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House Bill 1335 Testimony

The Texas School Alliance comprises 37 of the largest school districts in the state, representing 38 percent of the state's total student enrollment, 43 percent of Texas' economically disadvantaged students, and 59 percent of the state's LEP students.

The Texas School Alliance is concerned about the provisions of House Bill 1335. The fiscal note to this bill points out that "The requirement to allow a classroom teacher to request an ARD committee meeting could be costly and could create procedural problems for the school district, open-enrollment charter school, or the parent." It also says that the provisions of this bill could "result in a large number of additional ARD committee meetings."

Given the budget reductions being considered by the legislature this session, our members are very concerned about any provisions that are likely to increase costs to local school districts. We believe that the current ARD process, combined with the ability of teachers to request staffing meetings to discuss the needs of students in special education, is sufficient to allow school staff to address the needs of students enrolled in special education programs.