?

-

[REDACTED]

--

Q. I'm curious about data with restraints broken down by disability. To my understanding, TEA data technically only reflects restraints among students with disabilities. But there are categories that suggest the student didn't have a disability. So, is it possible to say that [percentage] of restraints were among students without disabilities? [REDACTED]

Q. I also noticed there's a downward trend in the number of restraints. Is that due to the pandemic? How many students learned remotely during the 20-21 school year? What percentage of those students had a disability? [REDACTED]

Policy

Q. I certainly do not envy the jobs of teachers across the nation. Staffing shortages and remote learning certainly provided challenges for educators who are trying to do the best for their children.

I'm interested to know TEA's goals for the school year — especially in terms of helping special need students. What challenges does TEA face when attempting to meet these goals?

[REDACTED]

Q. Regarding restraint, I understand the restraint training was delayed due to the pandemic. How has that changed in recent months? Also, what does training entail?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Q. I also have some questions about the data review. I know TEA will conduct desk reviews on certain LEAs every year. How often would one school district be reviewed?

[REDACTED]

Q. What other questions are asked during a desk review? Regarding restraints, what were the findings of desk reviews? Were schools mostly following? [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Corpus Christi Caller Times

- Date of inquiry: 10.12.22
- Deadline: 10.13.22
- Reporter: Olivia Garrett
- Inquiry: I am reaching out because I was hoping to learn more about the TEA principal residency grant program. On a broad scale, I was hoping someone might be able to give some context about the principal residency program -- I was wondering whether it developed out of a concern about a shortage of principals and school leaders, if it was focused more on supporting school districts and better preparing future school leaders to meet specific local needs, or if there is some other driving goal behind the grant program.

I understand that the grant program has gone through several funding cycles now. Are there any figures related to how many school districts have taken advantage of the program or how many principals have earned degrees through the program?

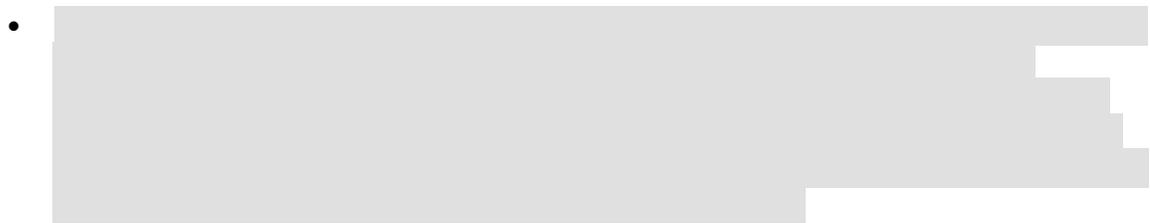
Specifically looking at the sixth funding cycle, do you know how many school districts might be able to participate/how many individuals might participate in residencies?

- [REDACTED]



Bloomberg News

- Date of inquiry: 10.12.22
- Deadline: 10.13.22
- Reporter: Shelly Hagan
- Inquiry: I am doing some research on where migrant children go to school in Texas. I'm looking to learn more about the Texas Migrant Education Program. Could I please speak to someone at TEA who could provide some background info on the program?



KRGV-TV (ABC, RGV)

- Date of inquiry: 10.3.22
- Deadline: 10.14.22

- Reporter: Stefany Rosales
- Inquiry: I came across your news release about your Teacher Incentive Allotment. It seems you're recognizing certain teachers for their performances. Was wondering if you can help me understand who this is for? Which teachers and if any of them are location in the Region One school district? If so, how can I figure that out?

- [REDACTED]

Houston Chronicle

- Date of inquiry: 10.14.22
- Deadline: 10.14.22
- Reporter: Hannah Dellinger
- Inquiry: I am reaching out to confirm that TEA is distributing inkless finger print and DNA kits to all Texas public school districts for K-8 students to opt to take home this school year.

If so, when did TEA been distributing these kits? What is there intended purpose?

- [REDACTED]

From: Sydni Gaitan <sydni.gaitan@gov.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 2:43 PM
To: Holmes, Melissa <Melissa.Holmes@tea.texas.gov>
Subject: Re: Media Report from yesterday

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

O yes last Friday haha. I saw it yesterday haha. Thanks!

Sydni Mitchell Gaitan | Budget and Policy Advisor
Office of Texas Governor Greg Abbott
1100 San Jacinto Blvd. | Austin, Texas 78701
[512.463.1744](tel:512.463.1744) | sydni.gaitan@gov.texas.gov

From: Holmes, Melissa <Melissa.Holmes@tea.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 2:33:29 PM
To: Sydni Gaitan <sydni.gaitan@gov.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: Media Report from yesterday

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

Hey Sydni!

I didn't send one yesterday, but I will get one out this evening. The last one was from Friday; let me know if you need it.

Thanks,

Melissa

--



Melissa Holmes

Senior Media Relations Coordinator



(512) 463-9558



Melissa.Holmes@TEA.Texas.gov



TEA.Texas.gov

From: Sydni Gaitan <sydni.gaitan@gov.texas.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 2:29 PM

To: Holmes, Melissa <Melissa.Holmes@tea.texas.gov>

Subject: Media Report from yesterday

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hey,

Somehow I deleted the report you sent out yesterday. Can you please resend?

Thanks!

Sydni Mitchell Gaitan | Budget and Policy Advisor

Office of Texas Governor Greg Abbott

1100 San Jacinto Blvd. | Austin, Texas 78701

[512.463.1744](tel:512.463.1744) | sydni.gaitan@gov.texas.gov

From: Sydni Gaitan <sydni.gaitan@gov.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 4:36 PM
To: Luis Saenz <luis.saenz@gov.texas.gov>; Renae Eze <Renae.Eze@gov.texas.gov>; Sarah Hicks <sarah.hicks@gov.texas.gov>; Michael Hull <Michael.Hull@gov.texas.gov>
Subject: Re: DNA Kits

Sydni Mitchell Gaitan | Budget and Policy Advisor
Office of Texas Governor Greg Abbott
1100 San Jacinto Blvd. | Austin, Texas 78701
[512.463.1744](tel:512.463.1744) | sydni.gaitan@gov.texas.gov

From: Luis Saenz <luis.saenz@gov.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 4:33:24 PM
To: Sydni Gaitan <sydni.gaitan@gov.texas.gov>; Renae Eze <Renae.Eze@gov.texas.gov>; Sarah Hicks <sarah.hicks@gov.texas.gov>; Michael Hull <Michael.Hull@gov.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: DNA Kits

Luis J. Saenz
Chief of Staff
Office of Governor Greg Abbott

From: Sydni Gaitan <sydni.gaitan@gov.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 4:01 PM
To: Renae Eze <Renae.Eze@gov.texas.gov>; Luis Saenz <luis.saenz@gov.texas.gov>; Sarah Hicks <sarah.hicks@gov.texas.gov>; Michael Hull <Michael.Hull@gov.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: DNA Kits

Sydni Mitchell Gaitan | Budget and Policy Advisor
Office of Texas Governor Greg Abbott
1100 San Jacinto Blvd. | Austin, Texas 78701
[512.463.1744](tel:512.463.1744) | sydni.gaitan@gov.texas.gov

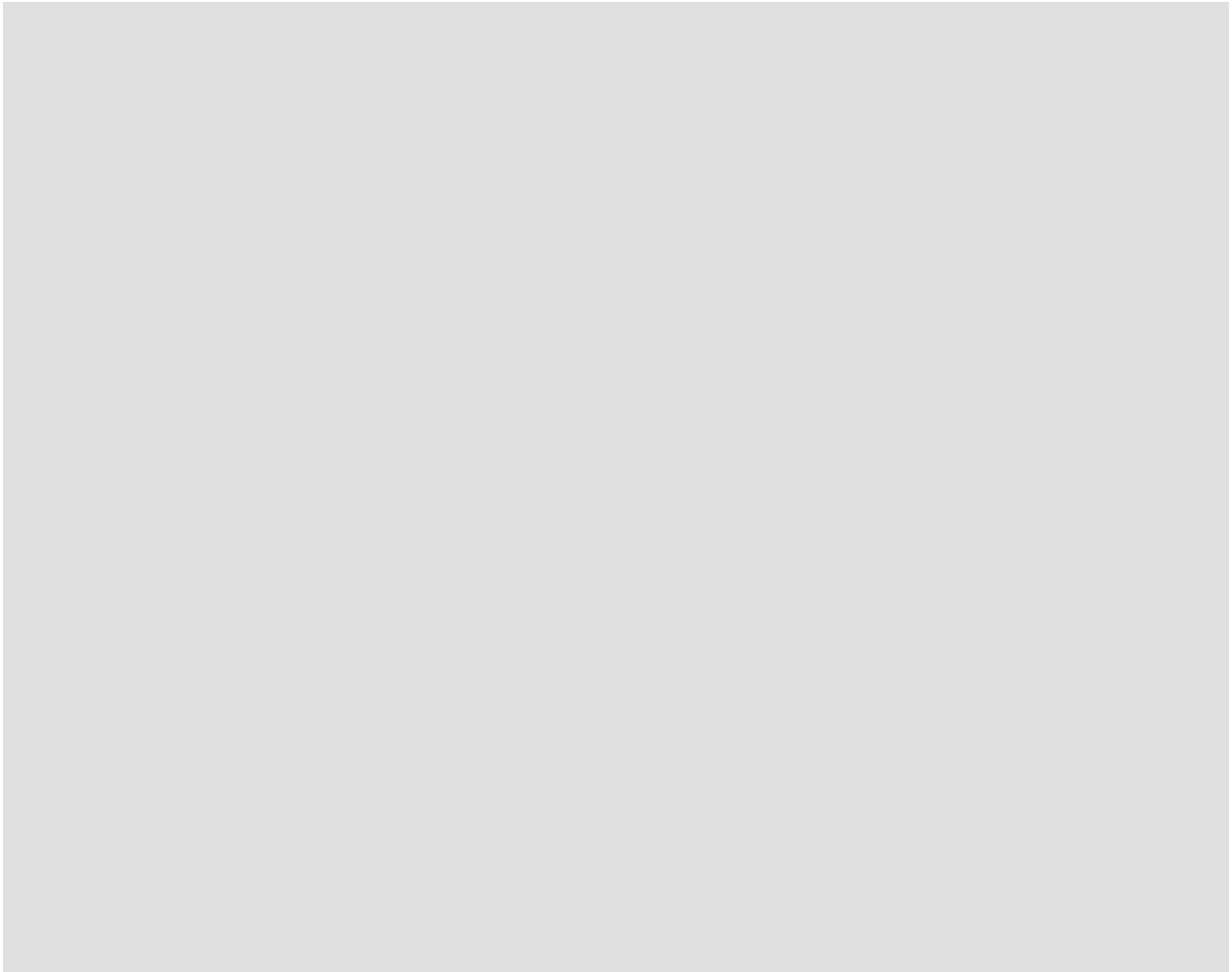
From: Renae Eze <Renae.Eze@gov.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 4:00 PM
To: Sydni Gaitan <sydni.gaitan@gov.texas.gov>; Luis Saenz <luis.saenz@gov.texas.gov>; Sarah Hicks <sarah.hicks@gov.texas.gov>; Michael Hull <Michael.Hull@gov.texas.gov>
Subject: Re: DNA Kits

From: Sydni Gaitan <sydni.gaitan@gov.texas.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 3:10:02 PM

To: Luis Saenz <luis.saenz@gov.texas.gov>; Renae Eze <Renae.Eze@gov.texas.gov>; Sarah Hicks <sarah.hicks@gov.texas.gov>; Michael Hull <Michael.Hull@gov.texas.gov>

Subject: Re: DNA Kits



Sydni Mitchell Gaitan | Budget and Policy Advisor
Office of Texas Governor Greg Abbott
1100 San Jacinto Blvd. | Austin, Texas 78701
[512.463.1744](tel:512.463.1744) | sydni.gaitan@gov.texas.gov

From: Luis Saenz <luis.saenz@gov.texas.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 2:14:51 PM

To: Renae Eze <Renae.Eze@gov.texas.gov>; Sarah Hicks <sarah.hicks@gov.texas.gov>; Michael Hull <Michael.Hull@gov.texas.gov>; Sydni Gaitan <sydni.gaitan@gov.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: DNA Kits

[REDACTED]

Luis J. Saenz
Chief of Staff
Office of Governor Greg Abbott

From: Renae Eze <Renae.Eze@gov.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 2:04 PM
To: Luis Saenz <luis.saenz@gov.texas.gov>; Sarah Hicks <sarah.hicks@gov.texas.gov>; Michael Hull <Michael.Hull@gov.texas.gov>; Sydni Gaitan <sydni.gaitan@gov.texas.gov>
Subject: FW: DNA Kits

FYI, [REDACTED]

From: Abbott Press Office <abbottpressoffice@gov.texas.gov>
Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 2:00 PM
To: Sheridan Nolen <Sheridan.Nolen@gov.texas.gov>, Kimberly Carmichael <Kimberly.Carmichael@gov.texas.gov>, Renae Eze <Renae.Eze@gov.texas.gov>, Haley Crow <Haley.Crow@gov.texas.gov>
Subject: NBC: DNA Kits

NBC Today (Danielle Campoamor):

- **Request:** comment on DNA kits sent in Texas

From: Campoamor, Danielle (NBCUniversal) <Danielle.Campoamor@nbcuni.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 1:54 PM
To: Abbott Press Office <abbottpressoffice@gov.texas.gov>
Subject: REQUEST FOR COMMENT

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

Hello,

My name is Danielle Campoamor, a reporter with NBC and the TODAY Show. Reaching out as I am covering the DNA kits sent to parents in Texas in order to help identify their child in the event of another school shooting via the state and the Texas Education Agency.

I am speaking to Texas parents who are willing and able to share their reaction to the kits and have a request for comment out to the Texas Education Agency, but I also wanted to ask Gov. Abbott for any comment he may have regarding the kits, why they are being sent to families and what kind of message he thinks the kits give parents and children living in Texas.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Campoamor, Danielle (NBCUniversal)
Reporter, TODAY.com | TODAY Parents
Danielle.Campoamor@nbcuni.com
Twitter: @DCampoamor
Instagram: @daniellecampoamor

From: "Holmes, Melissa" <Melissa.Holmes@tea.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 5:30 PM
To: "Holmes, Melissa" <Melissa.Holmes@tea.texas.gov>
Subject: Media Contact Report (10.17-10.18.22)

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

TEA Media Relations fielded the following media contacts. Please let us know if you have any questions or need additional information on any specific inquiry.

KERA News

- Date of inquiry: 10.17.22
- Deadline: 10.17.22
- Reporter: Bill Zeeble
- Inquiry: Does the TEA track the number of school districts using 4-day school weeks? If so, how many are now using a 4-day school week calendar?

- [REDACTED]

KXAN-TV (NBC, Austin)

- Date of inquiry: 10.17.22
- Deadline: 10.17.22
- Reporter: Kelly Wiley
- Inquiry: In regard to the open investigation into Mr. Thomas, I wanted to clarify – is the investigation at all related to the April 29 incident at Goals?

- [REDACTED]

Multiple Outlets

- Date of inquiry: 10.18.22
- Deadline: 10.18.22
- Reporter: Multiple Reporters
- Inquiry: I wanted to reach out to y'all regarding a story I am working on today. On 4/29/22 an incident occurred at GOALS Learning Center in Round Rock between Assistant Principal Jacob Thomas and a student. Video shows Thomas threw the student into a wall and the school claims the student was defiant. My question is TEA looking into this situation or have y'all already? What information can you provide me on this?

- [REDACTED]

Hardin County Examiner

- Date of inquiry: 10.17.22
- Deadline: 10.18.22
- Reporter: Dannie Oliveaux
- Inquiry: We are doing a story on a teacher who was indicted in Hardin County. We would like to know if TEA has any data on the number of incidents in the past several years.

- [REDACTED]

KTRK-TV (ABC, Houston)

- Date of inquiry: 10.18.22
- Deadline: 10.18.22
- Reporter: Mycah Hatfield
- Inquiry: We are working on a story today about a former Katy ISD teacher Heather Maguire. She previously worked in early childhood special education at Robert King Elementary. It is my understanding she was terminated from the school earlier this year.

I looked under the teacher certification look up and found a Heather Eleanor Maguire with a suspended certification. I wanted to verify if that was the same person and also see if you could give me any information on why her license was suspended.

- [REDACTED]

Multiple Outlets

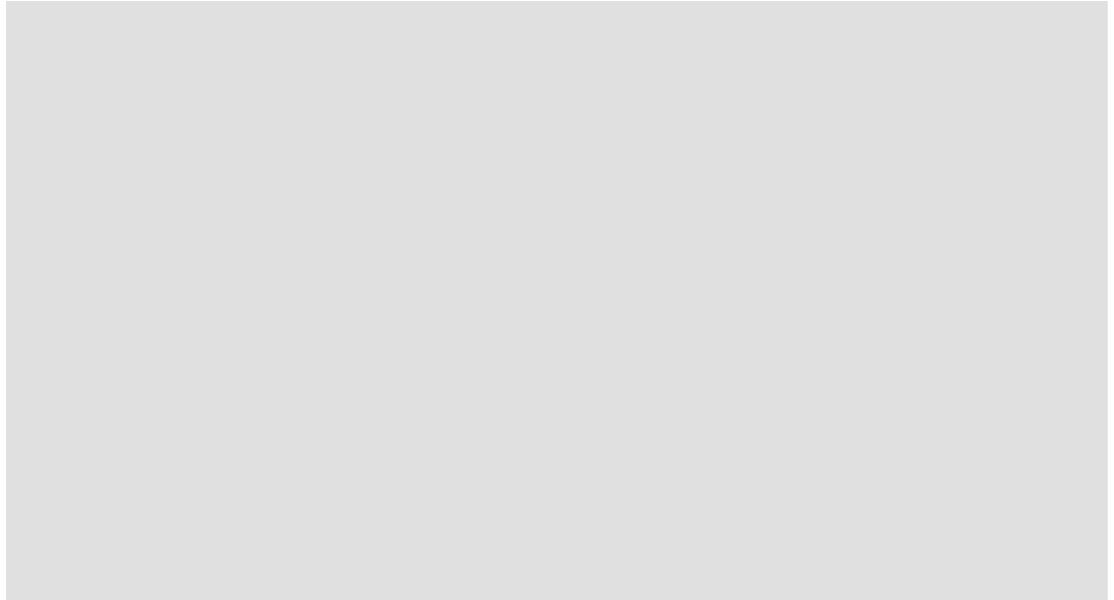
- Date of inquiry: 10.17.22
- Deadline: 10.17.22
- Reporter: Multiple Reporters
- Inquiry: I am seeking confirmation that schools within the Texas district are now circulating DNA test kits.

Can a representative confirm what exactly the kits will be used for and how many schools will receive them?

Can a representative also provide information on how the test kits will work and which age groups are being targeted.

Did the Uvalde shooting earlier this year play a part in accelerating distribution of kits or was this planned already?

Any comment you have regarding this decision and plans for distribution would be appreciated.



From: Renae Eze <Renae.Eze@gov.texas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2022, 3:15 PM
To: Luis Saenz <luis.saenz@gov.texas.gov>; Sarah Hicks <sarah.hicks@gov.texas.gov>; Sydni Gaitan <sydni.gaitan@gov.texas.gov>; Michael Hull <Michael.Hull@gov.texas.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Revised statement

FYI, [REDACTED]

From: Kobersky, Jacob <Jacob.Kobersky@tea.texas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 3:07 PM
To: Renae Eze <Renae.Eze@gov.texas.gov>
Cc: Young, Tracy <Tracy.Young@tea.texas.gov>; Holmes, Melissa <Melissa.Holmes@tea.texas.gov>
Subject: Revised statement

[EXTERNAL SENDER] - Do not click on links or open attachments in unexpected messages.

Hi Renae,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks,
Jake



Jake Kobersky

Media Relations



512.673.0339



jacob.kobersky@tea.texas.gov



tea.texas.gov