

DOCKET NO. 038-R10-12-2025

IN RE. STAFFORD MUNICIPAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT,

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BEFORE THE

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

DECISION OF THE COMMISSIONER

Stafford Municipal School District (Stafford MSD) filed a December 12, 2025 request for an extension of time to install a video camera in a special education classroom, pursuant to Texas Education Code section 29.022. All interested parties were informed of this request. One interested party, a parent who had requested installation of the video camera, filed a response.

Because Stafford MSD has not stated adequate reasons for its requested extension or indicated the length of the extension it is requesting, and in consideration of the interested parent's response, the Commissioner grants only a limited, one-time extension and finds that Stafford MSD must begin operating the requested video camera in compliance with section 29.022 by February 2, 2026.

FINDINGS OF FACT

After due consideration of the record and matters officially noticed, it is concluded that the following Findings of Fact are supported by a preponderance of evidence.

1. On or about September 23, 2025, the parent who is the responding interested party submitted a written request for operation of a video camera pursuant to Texas Education Code section 29.022. Stafford MSD considered and approved the request.
2. On December 12, 2025, Stafford MSD filed its "Request for Extension of Time to Begin Operation of a Video Camera under Texas Education Code 29.022."
3. On December 19, 2025, the interested parent appeared in this case and filed a response, noting the lack of clear reasons for Stafford MSD's delay and requesting that any extension that is granted be firm and limited in duration.

4. No other interested parties have appeared in this matter.
5. Stafford MSD did not file a reply to the interested party's response.
6. No party has requested expedited review.

DISCUSSION

A school district that receives a parent's request to install a video camera for surveillance in a special education setting must respond to the request by the seventh school business day after receipt of the request. Thereafter, unless the Commissioner grants an extension, the school district that has approved the request must begin operating the video camera by the forty-fifth school business day after receipt of the request by the person authorized to approve the request. *See* Tex. Educ. Code § 29.022(l).

Stafford MSP filed a December 12, 2025 "Request for Extension of Time to Begin Operation of a Video Camera under Texas Education Code 29.022." An interested party, a parent who has requested installation of the camera, filed a response to the request. The responding parent states that Stafford MSP requested an extension after its forty-five-day deadline had passed and provided no information in its request about whether it has selected a vendor, contracted any work, ordered equipment, or whether it has an anticipated project completion date. The responding parent provided a timeline of events, as follows:

September 23, 2025: Initial written request for operational of a video camera submitted.

October 3, 2025: Principal send the request to supervisory administration (Shawna Punch)

October 20, 2025: District leadership indicated approval of request.

October 20, 2025 - December 17, 2025: I received no follow up, status update, or communication.

December 12, 2025: District submitted a request for an extension of time.

Stafford MSD did not file a reply or dispute the responding parent's timeline. Therefore, the parent's timeline is presumed to be accurate.

In its extension request, Stafford MSD explains that it has taken preliminary steps to obtain quotes for camera installation and to assess project needs. However, as the responding parent noted, its explanation is presented in broad, general terms and lacks any detail about, for example,

whether it has selected a vendor,¹ ordered or obtained any equipment, executed any related contracts, or begun any of the installation work. Instead, it states only that it has taken “proactive steps,” citing routine tasks, such as conducting site assessments and “vendor scheduling & material sourcing.” It cites no clear reason for an extended delay, such as unavailability of necessary equipment. Stafford MSD also fails to specify the length of the extension it seeks or provide any information about the amount of time it needs to comply with the statute.

The responding parent does not directly oppose extension in her response but asks that if an extension is granted, it be limited in duration and conditioned on a firm and enforceable operational deadline.

Conclusion

Stafford MSD must exercise due diligence to install a classroom video camera in compliance with section 29.022. The Commissioner will grant only a limited, one-time extension for Stafford MSD to begin operating the requested classroom video camera on or before February 2, 2026.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

After due consideration of the record, matters officially noticed, and the foregoing Findings of Fact, in my capacity as Commissioner of Education, I make the following Conclusions of Law:

1. The Commissioner has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Texas Education Code section 29.022.
2. Stafford MSD has not set out a reasonable explanation for its requested extension or specified the amount of time it needs to install a classroom video camera in compliance with Texas Education Code section 29.022.
3. Stafford MSD has until February 2, 2026, to install a classroom video camera as required by Texas Education Code section 29.022.

¹ Stafford MSD included one vendor quote dated November 10, 2025, to its extension request. It is unclear what, if any, other vendors were considered.

ORDER

After due consideration of the record, matters officially noticed and the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, in my capacity as Commissioner of Education, it is hereby ORDERED that Stafford Municipal School District is granted a brief and one-time extension to February 2, 2026, to install the requested video camera.

SIGNED AND ISSUED this 15th day of January 2026.

Mike Morath Digitally signed by Mike Morath
Date: 2026.01.15 13:33:37 -06'00'

MIKE MORATH
COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION