

9/30/2020

To: Texas House Public Education Committee

Via email: [education@house.texas.gov](mailto:education@house.texas.gov)

From: Steve Swanson

25-year Volunteer in Texas Public Education – no organization other than being a Texas taxpayer and having a website – [improvetexasschools.org](http://improvetexasschools.org)

### **ASSESS TEA First**

This is written in response to the notice the committee is seeking responses to the topic

### **Interim Charge 3**

Monitor the progress of the TEA's compliance with the Corrective Action Response required by the United States Department of Education, the implementation of the state's Special Education Strategic Plan, and the state's compliance with other federal requirements regarding special education, including maintenance of state financial support for special education. Recommend solutions to barriers the agency, school districts, students with disabilities, and parents face in accessing a free and appropriate public education and in meeting the milestones of the plan and any measures needed at the state level to ensure that students with disabilities are being located, fully evaluated, and appropriately identified for special education instruction and services.

### **Before a new bill for Texas education is authored,**

### **ASSESS TEA**

Before a new bill for Texas education is authored, the author(s) should see and understand an assessment of the performance of the TEA in fulfilling existing responsibilities in TEC for:

- Supporting school districts in planning and plan implementation for:
  - Suicide Prevention and
  - Serving needs of all students, including Special Education
- Commissioner appointed Campus Intervention Teams continuing to work with a campus assisting campuses in planning and plan implementation for:
  - Suicide Prevention,
  - Serving needs of all students, including Special Education and
  - Determining the factors resulting in campus's low performance until the campus satisfies all performance standards.

Research reveals the Texas House and Senate do not have assessments and the TEA violates Texas law for serving and saving the lives of children and not wasting tax dollars not serving needs of students.

Please contact me for the research noted or go to [improvetexasschools.org](http://improvetexasschools.org)

Thank you,



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