April 20, 2022

in Slide 14:

Chair Stacey Combest
Texas Commission on Special Education Finance
Texas Education Agency
1701 N. Congress Avenue
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RE: Response to Slide 14 of TEA presentation at the March 17, 2022 Commission on Special Education Funding Meeting

Thank you for your service on this very important committee. The first meeting was very informative and raised many important issues for you to consider.

During a portion of TEA's presentation, we believe some vital information was

districts. We believe the following points should be considered when looking at the data

1. Consideration 1: Slide 14 assumes that schools are spending 69.1 % of their special education allocation. It is important to note that schools, by law, have a spending requirement of 55% by law and therefore schools are exceeding their spending requirement by almost fifteen%. The 55% funding threshold provides for flexibility and improvement of services at the local level and determined by local needs. The school districts represented in the 69.1% category are meeting the law and exceeding the required expenditure threshold. Slide 14 is not reflective of actual practice and alludes to a thought that the 120 smallest LEA's are under spending their special education funds, rather than what is actually occurring, taking advantage of the flexibility afforded districts by the legislature. Expenditures noted in this

- year progresses. It is our strong belief that small and mid-sized schools do hold expenditures in PIC 99; therefore, it is important to analyze statistics using these allocated expenditures.
- 4. Consideration 4: Transportation Transportation and transportation related issues occur differently in small and mid-sized districts than in larger districts. Small and mid-sized districts typically do not have routes/buses solely dedicated for special education purposes and the expenditure is not coded as a special education expenditure. Likewise, transportation aides on buses typically are not coded to special education expenditures even though the aide is most likely to be on the bus to supervise the special education student.
- 5. Consideration 5: SHARS expenditures may not be reflected in expenditures of small and mid-sized districts due to the



