

Consider Approval of House Bill 3 Resolution
August 22, 2023

SUMMARY:

The 88th Texas Legislative Session included the passage of House Bill 3 (“HB 3”). HB 3 amended Section 37.0814 of the Texas Education Code, which now requires an armed security officer on each district campus. Currently, Denton ISD uses School Resource Officers (“SROs”) in all secondary schools and some of the elementary schools. The District has Interlocal Agreements in place with several local municipalities allowing on-duty Police Officers to be placed in schools as SROs. Denton ISD is currently working to grow the number of district armed personnel to meet the state requirements. However, as is happening statewide, there is a shortage of law enforcement personnel along with public education funds to employ them. The District has determined that a good cause exemption is necessary in order to develop an alternative standard in accordance with Sections 37.0814(d) and (e) of the Texas Education Code.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

None

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

Action is necessary as House Bill 3 will be in effect on September 1, 2023.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

To allow the Board to ensure that safety and security standards are aligned with Texas Education Code.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

The Superintendent will continuously evaluate the safety and security structures of Denton ISD and take appropriate action to ensure the safety and well-being of all Denton ISD students and staff. Additionally, the Superintendent will provide periodic updates to the Board regarding these measures.

ALTERNATIVES:

None at this time.

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends approval of the resolution to declare good cause exception for the House Bill 3 armed security officer requirement in accordance with Sections 37.0814(d) and (e) of the Texas Education Code.

PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

James K. Wilson III, Superintendent
Jeff Russell, Area Superintendent
Deron Robinson, General Counsel

ATTACHMENT:

Resolution to Declare Good Cause Exemption for the HB 3 Armed Security Officer Requirement