

September 4, 2017

Dear Colleague,

As you may know, the TEA is partnering with an organization called SPEDx to help us all improve outcomes for students served by special education. SPEDx is partnering directly with LEAs across the state to provide an in-depth analysis of their IEPs that will offer the LEA new insights, trends, and patterns that can inform future planning. Additionally, they are partnering with us on strategic planning for the state to create a climate that supports innovation and leads to improved outcomes for students.

One of the critical pieces of this work is to hear from key stakeholders about their experiences related to Special Education; we will spend time in September and October collecting individual stories that will inform our work as we move forward. Specifically, we plan to speak with district and regional SPED directors, superintendents, principals, teachers, students and parents. **This is where we need your help! We would be grateful for your participation in two key ways:**

1. **Schedule a 30-minute phone interview to share your experiences with Special Education with one of our interviewers.**
2. **Recommend people in any of the groups listed above you think would be willing to participate in an interview as well.**

Please note that the interviews will be anonymous. The interviewer will know the name of the person s/he is interviewing, but will not share your name with others. Instead, stories will be collected and shared in a summary document, with names removed. The only information that will be shared is what group (student, parent, teacher, principal, SPED Director, etc.) and what region the story came from.

**To participate, or recommend someone to participate, please reach out to Matt Moeller, copied on this email. Matt is the project manager for this work, and works for SPEDx. He can be reached at [matt.moeller@spedx.com](mailto:matt.moeller@spedx.com) or 202.669.7756.**

If you have any questions, please reach out to me or to Ann Jacobson, Assistant Director, [ann.jacobson@tea.texas.gov](mailto:ann.jacobson@tea.texas.gov).

With best regards for an amazing school year,  
*Justin*

Justin Porter  
Executive Director, Special Populations  
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