

**RESOLUTION TO DECLARE A GOOD CAUSE EXCEPTION FOR THE
HOUSE BILL 3 ARMED SECURITY OFFICER REQUIREMENT**

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 peace 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 and provide, at each campus, a school district peace officer, a school resource officer, or a commissioned peace officer employed as security personnel, the board may claim a good cause exception if the district's noncompliance is due to the availability of funding or qualified personnel;

WHEREAS, when the Texas Legislature established the requirement for armed peace officers at each campus, the Legislature did not provide funds to employ these armed peace officers and established an unfunded mandate, despite the State's historic budget surplus. This unfunded mandate goes into effect after years of inadequate appropriations for public education and further tax compression, both of which have reduced the District's available revenue and will continue to do so into the foreseeable future;

WHEREAS, when the Texas Legislature established the requirement for armed security officers at each campus, the Legislature did not take into account the shortage of peace officers statewide, as the majority of local law enforcement agencies have peace officer vacancies which remain unfilled or are otherwise understaffed;

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature has established an unfunded mandate that takes money out of the classrooms while creating an impractical standard due to a severe shortage of law enforcement officers both statewide and regionally.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Denton Independent School District ("District") hereby determines that the District is unable to ensure that at least one armed security officer, as defined by law, is present during all 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 qualified personnel and a lack of available funding. Denton ISD has schools in 18 different local governments, and each law enforcement unit is currently understaffed and will have difficulty providing additional officers to Denton ISD.

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Denton ISD Board of Trustees, having claimed a good cause exception, and develops the following alternative standards in accordance with Sections 37.0814(d) and (e) of the Texas Education Code:

1. Denton ISD will strive to have at least one armed school district peace officer, school recourse officer, or commissioned peace officer at every campus to the extent possible given current law enforcement staffing availability and budgetary availability.
2. Denton ISD will maintain at least one armed school district peace officer, school recourse officer, commissioned peace officer, or school security officer for every two campuses.
3. At least one school resource officer shall be assigned to each secondary campus.
4. Denton ISD will hire school security officers to be assigned to elementary schools.
5. Each school resource officer assigned to each Denton ISD Middle School shall serve any elementary school located within a geographic radius to be determined by the Superintendent in collaboration with the applicable law enforcement partner agency.
6. All additional available school recourse officers shall be assigned to “Rover” positions to provide security to all other elementary schools, and coverage during absence of school resource officers or school security officers on a schedule developed by the Superintendent in collaboration with the applicable law enforcement partner agency.
7. The Superintendent shall seek additional school resource officers from applicable law enforcement agency partners whenever possible.
8. The Superintendent shall 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.
9. The Superintendent shall provide periodic updates to the Board regarding safety and security measures.

Adopted on August 22, 2023, by the Denton ISD Board of Trustees.

Mia Price
President, Board of Trustees

Dr. Patricia Sosa-Sanchez
Secretary, Board of Trustees