



*School Discipline Actions for Students in
Conservatorship*

Senate Committees on Education and Criminal
Justice

October 30, 2012

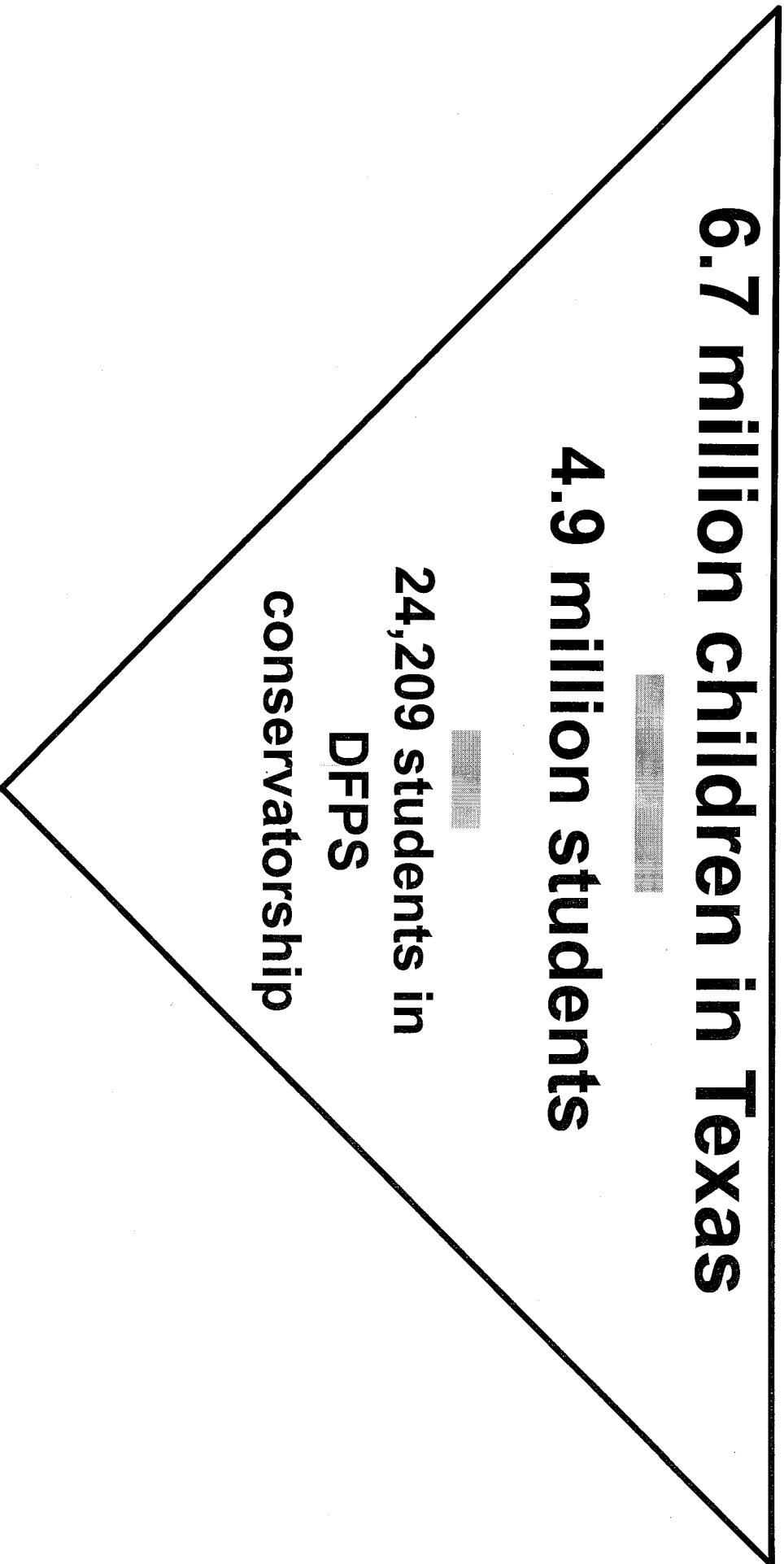
Senate Charge

"Conduct a comprehensive review of school discipline practices. Specifically, review and make recommendations on: The number of students in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) referred to juvenile or municipal courts, suspended, expelled, and placed in Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs (DAEP). Examine data-sharing practices between DFPS, TEA, and local education agencies and make recommendations to increase communication between schools and DFPS to increase educational outcomes for children in foster care. "

Data Sharing on Students in DFPS Conservatorship

- Pursuant to SB 939 by Sen. Watson (81st Legislature) Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and Texas Education Agency (TEA) have memorandum of understanding (MOU) to share data on students in DFPS conservatorship
- DFPS annually provides TEA with list of children in DFPS conservatorship and TEA provides aggregate data on school outcomes including discipline actions

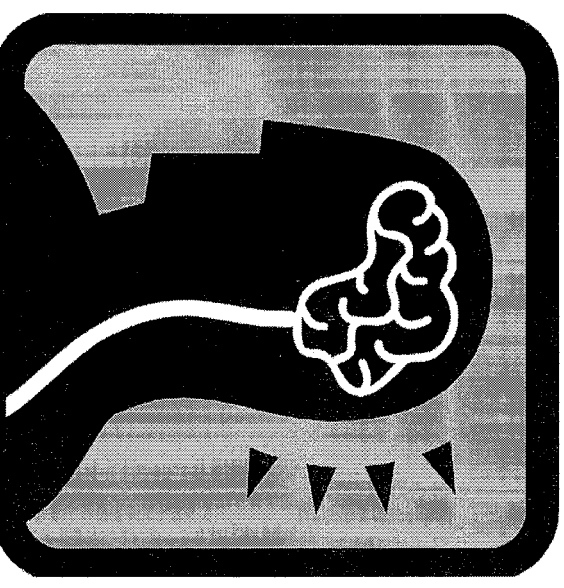
Students in Conservatorship are a Small Share of Student Population



Source: DFPS data for child population, TEA data for students

Students in Conservatorship May Have Difficulty in School due to Chronic Stress

- Higher secretions of cortisol
 - Interferes with impulse control and sleep
 - Difficulty in navigating social interactions with peers because may view positive or neutral situations as hostile
 - Provoke fights to assert control
 - Always on alert so difficult to achieve attentive “calm” necessary for learning



Types of Discipline Actions

- In school suspension – student temporarily removed from regular educational setting but still in school
 - Out of school suspension – student removed from school for up to three days
 - Disciplinary Alternative Education Placement (DAEP) – instruction provided in alternative setting for some period of time
 - Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Placement (JJAEP) – instruction provided in alternative setting supervised by Texas Juvenile Probation Commission
 - Expulsion – after due process hearing, student removed to no educational setting, a JJAEP or DAEP
 - TEA does not provide data on class C misdemeanor citations or other referrals to municipal court
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Types of Discipline Actions for Students in Conservatorship

Students Can Be Counted More than Once					
	Out-of-School		In-School		Total
	DAEP	Suspension	DAEP	Suspension	Total
African American	16	23	434	1822	1572
Hispanic	26	34	478	2039	1312
White	22	39	347	1714	1026
Asian	*	*	*	20	11
Other	*	*	26	142	100
Total	64	96	1285	5737	4021
					11203

Source: *TEA does not provide data if count is less than 5.

Recommendations for Data Sharing

- Continue to identify foster care liaisons for each school district (HB 826 by Rep. Farias – 82nd Legislature)
 - To date, 127 of 1,200 school districts have foster care liaison identified
 - Create an easily accessible master list of foster care liaison contact information
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