

CHILD DEVELOPMENT/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE



CDEC and TECA Student

The 80th Texas Legislature passed a law, Senate Bill 758, that as of Sept. 1, 2007, requires a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) fingerprint check for anyone who is currently required to have a background check in a child care center. This includes any person(s), including volunteers, who are counted in the child/caregiver ratio. Child care center employees/volunteers will have to have the background fingerprints once every two (2) years. Similar legislation, Senate Bill 9, passed setting 2011 as the deadline for public school districts to be in compliance. FBI fingerprinting allows the state to check an individual's criminal record in 50 states, rather than just checking for a record within the state of Texas, which is all that our current system allows us to do. Additionally, it addresses concerns with individuals using fake names and social security numbers.

After some preliminary clarification, we have found that no student can be in any one location more than two (2) days a month, in which case they would not be a "frequent" in-contact person in the classroom. Our experience indicates that the area school districts are implementing criminal background checks in a variety of ways. A fee is required but may vary depending upon the center, program and school district. Based upon this information, it is the student's responsibility as a future teacher of children in the state of Texas to understand and comply with the requirements of each institution in which they may observe and/or intern.

For further clarification, discuss any concerns or issues with your professor, counselor and/or Department Chair.