

PROTECTING OUR STUDENTS

DATE: MARCH 10, 2024 TO: GOVERNOR ABBOTT [REDACTED] SUBJECT: TEXAS EDUCATION POLICY

TEACHER MISCONDUCT IS OFTEN FAILED TO BE PUNISHED, REPORTED, OR HANDLED ACCORDING TO CURRENT TEXAS EDUCATION POLICY EXPECTATIONS. **WE NEED AN EDUCATION INSPECTOR GENERAL TO ENSURE NO TEACHERS WHO COMMIT OFFENSES ARE ALLOWED BACK IN THE CLASSROOM OR TO GO UNREPORTED.**

THE PROBLEM

Although Texas Administrative Code §249.17 states that certificates must be permanently revoked if an educator engaged or solicited in a sexual or romantic relationship with a student or minor, findings reveal this is not happening and those who fail to report these criminals are not being held accountable when the result of this failure to report is a state-jail felony. Requirements and procedures for student safety need to be taken and consequences for teacher misconduct need to be enforced.



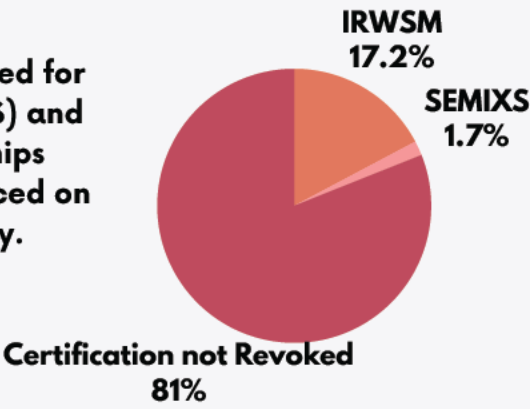
REQUIREMENTS FOR HIRING NEW EDUCATORS

Check the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) for the Official Record of Educator Certificates	✓
Check the Texas Education Agency's (TEA) Do Not Hire Registry	✗
Check SBEC Disciplinary Reports	✗

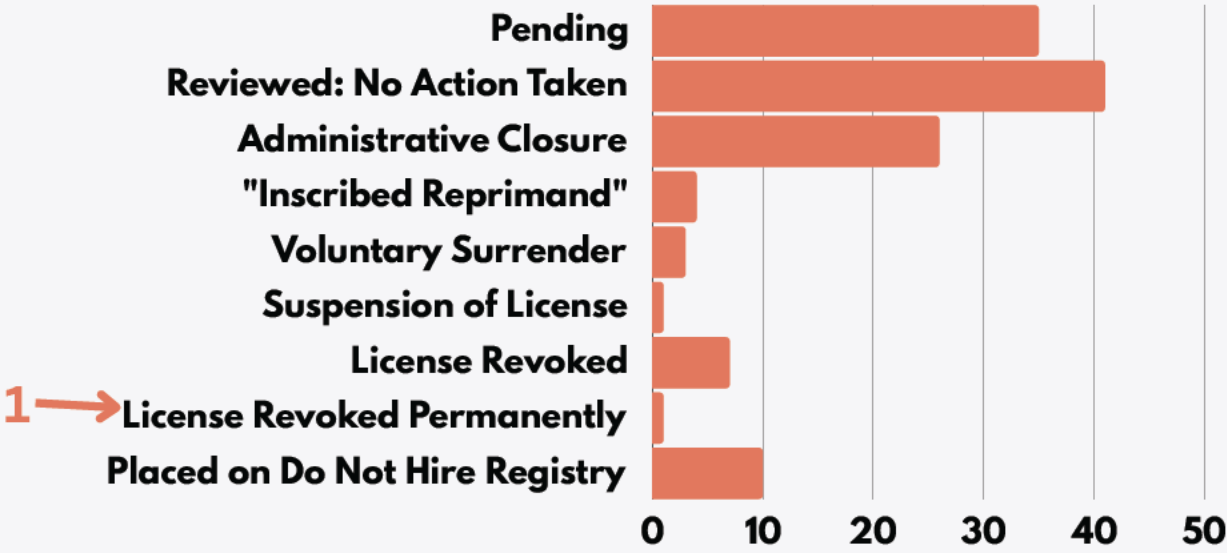
EVIDENCE

The following data involves 97 independent school districts in 24 counties of Texas provided by the TEA.

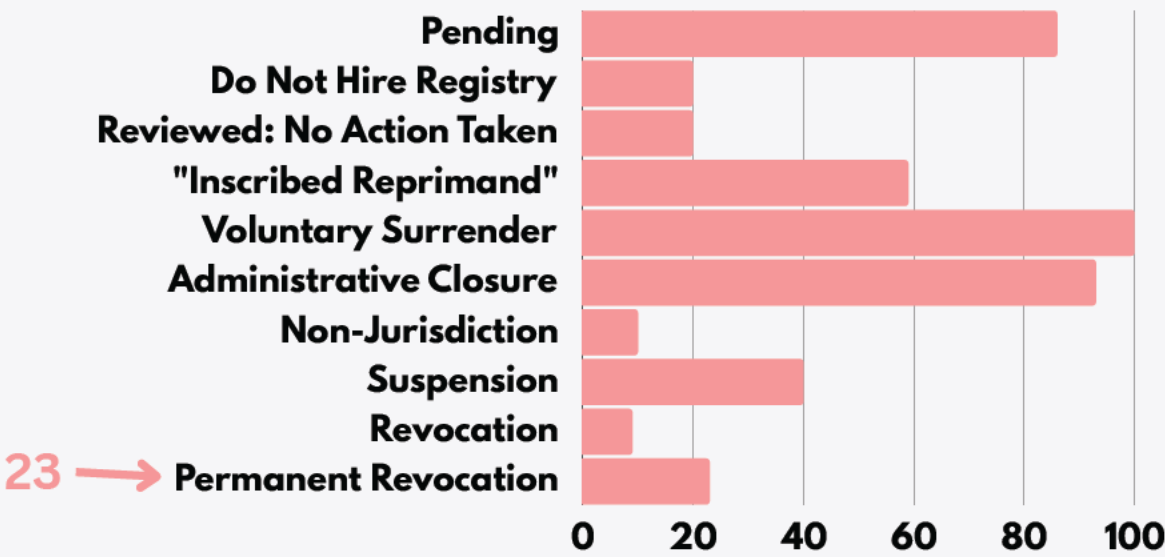
Of the 580 cases investigated for Sexual Misconduct (SEMIXS) and Inappropriate Relationships (IRWSM), only 110 were placed on the Do Not Hire Registry.



The following chart is the results of 120 Sexual Misconduct Cases. Anyone proven to have committed sexual misconduct, by law, is to have their certificate revoked permanently:



The following chart is the results of 460 Inappropriate Relationship with a Student or Minor Cases. Anyone proven to have committed an inappropriate relationship, by law, is to have their certificate revoked permanently:



These results show the inconsistencies with enforcing consequences for teachers' criminal behavior.

THE SOLUTION

Allowing a State-appointed Investigator General to be elected to combat these inconsistencies is the best response to this issue. This position would establish procedures and requirements for stricter hiring policies, and enforce punishments and carry out investigations for school districts so that none go uninvestigated.

Other options would be less effective than appointing a person to this position. Requiring school districts to be stricter on hiring policies and investigation policies on their own is risky, especially when they are failing to enforce policies that are already in place.

Making no change puts our students at risk for continued misconduct to occur and be improperly handled. Not following through with permanent revocation of these guilty educators’ licenses allows them to continue teaching and the possibility of more children being hurt.

Effectiveness of Different Solutions		
Solution:	Effectiveness	Negative Impacts
Appointing an Investigator General	Yes	No
Requiring School Districts to Respond/Become Stricter	No	Yes
Changing Nothing	No	Yes

This inspector general could not only serve to investigate cases of teacher misconduct properly, but also hold school districts accountable for using the online database to report cases to be investigated. They could also form requirements for stricter hiring policies.

Having a person to physically investigate and visit school districts will increase results of school districts in Texas to respond appropriately to situations and follow Texas policy on reporting teacher misconduct.

RESOURCES



Anderson, E. (2024, February 8). Texas schools fail to report educator misconduct. Texas Scorecard. <https://texasscorecard.com/state/texas-schools-fail-to-report-educator-misconduct/>

EDUCATION CODE TITLE 2. PUBLIC EDUCATION. Education code Chapter 21. educators. (n.d). <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/ED/htm/ED.21.htm#21.006>

https://www.citizensdefendingfreedom.com/_files/ugd/38b6b3_90e4556ec1ea45d6b4f257d7e8a35ef5.pdf

Legislature, Tex. (n.d.). Tex.. Educ. code § 21.006 – requirement to report misconduct. Texas Education Code Section 21.006 – Requirement to Report Misconduct. https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._educ._code_section_21.006#:~:text=A%20principal%20required%20to%20notify,educator's%20criminal%20record%20or%20alleged

