



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 2, 1993

Mr. Herbert Carleston
Assistant Superintendent for Business
Pearland Independent School District
P. O. Box 7
Pearland, Texas 77581

OR93-414

Dear Mr. Carleston:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, article 6252-17a, V.T.C.S. Your request was assigned ID# 20202.

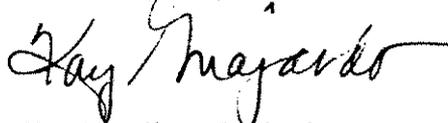
The Pearland Independent School District (the district) received an open records request for "a copy of a payment file from the [district's] tax system" on magnetic tape. You claim the requested information is excepted from required public disclosure under sections 3(a)(1) and 3(a)(10) of the Open Records Act. You offer no explanation of why these exceptions apply. You also contend that because the district does not maintain the requested information in the form sought by the requestor, the district need not comply with the request.

A previous determination of this office, Attorney General Opinion DM-41 (1991), a copy of which is enclosed, resolves your request. The Open Records Act requires governmental bodies to provide only "suitable copies" of documents in the format or medium in which those materials are currently offered to the public. Because the district does not currently provide copies of the payment files on magnetic tape, it is under no obligation to do so in response to the currently request.¹

¹We note, however, that there is nothing in the Open Records Act that prohibits the district from complying with the request.

Because case law and prior published open records decisions resolve your request, we are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Kay Hamilton Guajardo
Assistant Attorney General
Opinion Committee

KHG/RWP/lmm

Ref.: ID# 20202
ID# 20259

Enclosures: Attorney General Opinion DM-41

cc: Mr. Gregg Smith
Data Acquisition Manager
TRW-REDI Property Data
2150 West Eighteenth Street, Suite 310
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(w/o enclosures)