



NEWS

Texas
Education
Agency

1701 NORTH CONGRESS AVENUE

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-1494

(512) 463-9000

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/comm/page1.html>

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TEA to host media briefing on fingerprinting/criminal history background checks

AUSTIN – Starting in January, the state will begin fingerprinting or conducting criminal history background checks on about 1 million certified and non-certified Texas school district employees over the next four years.

Senate Bill 9, passed by the 80th Texas Legislature, directed the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) to create rules that would in part establish a deadline for a certified educator to submit fingerprints in compliance with the law and provide sanctions for failure to do so.

The SBEC rules, which are now effective, state that a certified educator's national criminal history record must be received by the Texas Education Agency staff within 80 days after receiving a notice to submit fingerprints in compliance with SB9. Failure to do so would result in the individual's certificate being placed on inactive status, causing the person to become ineligible for employment in a Texas public school in a position that requires educator certification.

The Texas Education Agency will host a briefing for reporters on these new SB9 requirements at 10 a.m. Wednesday in room 1-100 of the William B. Travis State Office Building. Materials and information will be provided to help reporters cover this story when school employees in their local community go through the fingerprinting and background check process.

The Travis Building is located at 1701 N. Congress Ave., just a few blocks north of the Texas Capitol. Parking will be available on the top level of State Parking Garage R, located at the intersection of Brazos and 17th streets.