

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Education  
For HB 579

Compiled on: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 1:14 PM

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Hearing Date: March 14, 2023 8:00 AM

Wendi Russell  
Self/Teacher  
Hallsville, TX

After re-reading the bill, I think that it intends to affirm an opt out right for all accelerated instruction, and the specifications for students who have not passed for two or more years is really just about how to develop a plan. But, I know schools will try to make it more than that and overreach by denying opt out and stripping electives. We need to get the committee to address this, either by adding a section to the bill specifying that (a-1) to (a-10) apply to all accelerated instruction, or noting that in their

1. Schools have overreached by ignoring the TEA and denying parental opt out.
2. Schools have ignored the legislature by continuing to deny electives.
3. The legislature must support parents and parental rights by making clear that (a-8) and (a-3) apply to all accelerated instruction, without exception.

Jose Larrazolo, Mr.

Self/Family

Laredo, TX

Listen to us PARENTS.

1. Schools have overreached by ignoring the TEA and denying parental opt out.
2. Schools have ignored the legislature by continuing to deny electives.
3. The legislature must support parents and parental rights by making clear that (a-8) and (a-3) apply to all accelerated instruction, without exception.

COMMENT:

I am writing to express my concerns of HB 1416 as written. I think we can all agree that the accelerated instructions provisions of HB 4545 enacted in 2021 were not smoothly implemented and caused great confusion and frustration for parents and schools alike. As a parent, one of the most frustrating circumstances was the failure of many schools to follow the clear guidance from the TEA and Commissioner Morath about parental rights.

Although the TEA put together written direction affirming that parents can opt out of Accelerated Instructions, and even though Commissioner Morath testified directly to the State Board of Education that as the final decision maker for their child's education, parents have the right to decline accelerated instruction for their children, many schools imposed their own interpretation, believing they know better than parents and can overrule the parental decision for any reason they wish. One district has even gone so far as to require a parent to go through three levels of grievance and appeal to the State Office of Administrative Hearings in an effort to have the district recognize her parental rights.

For this reason, I was thrilled to see that HB 1416 adds (a-8) explicitly recognizing the Opt Out right that Tex. Educ Code 26.

Linda Litzinger

self, public policy specialist

Austin, TX

HB579 removes a method of testing for a large swath of students, without adding another accountability method to show progress. Please amend it or vote no on it. Thank you