WHY?
The number of Texas children who aren’t getting vaccinated is on the rise.
• The number of Texas children with exemptions has risen from 2,314 in 2003 to 44,716 in 2016.¹
• Studies show that exemptions tend to cluster within schools. This quickly creates pockets of under-vaccinated and vulnerable children, and poses greater risk to the entire community. Children who receive exemptions and are not vaccinated against disease are more likely to contract and spread disease.²
• Parents of a child who may not be able to be vaccinated, such as a child who is immunosuppressed due to a disease like leukemia, should know if their child is at greater risk on their school campus.

We can do more to reduce disease in Texas.
• Each year, DSHS surveys 1,240 independent school districts and 890 accredited private schools to collect the immunization status of kindergarten and middle school children.
• The public is unaware of exemption numbers and their health impact in their area or local schools.
• Data on the immunization coverage at the school campus level means families can be more aware and can make informed choices.
• Regular monitoring, including surveillance, will help public health officials better plan their immunization activities to serve communities in need.

TAKE ACTION
Support government transparency regarding vaccine exemption existence so parents and communities can be more informed.
