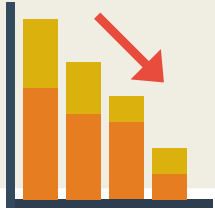


Keeping Tabs on TEA

The History of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Illegal 8.5% Cap on Special Education Enrollment & the Corrective Action Plan to Make it Right



Disability Rights Texas (DRTx) notices steady annual downward trend in number of children receiving special education services in Texas.

2013



2014

DRTx discovers TEA performance requirement: School districts **must maintain 8.5% or less** enrollment in special education.



2014-16

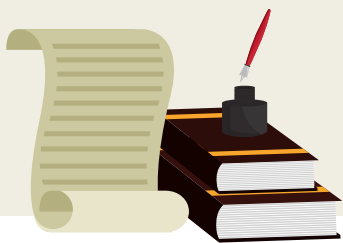
DRTx attempts to **eliminate the illegal 8.5% cap**:

- ▶ Submits formal public comments at hearings alerting TEA to our concerns.
- ▶ Files complaint with TEA.
- ▶ Provides legal representation & advocacy services to hundreds of families struggling to get testing or services.
- ▶ Forms coalition of advocacy groups to speak up against the cap.

2016



- ▶ Houston Chronicle publishes series of investigative stories exposing TEA based on tip from DRTx.
- ▶ About 250,000 kids kept out of special education services.
- ▶ National media attention to the issue.
- ▶ U.S. Department of Education takes notice & receives comments from thousands of parents, teachers, administrators & others through listening sessions & website forum.



2017

- ▶ DRTx continues to work with Houston Chronicle & media outlets to provide data & stories of families impacted.
- ▶ TEA agrees to end the cap in response to demand letter from DRTx.
- ▶ Texas legislature passes law to ensure TEA removal of the cap & provides relief for impacted students.

2018



- ▶ U.S. Department of Ed finds Texas in violation of federal special education law (IDEA).
- ▶ TEA required to create a 5-year corrective action plan with public input.
- ▶ Implementation of the action plan dependent on adequate state funding.

The TEA Corrective Action Plan

Disability Rights Texas & other concerned organizations will continue to closely monitor special education enrollment numbers & hold TEA accountable to implementing the corrective action plan. Visit tea.texas.gov/TexasSPED to review the detailed plan & get progress updates.

1

Evaluations & Services

Schools must give all students with disabilities evaluations & special education



2

Guidance & Training

TEA must send schools guidelines & train educators on special education



3

Information & Resources

TEA must prepare clear & helpful explanations of special education



4

Monitoring & Enforcement

TEA must check that schools are providing special education



DisabilityRights
TEXAS

DRTx.org | (512) 454-4816

Follow Us

@DisabilityRightsTx

@DisabilityRightsTex

@DisRightsTx