



SENATE BILL 1707

AFFIRMING REQUIREMENTS ABOUT POLICE IN SCHOOLS

Following the 86th Legislative Session, Gov. Abbott signed SB 1707 into law in June 2019. It went into effect immediately, and it clarifies that school police officers should not be involved in the routine discipline of young people on their school campuses. Under this law, school police officers should avoid contact with students that doesn't involve law enforcement activities.

Under the law, school districts need to write out the roles and responsibilities of school police officers. They should be placed in student codes of conduct, district improvement plans, and the memorandum of understanding between the school district and the local law enforcement agency.

Texas Education Code Section 37.081

HOW CAN FAMILIES USE THIS NEW LAW?



Young people and parents should use this new law to ensure that school police officers do not overstep the duties that are spelled out for School Resource Officers on school campuses. Young people and parents can also use the language in their student codes of conduct and district improvement plans to push their districts to rein in the interactions of school police officers with students. Young people and parents can push their school boards to adopt transparent school policing practices, as school boards typically set these policies for school districts.

SHARE YOUR STORY



As a part of our efforts to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline in Texas, Texas Appleseed strives to shed light on the lack of accountability around school policing across the state. If you are a young person, or a parent of a young person who has faced mistreatment from a school police officer, please contact Andrew Hairston at ahairston@texasappleseed.net or call 512-473-2800.