

SOAH 101: A School Lawyer's Guide

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Do you know the procedures that apply to
your case?



State Office of Administrative Hearings



- Created in 1991 by SB 884
- Purpose: “To separate the adjudicative function from the investigative, prosecutorial and policy-making function in the executive branch.”
- Agency hears cases for over 50 state agencies and conducts 30,000 hearings per year.

SOAH’s Agency Objectives

- (1) Conduct fair and objective administrative hearings
- (2) Provide fair, timely and efficient decisions and proposals for decision;
- (3) Offer the opportunity for parties to resolve their disputes through mediation or alternative dispute resolution (ADR)

Administrative Procedure Act (APA)

- Texas Government Code 2001
- Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, effective Sept. 1, 1993.
- Procedures for contested cases are located in Subchapter C of the Texas Government Code
- SOAH may refer to the statute or the code of the referring agency



Path to SOAH for the School Lawyer

- Educators:
 - Administrative Denial
 - Sanctions
 - Inscribed Reprimands
 - Suspensions
 - Revocations



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