

## FACTS ABOUT CHARTER SCHOOLS IN TEXAS - 2022

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Charter school growth is unlimited</b> - At the sole discretion of the Commissioner of Education, 884 new charter campuses have been approved since 2010 through the charter amendment process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There is no general public notice or public meeting required when a charter applies for a new campus through the amendment process, and no elected official is involved in the approval.</li> <li>○ Parents are often in the dark about a new charter school proposed for their neighborhood.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Public school districts outperformed charter schools</b> on STAAR tests (all subjects) for each of the last five years for which there is data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Districts earned <u>more</u> A and B ratings and <u>fewer</u> D and F ratings from the state than charters.</li> <li>○ Public school districts have higher graduation rates and much lower dropout rates than charters.</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Charters enroll about 6 percent of Texas students but receive about 16 percent of FSP state aid.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ State funds to charter schools have quadrupled to \$3.7 billion since FY 2010 and are projected to total \$8.5 billion over the two years of the FY 2022-23 biennium.</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Charters receive an average of about \$1,150 more per student</b> from the Foundation School Program (FSP) than what the same student would have cost in their home public school district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This is largely because all charters - regardless of size - receive the average of the small and mid-size allotment which is intended to help small districts with 5,000 or fewer students.</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Charter schools drain resources from public school districts</b>, because districts can't cut costs dollar-for-dollar compared to the loss of revenue to charters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ District revenue loss can result in cuts to academics, student programs, elective classes, and staff.</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Charter schools historically underserve special education students</b>, serving 32 percent fewer than districts in 2021. The gap is often higher when comparing a charter to a nearby neighborhood school.</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Charter schools spent an average of 40% more on central office expenses</b> and an average of \$646 less per student on instruction than districts.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Charter schools pay teachers an average of \$4,750 less</b> per year than school districts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Charters have double the teacher turnover and double the percentage of teachers with five or fewer years of teaching experience.</li> <li>○ Teachers at charters are not required to be certified, except for special education and bilingual.</li> </ul>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Charters are not subject class size limits:</b> The state's largest charter chain averaged 42 students in third grade classes (2020-2021) while spending \$845 less per student than the state average on instruction, but paying more than \$12 million for advertising.</p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Charter school policies and practices create barriers to student enrollment and persistence:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Charters can exclude any student who has ever had discipline history even for a minor offense.</li> <li>○ Most charters do not provide transportation, which can limit enrollment for many students.</li> <li>○ Unlike districts, charters can expel a student for any reason in their student code of conduct.</li> </ul>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>State laws do not apply to charters unless charters are specifically named in the law:</b> In many cases, charters are less accountable than school districts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Charter boards are self-selected and not accountable to voters, unlike district board members.</li> <li>○ Charters do not require voter approval for bonds to build new facilities. Charter bonds are approved only by charter board members who may not live in the community, or even in Texas.</li> </ul>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Charter schools in Texas:</b> 365,930 students; 831 charter campuses; 183 charter holders</p>