Senate Bill 1882 from the 2017 session must be repealed to stop the takeover of Texas’ public neighborhood schools by private, profit-driven entities that are not accountable to taxpayers.

SB1882 provides financial and accountability incentives for school districts to partner with charter companies or other private organizations to take over and operate existing schools. The law and TEA rules require that any public school with a “D” or “F” rating for five consecutive years must be turned over to a charter or non-profit or closed. Otherwise, the entire school district becomes subject to a state takeover.

- SB1882 relies on the false premise that privatizing our neighborhood public schools will improve student learning, yet the data show that most privately-operated campuses suffer declines in student performance and end up with lower academic ratings.

- SB1882 partnerships allow for the operating charter partner to take control over personnel, most school policies, financial issues and curriculum. The school’s teachers and community are frequently left out of the process.

- These charter takeovers should be subject to the oversight and governance of local elected school boards. Charter operators should be accountable to the communities from which they are profiting. Instead, they answer only to privately selected boards, often in other states.

- By allowing school districts to receive increased funding if they operate under an SB1882 partnership, the state is creating financial incentives to privatize schools instead of truly addressing student needs.

- The state should adequately fund public education and provide support for the students who need it most, not punishment.

- Although the law allows for districts to enter into SB1882 contracts with non-profits or universities instead of charter schools, TEA has adopted rules that have made these options nearly impossible.

After 30 years of state promotion of charter schools and billions of tax dollars spent on their expansion, it is clear that charters are not improving student learning, innovation or accountability. The charter industry is an expensive problem, not a solution.