

August 16, 2023

**Via Electronic Filing**

The Honorable Ken Paxton  
Attorney General of the State of Texas  
Open Records Division  
Capitol Station  
P.O. Box 12548  
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

**Re: Ten day letter request for an open records ruling concerning a Texas Public Information Act request received on August 2, 2023 (Koebler MN072823)**

Dear Attorney General Paxton:

On behalf of the Houston Independent School District (“HISD” or “District”), I respectfully request your opinion pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act, Chapter 552 et seq. of the Texas Government Code (“TPIA”), regarding the disclosure of information requested in the enclosed request.

The request was initially submitted by email on July 28, 2023. *See* Enclosures. Pursuant to TEX. GOV'T CODE § 552.222(b), the District timely requested clarification concerning the request on August 1, 2023. *Id.* When a governmental entity, acting in good faith, requests clarification or narrowing of an unclear or over-broad request, the ten business-day period to request an attorney general ruling is measured from the date the request is clarified or narrowed. *City of Dallas v. Abbott*, 304 S.W.3d 380, 387 (Tex. 2010). The requestor provided clarification by email on August 2, 2023. *See* Enclosures. By my signature below, I certify that the enclosed request for information was received by the District on August 2, 2023. Accordingly, the tenth business day following the District's receipt of the request is August 16, 2023. Therefore, this request for a ruling is timely as I have electronically filed it today.

The District believes the responsive information contains confidential information and/or information that may be excepted from disclosure under the TPIA. Accordingly, the District requests an Attorney General decision on this matter in accordance with section 552.301(b) of the TPIA. The District believes the responsive information must be withheld from disclosure pursuant to Sections 552.022 and 552.101 through Sections 552.154 of the TPIA. The District claims all exceptions under the TPIA including, but not limited to, the following exceptions:

- TEX. GOV'T CODE § 552.101: Confidential Information
- TEX. GOV'T CODE § 552.107: Certain Legal Matters
- TEX. GOV'T CODE § 552.111: Agency Memoranda

By the 15th business day deadline, HISD will provide your office with the following: (1) a copy of the information and/or copies of representative samples of the information responsive to the requests that HISD asserts should be excepted from disclosure; and (2) all necessary briefing of the issues.

*Attorney General Ken Paxton*

*August 16, 2023*

*Page 2*

By copy of this letter, we are advising the Requestor of the District's position with respect to this matter. Please call me at (713) 556-7084 should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katheryne Ellison". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Katheryne Ellison  
Assistant General Counsel

**Enclosure: Request for Information and subsequent communications with the Requestor**

*Cc: Requestor, via email*

**From:** [149926-58931022@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:149926-58931022@requests.muckrock.com)  
**To:** [Public Information](#)  
**Subject:** Texas Public Information Act Request: HISD Libraries (Houston Independent School District)  
**Date:** Friday, July 28, 2023 7:25:20 AM

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Houston Independent School District  
Texas Public Information Act Office  
4400 West 18th Street  
Houston, TX 77092-8501

July 28, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act, I hereby request the following records:

Recent news articles show HISD is eliminating 28 libraries and turning them into "Team Centers": <https://www.click2houston.com/news/local/2023/07/26/hisd-to-eliminate-librarians-turn-libraries-into-discipline-centers-at-28-campus/>

Therefore, I request the following:

- Any emails (including attachments), memos, presentations, complaints, proposals, budgets, staffing plans, meeting notes or recordings, photos, or videos about or mentioning the plan to convert libraries into "Team Centers." Please specifically search for "Team Centers," but also include responsive records about Team Centers even if that name is not specifically used.

Please search from Jan 1, 2023 through the time this request is processed.

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 10 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Jason Koebler

View request history, upload responsive documents, and report problems here:

[https://accounts.muckrock.com/accounts/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.muckrock.com%2Faccounts%2Flogin%2F%3Fnext%3D%252Faccounts%252Fagency\\_login%252Fhouston-independent-school-district-5046%252Fhisd-libraries-houston-independent-school-district-149926%252F%253Femail%253Dpublicinformation%252540houstonisd.org&url\\_auth\\_token=AABOOxiPZkILXNnPMdGfArQT\\_Yw%3A1qPMW%3AvhXGmkRIKaje9qWS3EU60IM02ojLmdEpT3S5kxIjQU](https://accounts.muckrock.com/accounts/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.muckrock.com%2Faccounts%2Flogin%2F%3Fnext%3D%252Faccounts%252Fagency_login%252Fhouston-independent-school-district-5046%252Fhisd-libraries-houston-independent-school-district-149926%252F%253Femail%253Dpublicinformation%252540houstonisd.org&url_auth_token=AABOOxiPZkILXNnPMdGfArQT_Yw%3A1qPMW%3AvhXGmkRIKaje9qWS3EU60IM02ojLmdEpT3S5kxIjQU)

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DEPT MR 149926  
263 Huntington Ave  
Boston, MA 02115

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**From:** [Ellison, Katheryne R](#)  
**To:** [149926-58931022@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:149926-58931022@requests.muckrock.com); [PublicInformation](#)  
**Subject:** August 1, 2023 Request for Clarification (Koebler MN072823)  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 1, 2023 10:44:00 AM

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Good morning,

Pursuant to TEX. GOV'T. CODE § 552.222(b), the District requires clarification and/or narrowing of your below open records request.

HISD is requesting the following information so that a search for documents may be conducted:

- For emails of HISD employees and officials, please provide the names of the HISD employees or officials whose emails are being requested.
- Specific search terms/key words to include in the search for emails.

Pursuant to §552.222(d) and (e) of the Government Code the District is required to provide you, the requestor, with the following information: Your below request will be considered withdrawn by you, the requestor, if HISD does not receive a written response from you by the 61st day after the date this request for clarification was sent by HISD.

Your response to this request for clarification may be made by email, fax, or , regular address. Contact information is as follows:

By email:	<a href="mailto:kelliso1@houstonisd.org">kelliso1@houstonisd.org</a>
By Fax:	713-556-6061
By mail:	4400 West 18 <sup>th</sup> Street Public Information-Box 99 Houston, TX 77092

Please note that when a governmental entity, acting in good faith, requests clarification and/or narrowing of an unclear or overbroad request for public information, the deadlines under the Act are measured from the date the request is clarified and/or narrowed. Finally, depending on the nature of your clarified and/or narrowed request for information, the District may be required to send you a cost estimate for charges associated with your clarified and/or narrowed request or seek an opinion from the Texas Attorney General regarding whether the District must release the responsive information to you.

Please let us know how you would like to proceed. Thank you.

Katheryne  
**Katheryne Ellison**  
**Assistant General Counsel, Legal Services**  
713-556-7084 (office) | 713-556-6061 (fax)  
[kelliso1@HoustonISD.org](mailto:kelliso1@HoustonISD.org) (email)  
**HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center  
4400 West 18th Street | Houston, TX 77092-8501  
Keep up with the latest news from HISD: [www.HoustonISD.org](http://www.HoustonISD.org)  
Follow HISD on Twitter: @HoustonISD

Like HISD on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/HoustonISD](http://www.facebook.com/HoustonISD)

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**From:** 149926-58931022@requests.muckrock.com <149926-58931022@requests.muckrock.com>

**Sent:** Friday, July 28, 2023 7:25 AM

**To:** PublicInformation <PublicInformation@houstonisd.org>

**Subject:** Texas Public Information Act Request: HISD libraries (Houston Independent School District)

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Houston Independent School District  
Texas Public Information Act Office  
4400 West 18th Street  
Houston, TX 77092-8501

July 28, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act, I hereby request the following records:

Recent news articles show HISD is eliminating 28 libraries and turning them into "Team Centers": <https://www.click2houston.com/news/local/2023/07/26/hisd-to-eliminate-librarians-turn-libraries-into-discipline-centers-at-28-campuses/>

Therefore, I request the following:

- Any emails (including attachments), memos, presentations, complaints, proposals, budgets, staffing plans, meeting notes or recordings, photos, or videos about or mentioning the plan to convert libraries into "Team Centers." Please specifically search for "Team Centers," but also include responsive records about Team Centers even if that name is not specifically used.

Please search from Jan 1, 2023 through the time this request is processed.

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 10 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Jason Koebler

View request history, upload responsive documents, and report problems here:

[https://accounts.muckrock.com/accounts/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.muckrock.com%2Faccounts%2Flogin%2F%3Fnext%3D%252Faccounts%252Fagency\\_login%252Fhouston-independent-school-district-5046%252Fhisd-libraries-houston-independent-school-district-149926%252F%253Femail%253Dpublicinformation%252540houstonisd.org&url\\_auth\\_token=AABOOxiPZkILXNnPMdGfArQT\\_Yw%3A1qPMWy%3AVhXGmkRIKaje9qWS3EUp60lM02ojLmdEpT3S5kxIjQU](https://accounts.muckrock.com/accounts/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.muckrock.com%2Faccounts%2Flogin%2F%3Fnext%3D%252Faccounts%252Fagency_login%252Fhouston-independent-school-district-5046%252Fhisd-libraries-houston-independent-school-district-149926%252F%253Femail%253Dpublicinformation%252540houstonisd.org&url_auth_token=AABOOxiPZkILXNnPMdGfArQT_Yw%3A1qPMWy%3AVhXGmkRIKaje9qWS3EUp60lM02ojLmdEpT3S5kxIjQU)

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**From:** [149926-58931022@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:149926-58931022@requests.muckrock.com)  
**To:** [Ellison, Katherine R](#)  
**Cc:** [PublicInformation](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Texas Public Information Act Request: HISD libraries (Houston Independent School District)  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 2, 2023 9:22:53 AM

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Houston Independent School District  
Texas Public Information Act Office  
4400 West 18th Street  
Houston, TX 77092-8501

August 2, 2023

This is a follow up to a previous request:

I already provided the term "Team Centers." Please search the emails of:

Mike Miles  
Adam Rivon  
Paula Mendoza  
Rolando Martinez  
Janette Garza Lindner  
Michelle Cruz Arnold  
Cassandra Auzenne Bandy  
Angela Lemond Flowers  
Ric Campo  
Audrey Momanace

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Subject: August 1, 2023 Request for Clarification (Koebler MN072823)  
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By email:  
[kelliso1@houstonisd.org](mailto:kelliso1@houstonisd.org)<<mailto:ledward8@houstonisd.org>>  
By Fax:  
713-556-6061  
By mail:  
4400 West 18th Street  
Public Information-Box 99

Houston, TX 77092

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Assistant General Counsel, Legal Services  
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kelliso1@HoustonISD.org<mailto:kelliso1@HoustonISD.org> (email)  
HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center  
4400 West 18th Street | Houston, TX 77092-8501  
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On July 28, 2023:  
Subject: ISSUE=7126 - Koebler MN072823-Communications mentioning plan to convert libraries to Team Centers from Jan 2023 to present 7  
Notification of Issue Registration

Issue: Koebler MN072823-Communications mentioning plan to convert libraries to Team Centers from Jan 2023 to present  
Issue Number: 7126

Date: 07/28/2023

Issue Information:

Email Address: 149926-58931022@requests.muckrock.com

Contact Information:

First Name: Jason

Last Name: Koebler

Company: MuckRock News

City: a

Email Address: 149926-58931022@requests.muckrock.com

---

On July 27, 2023:  
Subject: Texas Public Information Act Request: HISD libraries (Houston Independent School District)  
To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act, I hereby request the following records:

Recent news articles show HISD is eliminating 28 libraries and turning them into "Team Centers":  
<https://www.click2houston.com/news/local/2023/07/26/hisd-to-eliminate-librarians-turn-libraries-into-discipline-centers-at-28-campuses/>

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