



Smithville ISD Good Cause Exception Pursuant to Texas Education Code §37.081 2026-2027

Adopted by the Smithville ISD Board of Trustees
Date of Adoption:

1. Background

Texas Education Code §37.081 mandates that each campus in a school district have at least one armed security officer present during regular school hours. Acceptable personnel include:

- School district police officers,
- School resource officers, or
- Commissioned peace officers employed as security personnel.

If a school district is unable to meet this requirement due to unavailability of qualified personnel or insufficient funding, the Board of Trustees may adopt a Good Cause Exception and implement an alternative standard to ensure school safety.

2. Good Cause Exception Justification

Smithville ISD, after diligent efforts, is currently **unable to ensure** that each district campus is staffed with a full-time armed security officer as defined in TEC §37.081 due to:

- **Personnel Availability:** A shortage of commissioned peace officers or certified school resource officers willing and available to serve in our geographic area.
- **Funding Constraints:** Budgetary limitations prevent the district from hiring a sufficient number of qualified armed officers under current market rates and contractual requirements.

3. Alternative Standard Implementation

In accordance with the Texas Education Code, Smithville ISD has adopted the following alternative standard to meet safety obligations on campuses where a commissioned peace officer is not present during school hours:

At two SISD campuses a good cause exception is not needed, as a commissioned police officer employed by the Smithville Police Department is present during school hours. Smithville ISD has contracted with Public Safety & Security, TXPS, a licensed private security company, to provide security personnel at two campuses. In addition, the district has implemented the following measures at campuses where a full-time armed officer is not available:

- School Safety Personnel who meet the following criteria:
 - Employed by the district or under contract with the district,

- Have completed school safety training provided by a qualified handgun instructor certified under Texas Government Code §411.1901,
- Are authorized in writing by the district to carry a handgun on school premises in accordance with Texas Penal Code §46.03(a)(1)(A).

These personnel are designated to act as armed security officers under this Good Cause Exception.

4. Written Authorization & Safety Protocols

Smithville ISD has developed and maintains:

- Written authorization for each individual permitted to carry a handgun on school property,
- Record of school safety training certifications, and
- A formal agreement with Public Safety & Security, TXPS outlining scope of services, personnel qualifications, and compliance with state law.

5. Documentation and Compliance

In compliance with TEC §37.081:

- Smithville ISD maintains detailed records of efforts to hire qualified officers,
- Documentation of budget constraints and market rate evaluations,
- Certification and training records for each person acting under the alternative standard,
- Contracts with TXPS and any other external personnel,
- Records of Board adoption of this Good Cause Exception.

This documentation is available for review and will be provided to the Texas Education Agency upon request in the manner prescribed.

6. Review and Updates

This Good Cause Exception will be **reviewed annually** by the Board of Trustees to determine whether conditions have changed such that compliance with the original statutory requirement can be met. If so, Smithville ISD will transition accordingly.

Approved by the Smithville ISD Board of Trustees on _____

Board President

Superintendent