

PLEASE OPPOSE SB 28

Keep our elected leaders involved in charter approvals.

We elect leaders to make decisions for our community who are accountable to the public. Don't cut them out of the charter approval process.

SB 28 eliminates the authority of our elected State Board of Education to veto a bad charter application.

- SB 28 puts approval of *all* new charters in the hands of one appointed state official.
- SBOE has only vetoed 7 charter applications out of a total of 41 applications since the Legislature gave it that authority in 2013.
- SBOE holds a public hearing to give the public a voice in the charter approval process.

SB 28 discriminates against small towns and cities.

- SB 28 does not treat small towns and cities the way it treats larger cities.
- The bill exempts charter schools from any municipal zoning laws in towns and cities with fewer than 20,000 people.
- That means a charter school can locate anywhere in a small town – even a residential neighborhood – which can affect property values.

These are local control issues, not pro-charter or anti-charter issues.

- SB 28 will limit the ability of local elected officials to protect our neighborhoods.
- Protecting our neighborhoods is not “red tape” – it ensures the public has a say over where we live - and that decisions are not in the hands of one appointed state official.
- Cities actually approve most new charter locations – evidenced by the high number of charter schools that open every year.
- Yet, cities may have different concerns about a charter school or a district school that must be addressed because district and charter schools operate in different ways.
- For example, charter schools may create more traffic issues because they generally do not provide bus transportation for students; so there are more cars in neighborhoods and more traffic back-up every day at drop-off and pick-up times for charter schools.

Unlike public school districts with elected boards, charter decisions are made by self-selected board members who often don't live in our community and may even live out-of-state.

- Yet, those charter boards can decide to open new charter campuses in our cities with zero community input for most charter expansion:
 - X No bond elections
 - X No board of trustee elections
 - X No public meetings to get community input

The following organizations oppose SB 28:

- Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)
- Coalition for Education Funding (CEF)
- Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA)
- Pastors for Texas Children
- Texas American Federation of Teachers (Texas AFT)
- Texas Association of Community Schools (TACS)
- Texas Association of Rural Schools (TARS)
- Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA)
- Texas Association of School Boards (TASB)
- Texas Classroom Teachers Association (TCTA)
- Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA)
- Texas School Alliance (TSA)
- Texas State Teachers Association (TSTA)
- Texas Urban Council (TUC)



Association of Texas Professional Educators



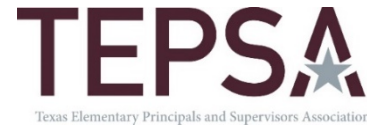
Texas AFT
A Union of Professionals
www.texasaft.org



Texas Classroom Teachers Association



Texas Association of School Boards



Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS



Texas School Alliance



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF RURAL SCHOOLS



Pastors for Texas Children



TEXAS URBAN COUNCIL OF SUPERINTENDENTS

