

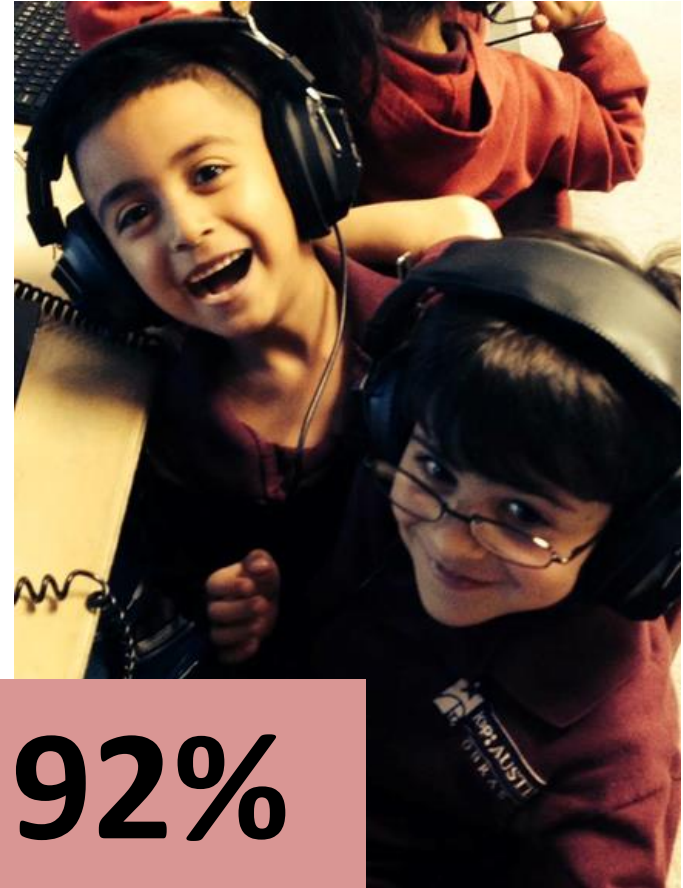


Charter Schools Application Overview and Timeline



Why does TCSA exist?

The mission of TCSA is to improve student achievement in Texas by advocating for and strengthening a diverse set of high quality charter schools.



92%
*of Students
in Texas*

Advocacy

Legal

Quality Services

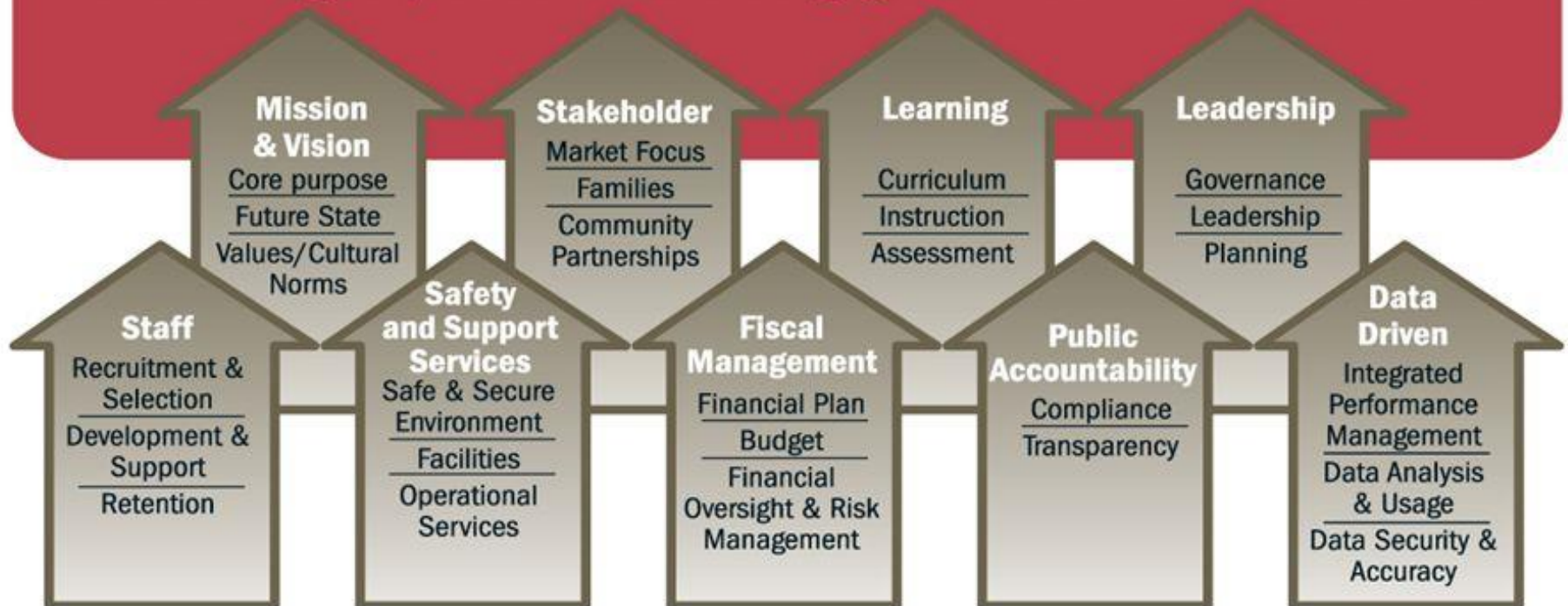
- Quality Performance Tools, Data & Resources
- Trainings
- Annual Conference
- Vendor Relations
(*Group Purchasing*)
- Data Analysis

Operational and Academic Support

STUDENT SUCCESS

Academic Achievement & Growth • Post-secondary Readiness

Culture of High Expectation • Student Engagement • Social & Emotional Skills





Texas Charter School Sector Overview



What are Open Enrollment Charter Schools?

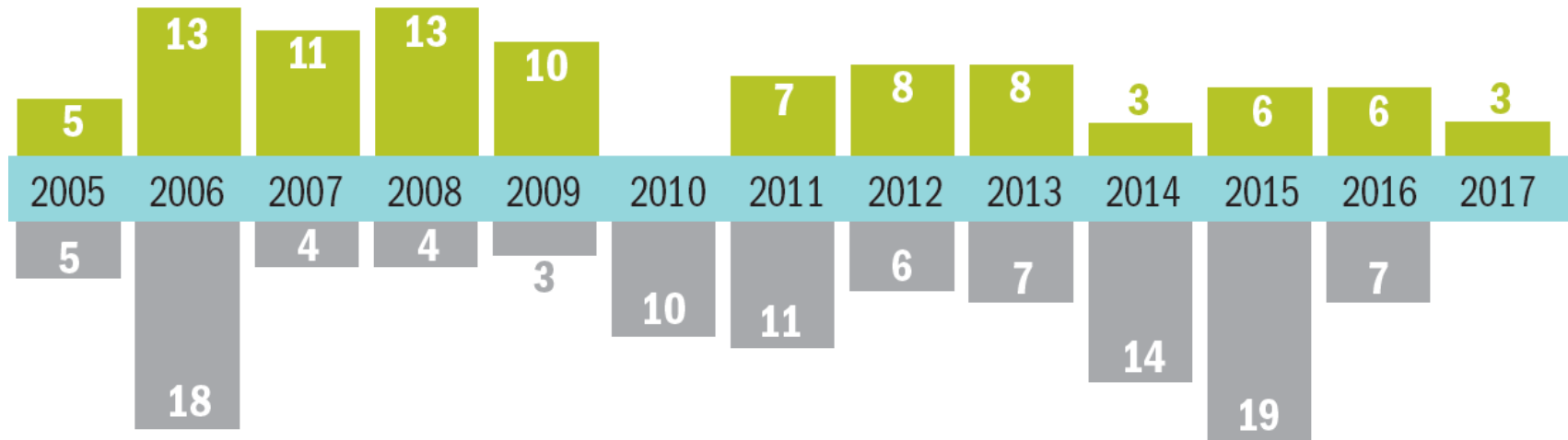
- **Open-enrollment charter schools:**
 - are free public schools
 - have the flexibility to adapt to the educational needs of individual students
 - vary in mission and model, serving a wide range of students, many with needs beyond the one-size-fits-all traditional public school
 - often provide a personalized learning environment that promotes greater student achievement

Public Charter Schools in Texas



There are more than **222,000** students attending over **650** open-enrollment charter campuses with about **129,000** students on **waiting lists** across Texas. Charter students represent about 4% of the public school population in Texas.

Charter Awards and Revocations



Green – Awarded
Gray – Revoked

Not getting any easier!

Authorizer and Authorizing Process





New Commissioner of Education **[Mike Morath](#)**

Commissioner of Education at TEA is the state authorizer – as a result of SB2, effective September 2013.

State Board of Education (SBOE) Committee on School Initiatives (CSI)

- ✓ Participate in interviews
- ✓ CSI Chair Role – Coordinates with Commissioner
- ✓ Veto Power of Commissioner proposed awards



[Donna Bahorich](#)

Houston

Chair



[Marty Rowley](#)

Amarillo



[Erika Beltran](#)

Fort Worth



[Ruben Cortez, Jr.](#)

Brownsville



[Martha M. Dominguez](#)

El Paso

Application Timeline





Timing of the Application Process

**Estimates based on Gen 21 process.*



**Fall 2017
– Summer
2018
is
Year 0
Planning
Year**

**School
Begins
August
2018**

Timing of the Application Process

**Estimates based on Gen 21 process.*

Fall 2017 – Summer 2018 is **Year 0 Planning Year**

School Begins August 2018

Importance of Timing:

- Timing of State Funds
- Fundraising (more when discuss NP)



Best Practices, Resources, Next Steps and Q & A



Building Your Team



Seek diverse skills.

Your founding group may need to work with specialists with expertise in a number of areas including, but not limited to:

Curriculum and Instruction	Governance / Law
System Technology	Grant Writing
Human Resources	Real Estate
Public School Finance	Community Organizer
Marketing	Special Education

Team Culture

- Define founding team culture and norms
- Protect each other
- Courageous honesty
- Protect healthy processes for working through difficult issues
- ***Five Dysfunctions of a Team*** - book

Best Practices



A. The Writing Process

- **DO NOT PLAGERIZE**
- Start a **running bibliography**

B. Ownership of the Application

- Board **MUSTS**

C. Attend **Mandatory** Meeting- Part of Application

Before Filing Your Application

Letters of Support

- Churches
- Community Organizations
- Parents
- State Legislators

Submit with Application in the Community Section in the form of “Quotes.”

In-Person Visits

- State Board of Education
- TEA Charter Division Director*
- Committee on School Initiatives
- State Legislators
- “Town Hall” - style Meetings

* TEA is **not allowed** to give you any inside information. You could however, seek to understand the Charter Division’s Mission and Role, as well as priorities of the Director for the work of charter schools in the state.

Communication Encouraged Prior to Submission:

Contact and Get to Know
SBOE Members, especially
Committee on School
Initiative Members, and TEA
Charter Division Staff

Once Application Submitted:
TEA, Reviewer, or SBOE
Communication Prohibited

**Contacting them is basis
for disqualification**

3 Sources to use to ensure you complete all requirements and meet the cut score requirements.

- **The application questions.** Ensure you answer the questions fully and in narrative form without listing with numbers.
- **The instructional document.** Often additional requirements and information is noted here.
- **The evaluation overview and criteria.** The key aspects are listed in the left column ‘**Excellent.**’

Applies to members of the governing body & school officers

- **DO NOT COPY**
- Tell your story

Next Steps



A. Form Texas non-profit entity

- Corporation is best protection for board
- 3 board members minimum
- Draft bylaws

B. File Form 1023 with IRS

- Need Certificate of Filing from Texas Secretary of State with submission
- **MUST** have filed before submitting application and **MUST** have Letter of Determination by Spring.

Texas Education and NP Links

- Texas Administrative Code, [Chapter 100](#)
- Secretary of State, Non-Profit Incorporation
- http://www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/forms_boc.shtml

- A. Pull and review last year's application RFP and related documents
 - **Application Document Review**
- B. Pull and review a few past applications

Important Links / Resources

- **Our website - www.txcharterschools.org**
(See 'Start a Charter School' menu / TEA Resources page)
 - Links to the **law and code** that govern charter schools
 - Links to **past applications**
- **Sign up for our news letter**
- **TCSA Supports**
 - All day trainings in coming months
 - Annual Conference – October 3rd-5th in Austin
 - Application review
 - Interview preparation
 - Development Support

Resources

- Application website
- TEA website – Application page
- TEKS and Grade-level Coursework
- TCSA Webinars
- TCSA Trainings
- TCSA Conference – Oct 3rd-5th

Questions?



Texas Charter Schools Association

TCSA exists to help charter leaders be successful.

www.txcharterschools.org

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