



# Monitoring Charge – SB 7 (85R)

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

SENATE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE, NOVEMBER 27, 2018

## **Senate Bill 7 -Relating to improper relationships between educators and students and reporting of educator misconduct.**

- Author:Senator Bettencourt; Sponsor:Representative Ken King

# SB 7 – Changed Reporting Requirements

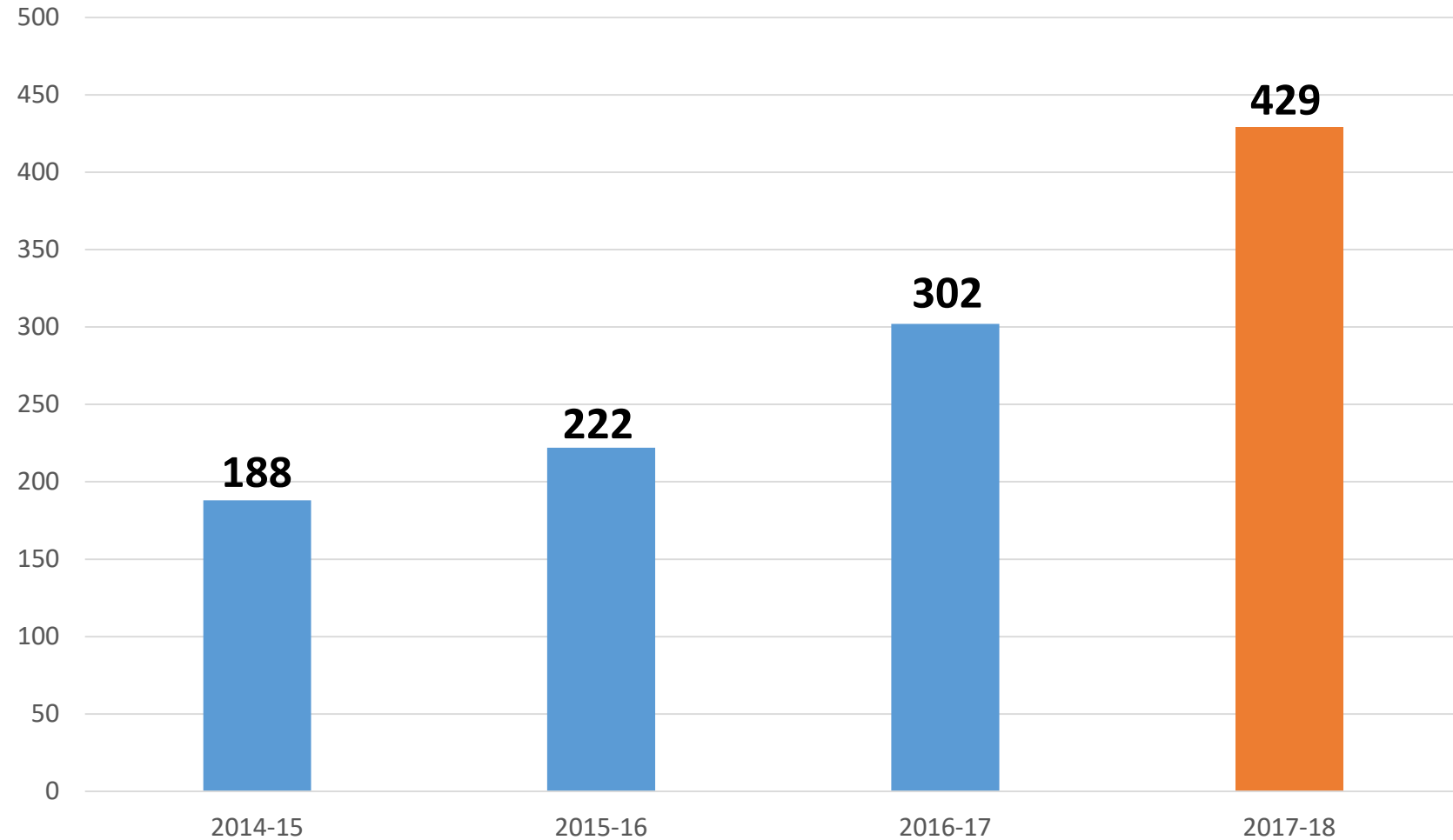
- Principal required to report to the superintendent
- Created administrative penalty for failure to report to SBEC (superintendent & principal)
- Created a criminal penalty for intentionally failing to report
- Changed evidence standard from “based on” to “there is”

SB 7 has resulted in **increased reports** of inappropriate relationships.

- SB 7 has reduced the risks faced by school districts and students by closing loopholes and enhancing penalties for conduct relating to inappropriate relationships between educators and students
- SB 7 has encouraged reporting of inappropriate relationships between educator and students by clarifying and expanding reporting requirements

# Inappropriate Relationship With a Student/Minor (IRWSM)

IRWSM Investigations Opened



\* Data as of September 1, 2018

# Rider 72 – GAA 85<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session

**Rider 72** appropriated \$136,094 annually to **protect students from inappropriate educator relationships**. These funds support two additional investigators to address the increased case volume and help ensure all allegations are thoroughly investigated and prosecuted to help keep students safe.

- Additionally, and as a result of these increased funds, TEA has reduced the average number of days it takes to complete an investigation from **120 to 107**.

- Consider language to **clarify the duty to report** when a district has completed an investigation and determined that an educator did not engage in misconduct.
- Consider addressing the growing number of **non-certified employees** employed in the public schools who engage in misconduct with Texas school children and **are beyond the scope of existing reporting requirements**.