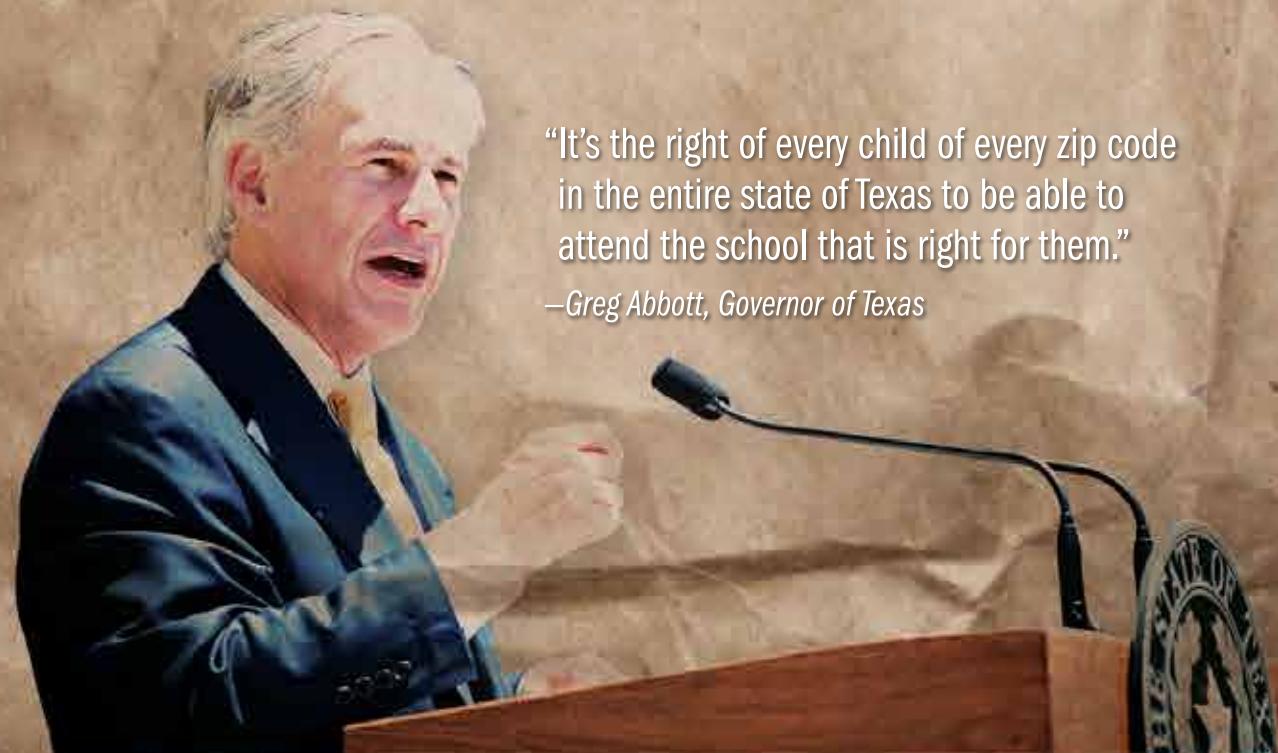




Join the TX Charter
REVOLUTION
txcharterschools.org/speak-out

"It's the right of every child of every zip code in the entire state of Texas to be able to attend the school that is right for them."

—Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas





"There are more than 100,000 Texas families that want their children to attend a public charter school and there aren't enough openings."

—Tiffany Bradley, NYOS Parent

There are 130,000 Texas Students on Charter School Wait Lists.



"There should not be a wait list to live the American dream and you cannot live the American dream without an education."

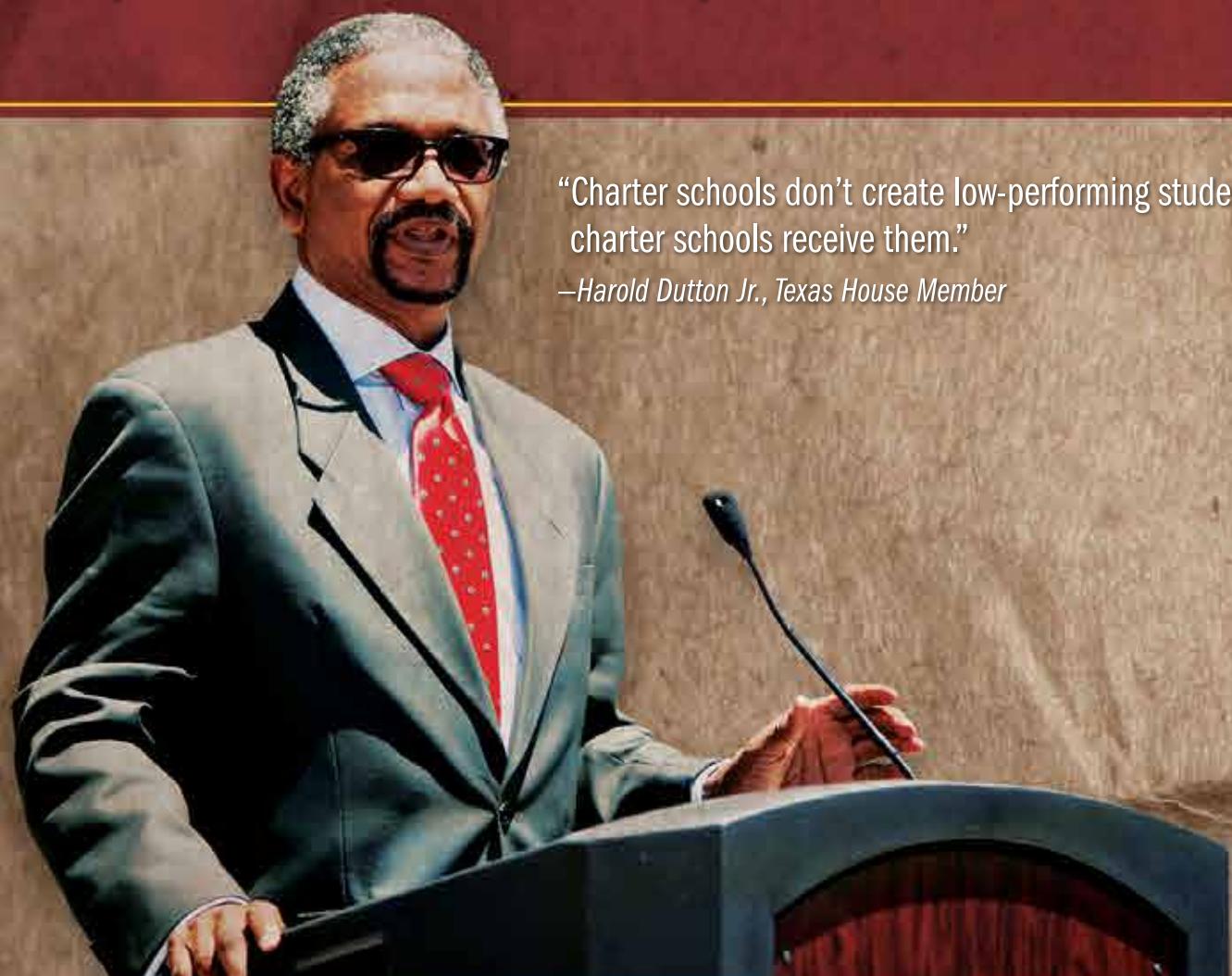
—Dan Patrick, Lieutenant Governor of Texas



On average, Charter Schools Receive \$1,000 Less per Student than Independent School Districts.

“Charter schools don’t create low-performing students, charter schools receive them.”

—Harold Dutton Jr., Texas House Member

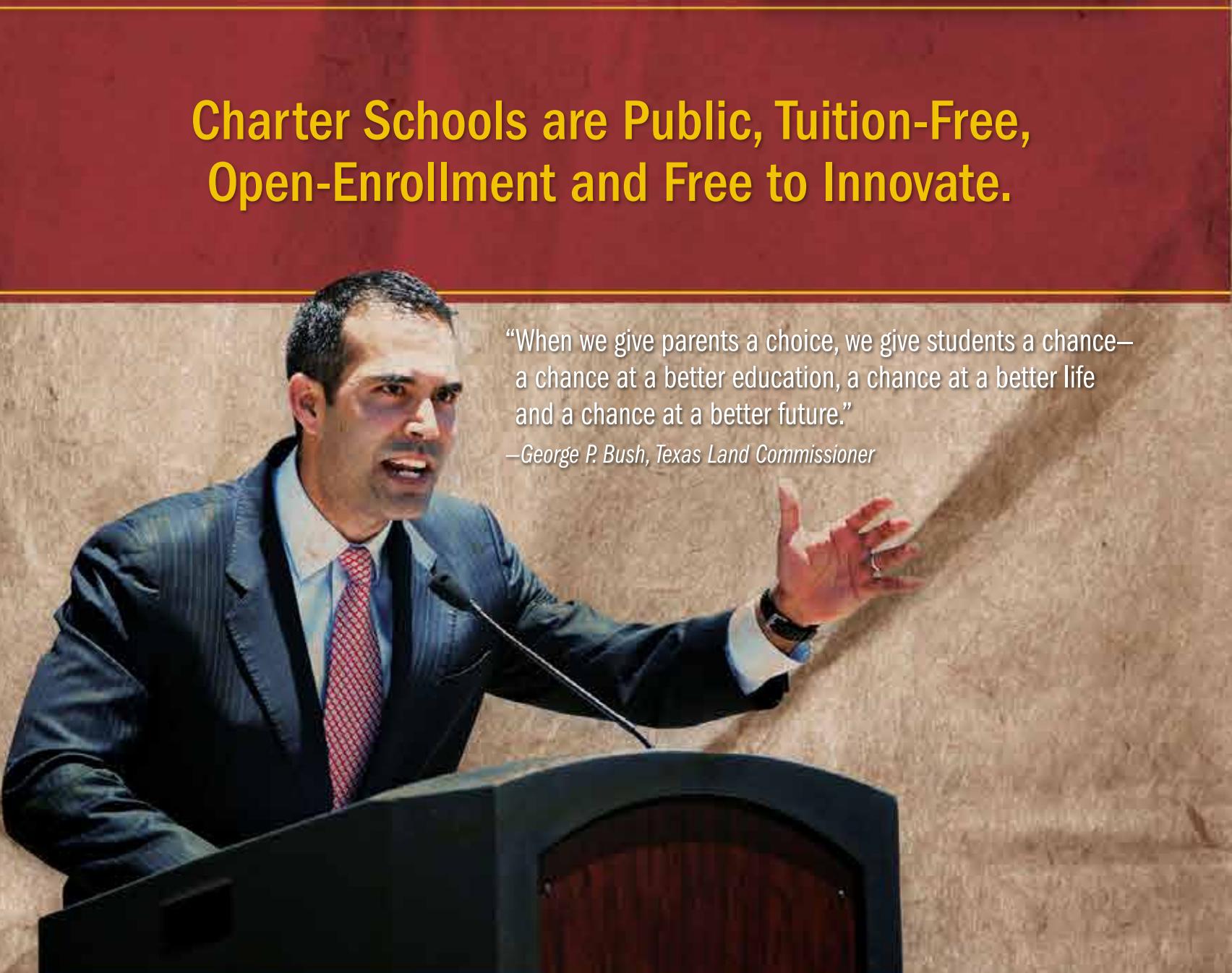




"What I love about my charter school is my children have the opportunity to choose how they learn and I have the opportunity to choose how they learn."

—Tamra Sharp, Uplift Education Parent

Charter Schools are Public, Tuition-Free, Open-Enrollment and Free to Innovate.



"When we give parents a choice, we give students a chance—a chance at a better education, a chance at a better life and a chance at a better future."

—George P. Bush, Texas Land Commissioner

What is a Charter School?

Public charter schools were created by the state of Texas in 1995 to have the flexibility to adapt to the educational needs of individual students and encourage more innovation in education.

Public charter schools are free, public options for families to choose to send their student. They have the same academic and financial accountability as traditional school districts. Because they are public schools, charter schools are open to all children, do not charge tuition, do not have special requirements for admittance and are not associated with any religion.

Public charter schools vary in mission and model, serving a wide range of students, many with needs beyond the one-size-fits-all traditional public school.

FACT

1

Charter schools are public schools.

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.

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS		TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
✓	TUITION FREE, OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS	✓
✓	DO NOT DISCRIMINATE ON ANY BASIS	✓
✓	PUBLICLY FUNDED BASED ON ENROLLMENT	✓
✓	STATE AND FEDERAL LAW ACCOUNTABLE	✓
✓	FLEXIBLE SCHOOL DAY/YEAR	

FACT

2

Charter schools are a diverse system of schools.

Charter schools were created to give parents an opportunity to choose the best fit model for their student. There is not a one-size-fits-all model, therefore charter schools offer a variety of different models to ensure that all Texas children have an opportunity at success in their public education schooling.

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL TYPES
DROPOUT RECOVERY Serve students who drop out or are at risk of dropping out.
PRE-KINDERGARTEN/ELEMENTARY Expressly serve pre-K, elementary students.
RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER/JUVENILE DETENTION CENTERS Serve students in residential setting, ordered to attend school by court of law.
SPECIALIZED MISSION Serve students of any grade level in a distinctive focus.
COLLEGE PREPARATORY Prepare students for four-year college degree.



FACT

3

Charter schools are available to all students.

Any student can apply to any charter school of their choosing through a free application process. When more students apply than there are seats at the school, a blind lottery is held. Contrary to popular belief, charter schools do not cherry-pick their students. Moreover, compared to traditional public schools, charter schools educate a higher percentage of low-income and minority students.

CHARTER SCHOOLS SERVE ALL STUDENTS.

They have no selective, academic admissions requirements.

They must accept all students, including English learners and students with special needs.

They hold lotteries to enroll students if there are not enough available seats to meet demand.



FACT

4

Charter schools are heavily vetted.

There is a rigorous screening process for charter school applicants. Candidates must show a high-quality educational program with a fiscally responsible plan to the Texas Education Agency and an external review committee. The Texas Commissioner of Education selects which advance with the State Board of Education having veto authority.

STEP 1



Educational Program &
Fiscally Responsible Plan

STEP 2



TEA & External
Review Committee

STEP 3



TX Commissioner
of Education

STEP 4



State Board
of Education



Join the Texas Charter Revolution!

Help improve student learning. Help increase the choice of learning opportunities within the public school system. Help create professional opportunities which will attract new teachers to the public school system. Help establish a new form of accountability for public schools. Encourage different and innovative learning methods. Make a difference in a student's life, their family's life and the lives of future generations.

Start today!

REASON

1

Your student is worth it.

Charter schools are public schools. Your child should receive the same amount of funds as any other public school. Your family should not 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 gymnasium, science laboratory, library or playground.

Purchase more and up-to-date textbooks and the latest technology.

Pay amazing teachers a competitive salary they deserve.

Update an old school building.



REASON

2

You can change the status quo.

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

Public charter schools cannot directly access the local property tax funds that you pay for neighborhood school buildings. Additionally, public charter schools do not receive state facilities funding.

THAT EXTRA MONEY COULD GO INTO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL TO:

- Make necessary school building repairs and renovations.
- Purchase classroom supplies, furniture and equipment.
- Train principals and teachers on the latest technology and educational developments.



REASON

3

Students are waiting for your help.

More than 105,000 students are stuck on waiting lists — trapped in a system that does not work for them. You know best how that feels. And you can share how important your public charter school is to both your student and your family.

Tell your story!

SCHOOL CHOICE, NOT SCHOOL CHANCE:

- Some students attend good schools, while others are trapped with no options.
- Public charter school parents: You found it, researched it, applied and won the lottery.
- Your student was one of the lucky ones, but many others are not.



Fight for Charter Schools in Texas!

Public charter schools have changed the lives of thousands of students and families in Texas since 1995 and now, your voice is needed to support those public charter schools at the Capitol and in your community.

Public charter schools provide a vital service to more than 200,000 students, and more than 100,000 families are waiting for a spot to open up at their school of choice. From neighborhood agencies and organizations to elected officials, your story is important. We need everyone's help with the fight to get the equal funding that public charter school students deserve and to maintain the important freedom and flexibility that public charter schools depend on to serve Texas students.

STEP

1

Tell your story.

There are dozens of ways you can tell your public charter school story and how the school is changing the life of your student, your family and the community. How has greater school choice helped your child's education? How has a charter school brought value to your community? Has a charter school had a positive impact on you or your family?



STEP

2

Talk to your elected officials.

The key to effectively working with your elected leaders is to build a relationship before you need it. Work with your school leader to invite local elected officials to visit your school and to set up opportunities for them to hear directly from parents, students and staff at your school. That groundwork will be key for connecting with them when you critically need their support.



STEP

3

Receive updates from the TX Charter Revolution

Connect with us and other engaged families for updates and news on Texas public charter schools.

LOG-IN AND SIGN-UP

txcharterschools.org/speak-out

[facebook.com/TXCharterRevolution](https://www.facebook.com/TXCharterRevolution)

twitter.com/TCSANews



STEP

4

Attend a legislative rally at the Capitol.

About 1,000 alumni, parents, teachers, school staff and community supporters were at the Texas Capitol on April 29, 2015 to celebrate public charter schools and urge lawmakers to support legislation that strengthens and grows charter schools. Among the speakers were Governor Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush. Let's double our attendance the next time the Texas legislature meets in 2017, ensuring our unified voice is heard!

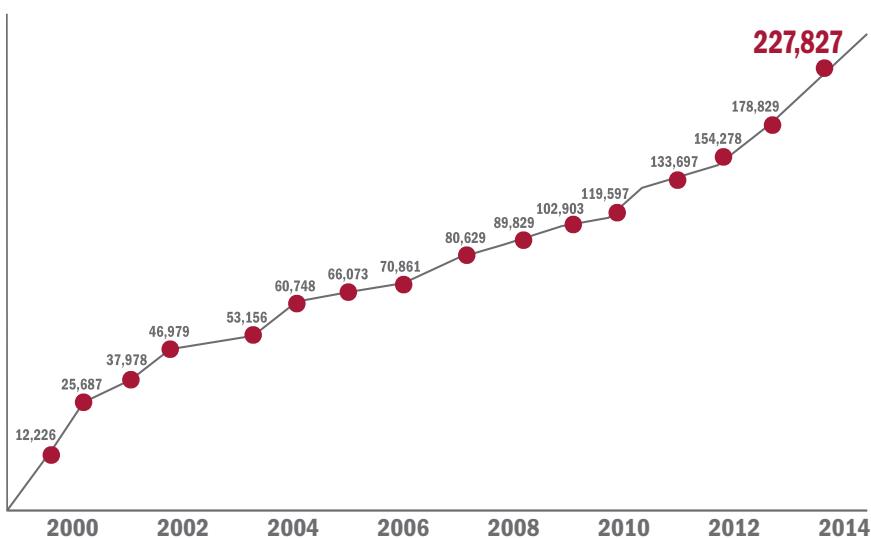




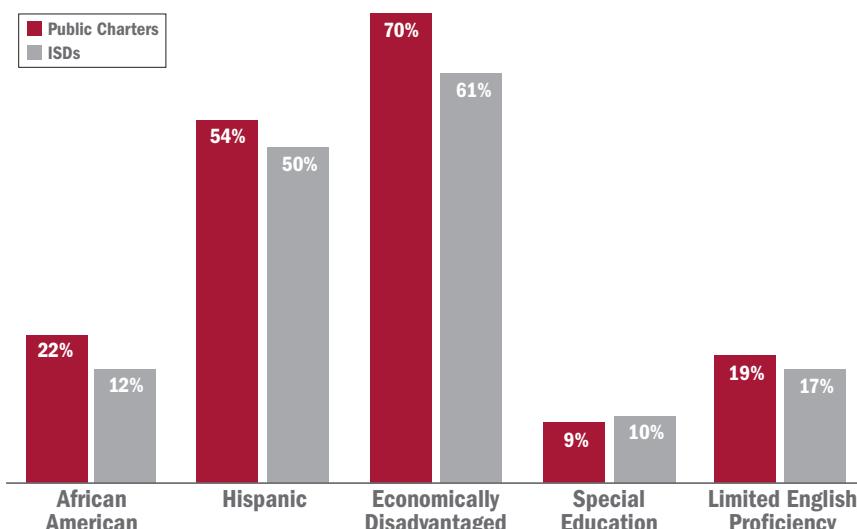
TIMELINE OF EVENTS

1995	Texas lawmakers authorize public charter schools.
2008	TCSA formed to provide one voice for public charter schools.
2013	Charter cap lifted from 215 to 305 by 2019.

ENROLLMENT GROWTH



DIVERSITY COMPARISON

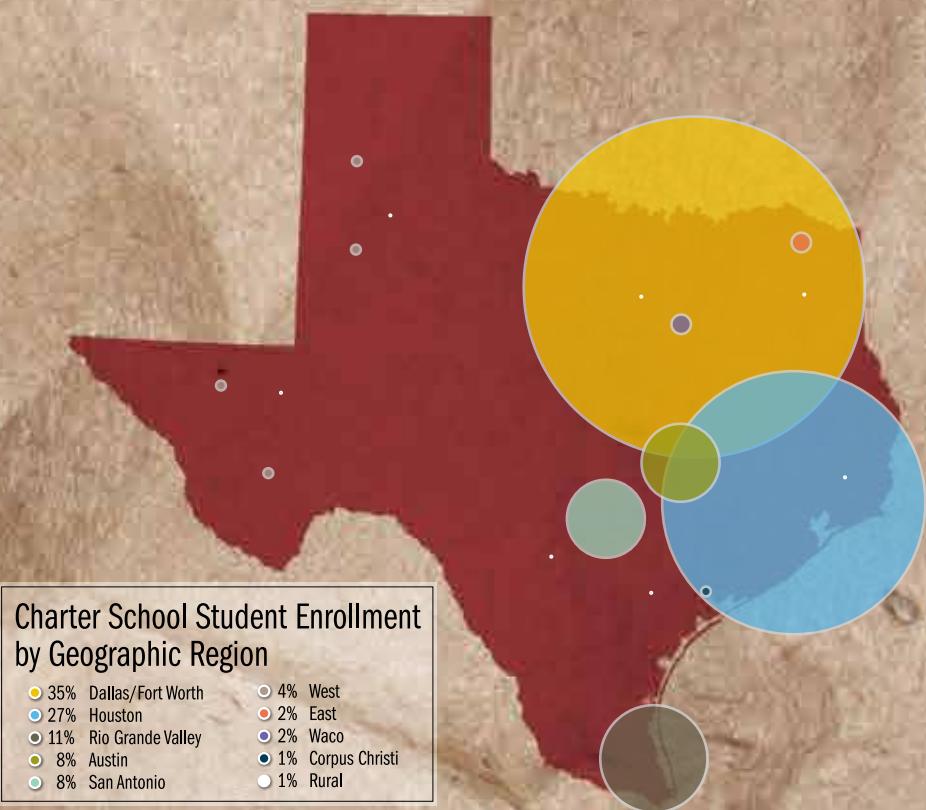


BY THE NUMBERS

CHARTERS AWARDED	195
CHARTER SCHOOL CAMPUSES	613
STUDENTS	227,827
STUDENTS ON WAIT-LISTS	130,000 ¹

Source: Texas Education Agency, November 2015.

1. Source: Texas Charter Schools Association



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"Public Charters! We Work Harder!
Public Charters! We Work Harder!
Public Charters! We Work Harder!"

TX Charter
REVOLUTION

I  my
Charter School

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