



## HB 52 is a Voucher Bill - Opposed by Coalition for Public Schools

[House Bill 52](#) provides an Individualized Education Plan Account (IEPA) type voucher for students with a disability. The voucher provides 90% of the funding the child would have generated in a public school. The money would come from the Foundation School Program. The Coalition for Public Schools opposes this voucher on the following grounds:

### ***HB 52 takes taxpayer funds directly from public schools***

With money coming directly from the Foundation School Program, HB 52 siphons money directly from public schools and diverts it to be used in private, religious and home schools. With Texas public schools already being underfunded, Texas can't afford the voucher in HB 52.

### ***No accountability under HB 52***

Private and religious schools that would access taxpayer dollars through HB 52 are not accountable to the state in the same way as public schools. HB 52 would allow these schools to receive taxpayer monies while not meeting the same curriculum nor fiscal requirements of a Texas public school. Texans overwhelmingly believe that schools that receive tax dollars should be accountable for how they are spent, but the schools that receive tax credit vouchers would not be accountable to taxpayers.

### ***Parents and students give up their federal protections under HB 52***

Students with disabilities in special education receiving a voucher under HB 52 would give up their federal protections upon exiting the public school. This includes their rights to due process under admissions, review and dismissal (ARD) committees and other federal protections.

### ***HB 52 violates the separation of church and state and the first amendment***

HB 52 provides that "content or religious nature of a product or service may not be considered in determining whether a payment for the product or service is an expense allowed" under the program. Taxpayer funds used for religious content or services violates the first amendment.