



87th Legislative Session

# Texas PTA Legislative Priority

---

## CAMPUS IMMUNIZATION REPORTING

Support legislation requiring school districts to report the number of unvaccinated students in each school so families can make the safest school-placement decision for medically vulnerable children.

Texas PTA supports de-identified reporting of the number of students per campus that are unvaccinated. Equipping parents with this information will allow them to make important enrollment, placement, and healthcare decisions for their child.

### BACKGROUND

- [Current law](#) requires reporting the number of students in a school district that are unvaccinated.
- Herd immunity is a community benefit — including to those who aren't vaccinated — only when there are widespread immunizations that significantly decrease the risk of spreading illnesses.
- Children and adults with chronic illness or disease that suppresses their immune systems are put at [serious health risk](#) through exposure to unvaccinated children on their school campus.
- Texas is among [18 states](#) that allow families to opt out of vaccinating their children for personal, moral, or other beliefs.
- Exemption [“hot spots”](#), areas where higher numbers of students who are not vaccinated attend the same schools, can put more people at risk for outbreaks of childhood infections.
- Plano, Fort Worth, Austin, and Houston all ranked among the [15 U.S. metro areas](#) with the most conscientious exemptions for kindergartners. Frisco came in third in Texas with 1,266 children exempted, while Plano was seventh with 1,034.
- [According to data](#) gathered from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Tarrant County had 400 cases of whooping cough, or pertussis, in 2013; 337 cases in 2016, a quarter of the state's cases; and 496 cases in 2017.
- Conscientious objections have risen steadily each year in Texas over the past decade apart from 2014-2015, [according to the Texas Department of State Health Services](#).
- All students need protection. The privacy of families that choose not to vaccinate their children can be maintained while giving parents of children and school-based adults with serious illness and disease access to critical, potentially life-saving information so that they can make informed decisions for their health.
- Texas PTA does not take a position on whether students should be vaccinated, or whether they should be allowed in school if they are not vaccinated.