

Require Cameras in Special Education Classrooms Upon Request

KNOW THE FACTS

- **Three states recently passed laws requiring video and audio surveillance of special education settings upon request:**
 - ◆ **Texas: 29.022**
 - ◆ **Georgia: 20-2-324.2**
 - ◆ **West Virginia: 18-20-11**
- **Some Louisiana schools already use cameras to monitor halls and some classes for testing surveillance.**
- **Student reporting of incidents in self-contained special education classrooms is limited due to students who are non-verbal and/or have limited communication skills.**
- **Students with disabilities receive out-of-school suspensions thirty percent more often than students without disabilities.**

What Can Legislators Do?

Require school systems to install cameras in special education classrooms if requested.

Why Do This?

Students with disabilities, particularly students who are non-verbal, are at greater risk of abuse and do not have the communication skills to self-report this abuse.

Parents want peace of mind their children are being treated with dignity and care behind closed doors of self-contained special education classrooms.

Video and audio surveillance increases student safety, protects educators from false accusations, and promotes improved training to address student challenging behavior.

Video surveillance within self-contained classrooms should not be used to increase the removal of students with disabilities from school. Suspension is not an intervention.

- ◆ [Texas Association of School Board Fact Sheet on Texas Law \(29.022\) related to video and audio surveillance of special education settings.](#)
- ◆ [Are Cameras in the Classroom OK?](#) Article on learn.org.
- ◆ Estimated cost is \$8 million based on [SB86 of 2021](#) Re-Reengrossed fiscal note.