



86TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

# TEXAS PTA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY

## SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING

Support increased funding for special education services sufficient to address the requirements of the federal government's corrective action, including teacher training, student evaluation, and increased student services.

### BACKGROUND

- It is against federal law to limit the enrollment of students with disabilities into special education programs.
- A 2016 Houston Chronicle investigation and a subsequent federal audit found that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) set an 8.5% benchmark that was a de facto, illegal cap on the number of students receiving special education services.
- The 8.5% “target”, in place for more than a decade, is well below the national average of students served in special education programs of 13%.
- U.S. Department of Education issued a report demanding corrective action by TEA to eliminate the cap and to begin to provide special education services to more than 150,000 additional students by 2021.
- Estimated cost to the state: up to \$3.3 billion, roughly a 30% increase.
- Without funding from the state, school districts will be forced to pay for increased services out of existing funds.

**#Ed4All**

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