

# CHARTER SCHOOLS VS PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## Charter schools are not the answer, and here's why

Charter schools, overall, don't perform as well as traditional public schools, and they aren't required to provide all the student services or meet the standards that our regular school districts do. According to Texas Education Agency data from 2012-2017, charters in Texas had an overall dropout rate three times that of neighborhood public schools and overall poorer performance records. About 62 percent of charter students graduated on time in 2016, compared to 90 percent of traditional public school students. Traditional public schools have outperformed charters on most STAAR tests.

Charters received more than \$2.2 billion in state revenue in 2017, and much of that went to charters operated by for-profit management organizations. Every tax dollar they receive is a state tax dollar taken away from an under-funded, neighborhood public school.

Here are some other key differences between charters and traditional public schools:

### Decision-making:

**Traditional public schools** — Local school boards elected by local voters

**Charters** — Privately selected governing boards, with no public oversight, often located in faraway cities

### Admissions policies:

**Traditional public schools** — Enroll every school-age child who lives in the district and applies

**Charters** — Can cherry-pick. Aren't required to accept children with disciplinary problems and often find ways to also exclude children with poor grades and special needs. Applicants often have to enter a lottery.

### School employee rights and certification:

**Traditional public schools** — Bound by state law governing teacher contractual and employment rights and certification requirements.

**Charters** — Charters are exempted from most of the teacher certification, contractual and training requirements of Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code, including the grievance procedure, the minimum salary schedule, the 45-minute a day planning and preparation time, the 30-minute duty free lunch and staff development requirements.

### Teacher salaries:

**Traditional public schools** — Covered by the state salary schedule. Many pay more.

**Charters** — No minimum salary requirements.

### Class sizes:

**Traditional public schools** — Governed by the 22-1 student-teacher ratio for grades K-4.

**Charters** — Exempt from 22-1 standard.

### Student transportation

**Traditional public schools** — Provide bus service.

**Charters** — They don't have to, and most don't.

**TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION** • [www.tsta.org](http://www.tsta.org) • 877-ASK-TSTA

