

The Future is Texas.



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Texas is the
place to be
for charter
school leaders.
Where **funding**
is growing,
the political
climate is
better, and
partnerships
are stronger.

Students in Texas need your help.



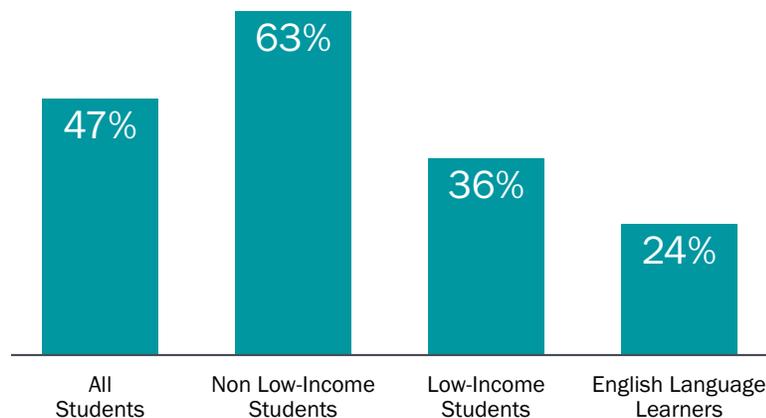
THE NEED

The Lonestar State has the second-highest K-12 population in the country. One in ten American children are born in Texas. Twelve percent of the country’s low-income students are in Texas. Texas ranks 2nd and 9th among states in the percentage of students who are English Language Learners and Economically Disadvantaged. By investing in Texas, you are investing in the future of our nation. Right now, for too many children in Texas, that future is not as bright as it could be.

The need to improve educational outcomes for students in Texas is clear:

- There are **339** “Improvement Required” public schools in Texas.
- Texas ranks **45th** nationally in early literacy on the NAEP.
- Only **18%** of low-income Texas high school graduates earn a post-secondary degree.
- There are **141,000** student names on charter school waitlists.

2018 STAAR Proficiency at “Meets” Standard Across All Grades and Subjects



Source: STAAR, 2018 Aggregate Data at Meets Standard

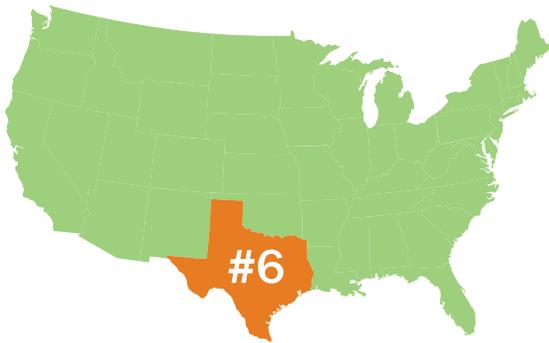
You can
transform
student
lives.



THE SOLUTION

Charter schools in Texas are already making an impact on students' lives by helping close the achievement gap for our most at-risk students. Latinx Texas charter students outscored ALL statewide averages for Latinx students across the country on the 2017-18 NAEP 8th grade Math test. African American Texas charter students achieved higher passage rates than African American non-charter students on 2017-18 state reading and writing tests.

Charters in Texas are proving the possible for hundreds of thousands of students in need. You can be a part of the solution.



Charter school students in Texas scored **6th** highest in the country on the Nation's Report Card 8th grade math test.



Texas charter schools send a higher percentage of their graduates to college.

You can
choose your
path to
authorization.



PATHS TO AUTHORIZATION

Texas has two authorization paths: either through the state or a school district. State-authorized charters can be independent non-profit charter schools, or operated by a college or university. Cities and towns can also seek state permission to operate a charter school. Currently there are six university-affiliated charters in Texas, one city-run charter, and 180 independent non-profit charters. Only non-profit charter schools are allowed in Texas. Currently, Texas charter schools serve 6 percent of the public school student population, but growth is thriving and demand is strong. Once a charter is authorized in Texas and has a three-year track record of success, there is wide latitude to expand and grow to serve more students.

PATH 1:

State-Authorized “Open Enrollment” Charters

Process:

1. Potential applicant must attend an Application Information Session at TEA.
2. Submit charter application to TEA.
3. Application is scored by an independent review panel.
4. Applicants scoring 85% or higher move on to an in-person capacity interview with TEA.
5. TEA staff and Commissioner select applicants after interviews that they believe should be awarded charters and forward those to the State Board of Education for final approval.
6. State Board of Education Committee on School Initiatives holds public interviews with agency-recommended charters and recommends approval or veto.
7. Full State Board of Education takes a public vote on each TEA-recommended charter.

PATH 2:

“In-District” Charters

In 2017, the state passed SB 1882, which created financial and accountability incentives for school districts to partner with charter schools. For charters, the benefits of partnering with a district include a pause on accountability sanctions for Improvement Required campuses, an opportunity to purchase or lease district facilities at low or no cost, and the ability to contract for services, such as transportation and food, at a lower cost. These “Subchapter C” charter schools are created and overseen by independent school districts and their boards of trustees. School districts decide which charter schools they want to partner with and what the parameters of the contract will be.

Process:

1. District chooses an existing campus to convert to a charter school or decides to create a new charter campus.
2. Charter submits application to local district school board to operate the newly formed charter campus.
3. Local district school board approves charter partnership.
4. District and charter leaders negotiate performance contract terms.
5. Charter board and district school board approve contract.
6. District submits contract to TEA for approval of partnership benefits.

You can fund
the schools
students
deserve.



FUNDING

Over the past few years, Texas has increased education funding. In 2019, the state passed a funding formula overhaul that increased school spending by \$6 billion.

TEXAS FUNDS:

- A basic per-student allotment of at least \$7,218
- Significant additional support for low-income and otherwise disadvantaged students
- A modest portion of charter facility costs
- Half-day pre-k, with additional funds available that can be used for full day pre-K 4
- A 30-day school year extension
- Dual language instruction
- CTE into middle school

REGIONAL PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS

In many Texas communities, there is strong philanthropic support to help high-performing charter schools take root. Quarterback organizations and philanthropists in Houston, Austin, San Antonio, Fort Worth, and other communities are building coalitions of funders to support charter growth.



**You can
recruit
strong
teachers
and leaders.**



LIVING AND TEACHING IN TEXAS

In 2019, *U.S. News and World Report* named the four largest metro areas in Texas top places to live in the country due to their real estate value, desirability, strong job market, and high quality of life. Austin, the Live Music Capital of the World, is one of the fastest growing cities in the country and is attractive for its outdoor spaces and cultural institutions. From 2017-2018, the Dallas-Fort Worth area gained more residents than any other metropolitan area in the country. Due to its affordable housing and free or cheap attractions, a paycheck in Houston goes further than in any other major metro area in the U.S. San Antonio, the Home of the Alamo, offers more than 50 major events and festivals throughout the year and is home to seven military bases and thousands of new families seeking quality school options.

Texas also has no state or local income tax.

TEXAS PRODUCES QUALITY TEACHERS

There are 135 Educator Preparation programs in the state, and the University of Texas at Austin was just named one of the 10 best teacher prep colleges in the country.

Charter schools have flexibility in hiring. Charter schools are not required to hire certified teachers unless they are special education or bilingual/ESL teachers. Texas law does not allow labor unions to force charter school leaders to the bargaining table.



#1 AUSTIN



#21 DALLAS / FT. WORTH



#30 HOUSTON



#34 SAN ANTONIO

You can
get support
every step
of the way.



TCSA SERVICES

The Texas Charter Schools Association (TCSA) is committed to helping aspiring charter schools navigate the process of applying for and opening a charter school in Texas. From authorization through the first day of school, TCSA is a resource, guide, coach, and partner.

PRE-AUTHORIZATION

TCSA has the best track record in the state for supporting schools through the authorization process. We offer:

- Access to a “heat map” to visualize the educational landscape in Texas and demonstrate areas of need. You can view data like median household income, languages spoken, high school and college attainment, nearby schools and their accountability scores
- Assistance developing financial models based on Texas funding
- Application support, including peer reviews
- Authorization interview prep
- Networking with the philanthropic community

POST-AUTHORIZATION

- Technical trainings on Texas law to meet state training requirements for school leaders
- Board trainings to meet state training requirements
- Access to model policies and resources to keep you compliant with Texas law

TCSA is the voice of the charter community in Texas with state and local lawmakers. We protect the ability of the charter community to grow and innovate by advocating for pro-charter policies at all levels of government.



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