The High School Voter Registration Law

What is the 1985 law?

- The principal of each high school, or the principal’s designee, is designated by law as the high school deputy registrar (HSDR). As detailed below, the principal has a legal obligation to offer registration opportunities twice each year to eligible students.

Under the State of Secretary’s regulations, the HSDR must request a sufficient number of voter registration forms to register all qualifying students.

- The HSDR must offer voter registration applications to eligible students at least twice per school year, along with a notice explaining how the students may deliver the applications.

- Students may choose to return voter registration forms to the HSDR. The HSDR must review the applications for completeness, give assistance upon request, and collect them for delivery to the county voter registrar. Alternatively, students may give their voter registration form to a Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR) for turning into the county voter registrar.

Students may deliver their form in person or by mail to their county voter registrar.

- 30 days after the voter registration form is submitted to the voter registrar, the student is registered.

- The student votes during the next election in which they are eligible.

Registering students during COVID-19

The Texas Election Code mandates that the principal of each public and private high school in Texas, or the principal’s designee, must offer voter registration applications to eligible students at least twice per school year.

This may sound intimidating to educators who are switching to an online format due to COVID-19 or who are juggling many other priorities in their schools.

But we are here to help and explain the law so you have all the information you need to register your students to vote!