



VAN ALSTYNE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. David Brown, Superintendent

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GOOD CAUSE EXCEPTION

WHEREAS, Section 37.0814 of the Texas Education Code requires the board of trustees of each school district shall determine the appropriate number of armed security officers for each district campus;

WHEREAS, Section 37.0814(a) of the Texas Education Code requires the board to ensure that at least one-armed security officer is present during regular school hours at each district campus;

WHEREAS, Section 37.0814(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that at least one-armed security officer at each campus be a commissioned peace officer, namely a school district peace officer; a school resource officer; or a commissioned peace officer employed as security personnel under Section 37.081 of the Texas Education Code;

WHEREAS, Section 37.0814(c) of the Texas Education Code provides that if the board of trustees of a school district is unable to comply with this section, the board may claim a good cause exception if the district's noncompliance is due to the availability of funding or qualified personnel;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Van Alstyne Independent School District hereby determines that the School District is unable to ensure that at least one-armed security officer, as defined by law, is present at all times during regular school hours at each district campus;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees determines that:

The district's noncompliance is due to a lack of available funding. In 2022, the Van Alstyne ISD Board of Trustees committed to the creation of a school district police department with the intent of assigning at least one officer per campus. As of the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year, the Van Alstyne ISD Police Department has grown to a total of seven (7) officers, allowing for at least one officer to be permanently assigned to each of the six (6) instructional campuses. As officers may be required to attend in-service training, make court appearances, respond to calls off-campus, or take personal leave during "regular school hours", additional officers are needed in order to provide adequate coverage at all times at all campuses. Due to the lack of additional funding by the State of Texas for school safety and security combined with the rapid growth within the district and the need to hire



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additional instructional staff and other personnel, the district is unable to hire the additional officers at this time.

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees, having claimed a good cause exception, will develop and document an alternative standard with which the district is able to comply, in accordance with Sections 37.0814(d) and (e) of the Texas Education Code.

The alternate standard adopted will be to have the current number of officers (7) permanently assigned to each of the six (6) instructional campuses. The Van Alstyne ISD will also maintain a district-wide Guardian program in accordance with Sections 37.0814(d)(2) and 37.089(a) of the Texas Education Code and strive to have at least one-armed person present on each campus during regular school hours. The Guardians and Police Officers will be allowed to leave the campus as necessary for school business, law enforcement functions, training, and any other reason deemed necessary. The Board of Trustees will, as funding and growth allows, seek to hire additional officers in order to ensure an appropriate amount of staffing on each instructional campus at all times during regular school hours.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, _____, by the Board of Trustees.
(date) (month) (year)

Presiding officer's signature: _____

Secretary's signature: _____