

**REPUBLICAN PARTY OF TEXAS RESOLUTION
SCHOOL EMPLOYEE MISCONDUCT - TRANSPARENCY = ACCOUNTABILITY**

Resolution to AMEND plank 86 as follows (underlined):

86. Enforcement of Parental Rights and Students' Rights: We implore the Legislature to create enforcement measures for violations of Texas laws, while prioritizing parental rights, especially the right to protect one's own children from harm. Enforcement mechanisms must include **transparency of initial complaints and detailed final reports**, investigation and referral authority for criminal, civil, and other disciplinary actions. We urge the Legislature to create an independent Office of Inspector General of Education, appointed by a majority vote of the elected State Board of Education, to investigate waste, fraud, and abuse, particularly sexual abuse of students, violations of parental rights, and student due process rights when they occur in a school setting. Such position shall have authority to refer any matter to the Texas Attorney General for further investigation and prosecution, if warranted.

A copy of this resolution should be sent to the _____ County/Senate District # _____ Convention Resolutions Committee from Precinct # _____ with the recommendation that it be passed and sent to the State Convention Platform Committee of the Republican Party of Texas.

Rationale:

- Initial complaints are basic documents which include information such as name of the alleged perpetrator, date the alleged offense was reported, the steps administration took to report it and the date the superintendent notified the Texas Education Agency (TEA).
- Failure to timely notify the TEA is a jailable offense.
- A parent or trustee with access to the initial report can discover local cover-ups that the Agency would otherwise not be able to detect.
- Final reports are already available under the law, but may say, "the matter has been addressed by the district and is closed," which can mean simply that the district insisted there was no wrongdoing and produced no evidence of its own guilt.
- We must hold educators, trustees, school attorneys and investigators to the highest standard of ethics & deter any criminal behavior. That *requires* transparency.
- Access to a complaint and final report do NOT interfere with an investigation.
- Initial reports had been available up until a small clause was slipped into recent legislation. The effect of this is to protect investigators and administrators from public scrutiny or oversight.
- This resolution addresses that legislative error.