



## **NCLD Supports ED's Enforcement of IDEA: The Texas Education Agency Must Comply**

WASHINGTON – September 13, 2021 – The National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) supports the decision by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to fully enforce the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and require that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) comply with federal law.

For years, countless children with disabilities in Texas have been denied services they are guaranteed by law under IDEA. On August 27th, 2021, the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), notified the TEA Commissioner that TEA has failed to provide a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment for students with disabilities. TEA has also failed to identify children who needed services under IDEA, provide those services to them, and help districts uphold the law. The state has 30 days to make and provide documentation of the necessary changes to be in compliance. This current action follows up on earlier monitoring reports issued by OSEP that notified the state that it had not properly followed federal law. OSEP issued the most recent letter because it determined that TEA still has not satisfied the majority of the items previously identified to address the noncompliance in 2018 and 2020 OSEP monitoring reports.

“TEA’s noncompliance with IDEA has been long-standing and we are concerned that the state has still failed to complete the corrective actions it pledged to implement. We applaud OSEP and the U.S. Department of Education for taking an important step to protect the rights of students with disabilities and their families.” said Lindsay E. Jones, President and CEO of NCLD. “We urge Texas to take the necessary actions to equip its educators to effectively support students with disabilities, and ensure every child with a disability receives the services they are guaranteed by law.”

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### **ABOUT NCLD**

The National Center for Learning Disabilities’ mission is to improve the lives of the 1 in 5 children and adults nationwide with learning and attention issues—by empowering parents and young adults, transforming schools and advocating for equal rights and opportunities.

### **For more information, please contact:**

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