



## **HB 3485 Makes Discipline Data More Accessible to Parents and Families**

**IDRA Testimony for House Bill 3485, Presented by Chloe Latham Sikes, Ph.D., to the House Public Education Committee, April 13, 2021**

Dear Chairman Dutton and Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Chloe Latham Sikes, and I am the Deputy Director of Policy at IDRA, an independent, non-partisan, education non-profit committed to achieving equal educational opportunity for every child through strong public schools that prepare all students to access and succeed in college. We support HB 3485.

HB 3485 makes important discipline data more accessible to parents and families. Currently, school districts and charter schools report some discipline data to the TEA, but that data can be hard for the public to access and does not include all discipline issues that matter to families. Given the disproportionalities in discipline according to race, ethnicity, gender, and disability status, parents and families must have access to this data to inform their decisions about their students' education and prepare them to engage with their students' teachers and school staff.

Black students account for just over 12% of the student population but experience in-school suspension at over twice that rate (26%) and out-of-school suspensions at nearly three times that rate (33%). Black students experience 24% of DAEP\* assignments and 20% of JJAEP\*\* assignments. Latino students receive nearly half of all suspensions, DAEP assignments, and JJAEP assignments.

Students in special education make up just 10% of the Texas student population, but experience 20% of in-school suspensions and expulsions, 21% of DAEP assignments and 27% of JJAEP assignments.

Parents, families, and community members deserve to know how students are disciplined in their schools. HB 3485 sheds light on discipline data that affects students' safety and well-being and makes it easier for parents and families to be engaged in school practices.

### **Recommendations**

- Adopt HB 3485 to provide discipline data in an accessible way to parents and families; and
- Support policies that promote positive, safe school climates and institute best practices for alternative discipline, such as programs in restorative justice and that support building healthy student relationships.

IDRA is available for any questions or further resources that we can provide. Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact Chloe Latham Sikes, Ph.D., IDRA Deputy Director of Policy, at [chloe.sikes@idra.org](mailto:chloe.sikes@idra.org).

## Resources

IDRA. (2021). Create Safe and Welcoming Pathways for All Students, policy brief. San Antonio: Intercultural Development Research Association. [https://www.idra.org/education\\_policy/breaking-the-school-to-prison-and-school-to-deportation-pipelines-idra-texas-priority-brief/](https://www.idra.org/education_policy/breaking-the-school-to-prison-and-school-to-deportation-pipelines-idra-texas-priority-brief/)

Texas Education Agency. Discipline data, 2018-19. IDRA analysis available upon request.

\* *DAEP = disciplinary alternative education programs*

\*\* *JJAEP= juvenile justice alternative education programs*

*IDRA is an independent, non-profit organization led by Celina Moreno, J.D. Our mission is to achieve equal educational opportunity for every child through strong public schools that prepare all students to access and succeed in college. IDRA strengthens and transforms public education by providing dynamic training; useful research, evaluation, and frameworks for action; timely policy analyses; and innovative materials and programs.*