

Written Testimony for the Joint Interim Hearing for the Texas House Committee on Corrections and Texas House Committee on Public Education

October 8, 2014

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Interim Charge 4:

Study the impact of SB 393 (83R) and SB 1114 (83R). Assess the impact of school discipline and school-based policing on referrals to the municipal, justice, and juvenile courts, and identify judicial policies or initiatives designed to reduce referrals without having a negative impact on school safety. (Joint charge with the House Committee on Public Education)

Texas School-Ticketing Reform Data

Justice Court Filings (County)

Case Type	FY 2013	FY 2014	% Change
Education Code Violations	5,752	1,120	-80.53%
Penal Code Violations ¹	155,427	111,970	-27.96%
Other State Law Criminal Violations ¹	277,277	258,738	-6.69%
Failure to Attend School Violations	63,349	54,821	-13.46%
All Other Juvenile Filings	15,199	4,148	-72.71%

Municipal Court Filings (City)

Case Type	FY 2013	FY 2014	% Change
Education Code Violations	2,114	245	-87.77%
Penal Code Violations ¹	410,721	377,417	-8.11%
Other State Law Criminal Violations ¹	326,004	274,544	-15.79%
Failure to Attend School Violations	10,804	8,511	-21.22%
All Other Juvenile Filings	45,149	21,176	-53.10%

Combined Filings – Justice and Municipal Court Totals

Case Type	FY 2013	FY 2014	% Change
Education Code Violations	7,866	1,365	-82.65%
Penal Code Violations ¹	566,148	489,387	-13.56%
Other State Law Criminal Violations ¹	603,281	533,282	-11.60%
Failure to Attend School Violations	74,153	63,332	-14.59%
All Other Juvenile Filings	60,348	25,324	-58.04%

Case Type Descriptions

- Education Code Violations - These are offenses in the Texas Education Code, other than Failure to Attend School. Examples of these offenses include disruption of class or disruption of transportation.
 - Disruption of class includes emitting a noise that hinders classroom instruction, enticing or attempting to entice a student from attending a class, and preventing or attempting to prevent a student from attending a class or other school activity.
 - Disruption of transportation includes disrupting, preventing or interfering with the lawful transportation of children on a school bus or school-owned vehicle.
- Penal Code Violations - These are Class C misdemeanor offenses in the Penal Code. The primary example is disorderly conduct.
 - Disorderly conduct includes offenses such as using offensive language in public that breaches the peace, making offensive gestures in a public place that breaches the peace, fighting, or displaying a firearm or deadly weapon in a public place to cause an alarm.
- Other juvenile violation filings (non-Penal Code) - These are offenses that are non-traffic offenses punishable by fine only that aren't included elsewhere

¹ The total number of Penal Code Violations and Other State Law Criminal Violations include adult filings as well. However, no change in the law was made to other offenses in this category.