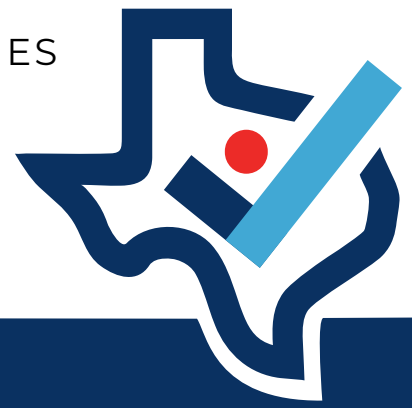


# House Bill (HB) 773

Rep. Alma Allen



## No More Early Pickups

HB 773 would prohibit public schools from requiring a student to go home before the end of the instructional day and after the parent receives school-initiated communication under certain circumstances. Specifically, such release is prohibited if it is used as a discipline management technique, or if it is a reaction to the student's behavior that impedes their ability to learn but does not violate the student code of conduct or require disciplinary action. The bill allows for a student's release if they are suspended or expelled.



In a January 2022 report, the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) described how schools across the country are illegally removing students with disabilities from the classroom. The practice, known as “informal removals,” is being conducted “off the books” and hidden from data reporting.



Informal early pickups can adversely impact academic and social development, and reinforce negative behavioral patterns. Some families are called so frequently that it results in unemployment, financial hardship, and eviction. The practice is used most typically against students with disabilities and students of color.



Supporters of the bill include The Arc of Texas, Autism Society of Texas, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, Disability Rights Texas, Intercultural Development Research Association, Texas AFL-CIO, Texas Center for Justice and Equity, and Texas Parent to Parent

*“[HB 772] ensures that schools are not overreacting and unduly penalizing a student by sending the student home for reasons that do not reach a level of behavior that would necessitate such discipline measures, while also protecting parental rights.”*

Testimony from the Texas Homeschool Coalition to the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety, April 2023

