

# Fingerprinting for Educators... It's the Law

In 2007, the Texas Legislature passed a law requiring fingerprint-based criminal background reviews for certain school employees. The legislation was enacted to ensure the safety of all children, teachers and staff in Texas public schools.

**Who is** required to submit fingerprints for a criminal background check?

- All certified educators
- All substitute teachers and aides, certified or not
- Non-certified employees hired on or after January 1, 2008
- Charter school teachers and other professionals  
(serving in a position that would require certification if they were employed in a traditional school district)

**Who is not** required to submit fingerprints but must undergo a name-based background check?

- Non-certified employees hired before January 1, 2008
- Contract employees hired before January 1, 2008 who have direct contact with students
- Student teachers
- Volunteers  
(excludes parents and guardians, those accompanied on campus by a district employee, or individuals volunteering for a single event)

**When** will employees be fingerprinted?

- All new non-certified school employees must submit fingerprint information to the Department of Public Safety before starting work for a district.
- All substitute teachers must be fingerprinted by September 1, 2011.
- All active certified educators must be fingerprinted by September 1, 2011.

**State law** requires the dismissal of any employee convicted of certain felonies or who is a registered sex offender.

For more information, visit the SBEC website: [www.sbec.state.tx.us](http://www.sbec.state.tx.us)