

Speak Out For Texas Charter School Students

Public Charter Schools

- Serve **202,972** Texas students across the state.
- Receive about **\$1,000** less per student than your traditional public school.
- Have **105,000** Texas students on waiting lists for a seat in their classrooms.
- Have to use classroom dollars for school building needs.
- Pay property taxes on leased buildings.
- Are held to stricter accountability standards and face automatic closure, unlike traditional public schools.



You Can Make A Difference!

Your student is NOT worth less!

Charter schools are public schools. And your child should receive the same amount of funds as any other public school. Your family shouldn't be punished for choosing a charter school. So why do traditional public school students receive \$1,000 more? **Ask your lawmakers!**

You need that money in your child's classroom to:

- Pay for a gym, science lab, library or playground.
- Buy more textbooks or technology.
- Pay great teachers a competitive salary.
- Update an old school building.

105,000 Students Are Waiting - You can help!

School choice, not school chance:

- Some students attend good schools, while others are trapped with no options.
- For public charter school parents: You found it, researched it, applied, won a lottery and got in.
- You were lucky, but others are not.

More than 105,000 Students are stuck on waiting lists - trapped in a system that doesn't work for them. You know best what that feels like and you can describe how important the charter school is to your student and family. **Tell your story!**

Put Children First - You can change the status quo!

You can change the status quo!

Every wonder why so many charter schools operate out of recycled businesses or modular classrooms? There's never quite enough space, and creativity is a necessity. But a traditional neighborhood public school could be operating half-full or even be empty. And public charter schools can be denied use of an unused or half-full building.

Public charter schools cannot directly access the local property tax funds that you pay for neighborhood school buildings. And public charter schools do not get state facilities funding. That extra money could go into your child's school for:

- necessary repairs and renovation
- expression
- gym, library and other extra-curricular facilities

Charter Schools Are Public Schools

Spread the word!

Public charter schools are free, open to all students and have no special entrance requirements. They are accountable to their board members, the Texas Education Agency and the public on the same academic and financial standards that apply to traditional public schools.

There are some differences. For example, public charter schools:

- Have the freedom to be more innovative.
- Can be more responsive and tailored to the needs of students.
- Receive \$1,000 less per-student funding than traditional public schools.
- Have additional, stricter accountability because they could be closed if there are academic and financial problems three years in a row.

Public Charter School Closure Should Be A Last Resort!

Public charter schools are held to a higher standard than traditional public schools and can be closed by the state for poor performance. But before a school is closed, **it should be without a doubt in the BEST interest of STUDENTS.**

- Closure should be fair to students and families, who've already left a neighborhood school because it didn't meet their needs.
- Charters should be present to state their case at an informal review before the State Board of Education Commissioner before closure.
- To protect students and families, alternatives to closure, such as merging with an effective, established charter, should be considered before a revocation decision.
- Accountability ratings that led to the charter revocation should accurately reflect the academic and financial performance of a charter.
- Students should be put first because the consequences are so drastic.