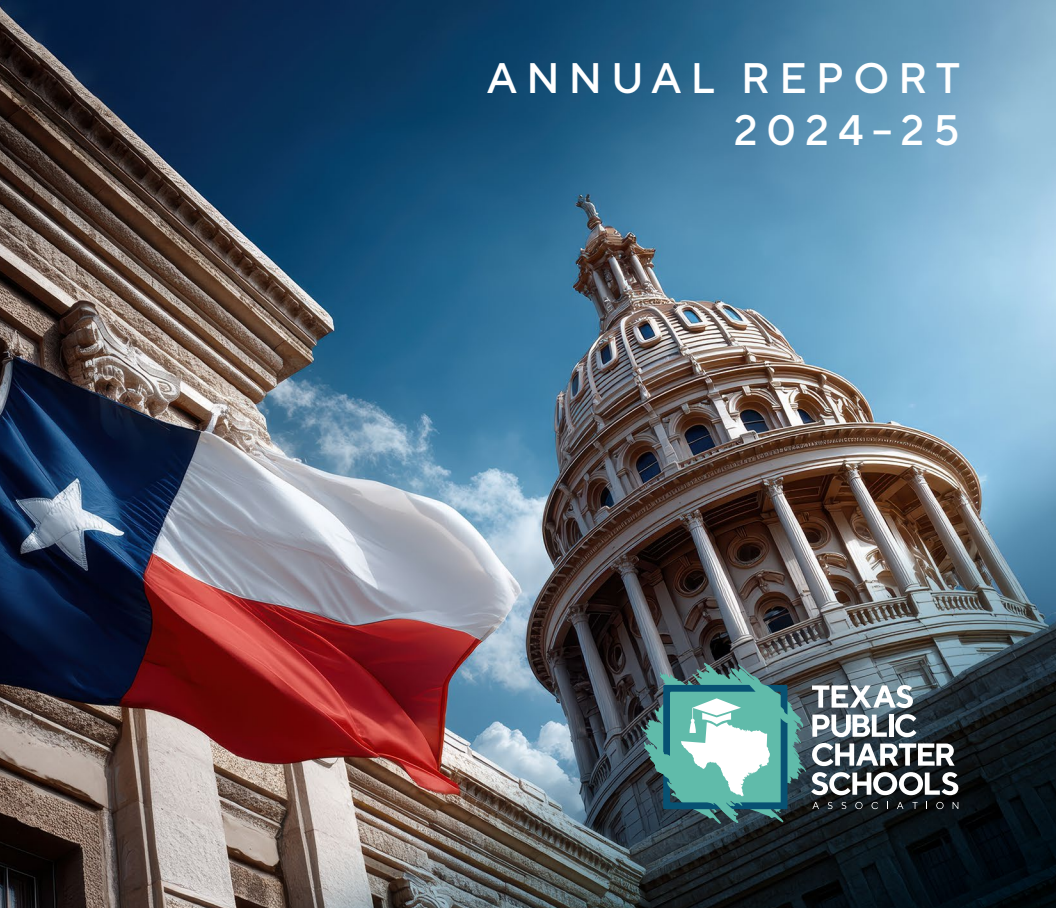


MAKING **BOLD** MOVES

ANNUAL REPORT
2024-25



TEXAS
PUBLIC
CHARTER
SCHOOLS
ASSOCIATION

16

harmful bills and
amendments
blocked

DEFEND.

All bills (11) and amendments (5) harmful to public charter schools were defeated, preventing new red tape and restrictions on charter school autonomy.

9

bills
amended

AMEND.

Nine bills were successfully amended to protect parental rights, restore access to retirement benefits for charter school educators, and more.

\$160 MILLION

in charter school
facilities funding
...and growing

WIN.

The **\$60 million cap on charter school facilities funding was repealed in 2025**. Next year, public charter schools will receive about **\$160 million** to build and maintain facilities designed for teaching and learning—more than 2.6 times the current amount and a huge win for kids.

We also ensured that charter schools were included in the new Allotment for Basic Costs—an additional \$46 million for charters next year.

With the cap lifted, facilities funding will continue to grow as more students enroll in public charter schools.



WINNING IN AUSTIN

The road to success during the 89th Texas Legislative Session was paved long before the bang of the opening gavel. Countless policy conversations and authentic relationship-building over many years positioned TPCSA to bring home a historic win.

Starting in the fall, we revved our engines for our boldest moves yet. The team met with nearly every state lawmaker office. We began activating our grassroots supporters online and preparing a deep bench of advocates to testify.

Then it was time to hit the gas.

Across five fast-paced months, TPCSA analyzed more than 1,200 education bills and monitored 175 hours of education committee hearings. We connected with lawmakers behind the scenes and prepared champions to back charters under the spotlight. We activated our advocates both online and in person.

And in the end, we delivered on our promise to protect education opportunities statewide. On June 4, TPCSA attended the signing of House Bill 2. It was exciting to witness Governor Greg Abbott sign this significant piece of legislation into law.



L to R: Jessica Shopoff, Moni Katial (KIPP Texas), Sehba Ali (KIPP Texas), Bryce Adams, Leslie Sparacello (Cedars International), Brent Wilson (Life School), and CEO Natalie Kaharick with Governor Abbott

Bold Advocacy

In the last six years, the Texas charter community has established strong relationships with legislative champions who recognize the unique value of public charter schools—and the urgent need for flexibility and resources to help them thrive. But this important work is never finished.

Throughout 2024-25, TPCSA facilitated numerous opportunities for lawmakers to see their local charter schools in action. Member charter schools put their advocacy efforts into overdrive, completing a record **657 engagements** with state, local, and national lawmakers or their staffers.



Top to bottom:
Representative Cody Harris at UT Tyler University Academy at Palestine, Representative Joanne Shofner at Stephen F. Austin Charter School, and Senator Donna Campbell at Foundation School for Autism - San Antonio





MAKING IT COUNT



A whopping **125 state lawmaker offices**—close to 70%—engaged with a public charter school in their district.



In November 2024, TPCSA hosted a virtual **Capitol Connections Week**, giving **57 new and returning lawmakers** the opportunity to meet with **300 educators, leaders, parents, and students** in the Texas charter community.



Another major driver of success was the **Amplify Advocacy Program (AMP)** to onboard and coach new school-based advocacy staff. This year, schools with AMP leads stepped up their advocacy participation by **89%**.

These aren't just numbers. High-quality advocacy engagements add up to meaningful partnerships with bill sponsors, committee chairs, and outspoken champions across the Texas House, Senate, and State Board of Education.



We're grateful to many legislative leaders who sponsored priority bills and boldly took a stand for public charter schools in the 89th session.

Pictured are a few of them in action: Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, Senate Education Committee Chairman Brandon Creighton, Senator Angela Paxton, and Representative Barbara Gervin-Hawkins.

High-Impact Communications

Whether promoting new research into positive outcomes for public charter school students or pushing back at anti-charter messaging designed to derail our policy efforts, a steady drumbeat of powerful communications propelled the charter community's march toward progress in the 89th session.

Our email audience heard from us weekly. Ahead of critical decision points, we sent personalized calls to action to charter stakeholders in every corner of the state. High-quality videos painted a vivid picture across social media feeds, amplifying the voices of our community and reaching lawmakers in every district.

The result? We saw a huge increase in support from our grassroots community, including emails to lawmakers and State Board of Education members and signatures on our petition for fair facilities funding.

14,436

ADVOCACY
ACTIONS

8,745

UNIQUE ONLINE
ADVOCATES

29%

INCREASE IN
DIGITAL ADVOCACY

95% OF STATE
LAWMAKER
OFFICES
REACHED



“

I felt better informed than ever. I felt empowered to act. The emails provided a great balance of urgency and positivity, and I felt like a part of the conversation and the community.

”

Many Voices, Amplified



Nestor Esparza Magaña

Program Advocacy Director, Triumph Public High Schools/SAPI
Amplify Advocacy Program (AMP) Participant

In 2023, TPCSA embarked on a partnership to help hire, train, and coach new advocacy staff at strategically chosen member schools across Texas. Two years later, full-time advocacy leads at seven schools have “graduated” from the **Amplify Advocacy Program (AMP) with deep experience and nearly 300 lawmaker engagements under their belts.**

Meet Nestor Esparza Magaña, program advocacy director for Triumph Public High Schools and Student Alternatives Program, Inc. Over the past two years, Nestor has charted a course for lasting influence with decision-makers and cultivated new advocates for public charter schools—incredible students making bold moves at the Capitol and in their local communities.

If he looks familiar, you may have seen one of Triumph’s viral videos on social media. But according to Nestor, successful advocacy isn’t about fancy videos or colorful posts. It’s about listening to the students and helping them tell their stories.

“You talk to a parent, you talk to a student, and think, that’s an amazing story,” said Nestor. **“But then you start seeing what kind of impact we can have at a higher level, whether it’s your city or your state.”**

While Triumph’s advocacy participation played an important role during the legislative session, the crowning achievement was something even greater: a model for student-driven advocacy that can inspire our community for years to come.

In February 2025, three Triumph students made their first visit to the Capitol. They met with numerous lawmaker offices to share their experiences and underscore the need for additional resources to give other students those same opportunities. In June, one student even testified before the State Board of Education. While preparing his testimony, he asked whether his story could really make a difference for the schools being considered for their charters.

“Yes, you have that power,” Nestor told him. **“Your voice, your testimony, your stories are so important.”**

Supporting Strong Schools

If it takes a village to raise a child, public charter schools deserve a support system as big as Texas. This year, TPCSA created new webinars focused on academic and financial accountability, responsive resources, and opportunities for education leaders to share their strategies for driving student achievement.

Member schools completed over **26,000 continuing education hours** through online training sessions, the annual conference, and an expanded version of last year's popular Teach Like a Champion (TLAC) workshops. In May and June, over **650 educators representing 51 charter districts** attended our two-day workshops in Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio, earning a collective 4,000 credit hours.



Michael Green

Multilingual Program Manager, KIPP Texas Public Schools
Teach Like a Champion Workshop Participant, Houston

Michael Green helps educators across Greater Houston deliver instructional strategies to support emergent bilingual students in rigorous content mastery and linguistic practice. He and several colleagues were able to attend our Houston TLAC workshops, aligning on techniques to cascade throughout their region.

"I'm pulling from this session ways to engage students in multiple writing opportunities throughout a lesson, from 'stop and jots' to more extensive writing," said Michael. "I appreciate that we are planning and naming our action steps. That gives us the clarity we need to turnkey these strategies at the regional and campus levels.

"I also really love the joy factor embedded throughout the workshop. It doesn't feel like the end of the school year. It feels like the beginning of a new day."

2024 TEXAS PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS CONFERENCE: MAKING BOLD MOVES

Last October, nearly **2,000 attendees** joined TPCSA in San Antonio for three action-packed days of learning and networking. A major highlight was the fireside chat between former Texas House Speaker Dennis Bonnen and House Public Education Committee Chairman Brad Buckley. Chairman Buckley made it clear that charter school facilities funding was among his top priorities for the coming year.

It was a bold statement, and he certainly delivered. As sponsor for House Bill 2, the primary school funding vehicle for the 89th session, he ensured that charter facilities funding was included as part of the larger bill, putting our priority in a strong position for passage.



**House Public
Education Chairman
Brad Buckley**



**135 workshops &
breakout sessions**



124 exhibitors & sponsors

Growing Toward Tomorrow



Texas public charter schools are relentlessly focused on improving high-quality public education opportunities for kids. That's why we're always exploring better ways to support them in their quest.

In 2024-25, TPCSA piloted a post-authorization coaching program to provide customized support for two recently approved charter schools. By helping leaders build strong foundations from day one, we're strengthening the pipeline of Texas charter schools ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Advocacy is another critical link in the chain. Throughout the year, we built relationships with decision-makers on the Texas State Board of Education and introduced them to energetic educators creating unique education models across the state. Here's a roundup of a few highlights.



We recognized **7 Charter Champions** on the State Board of Education.



71% of charter applicants were approved in spring 2025, creating new education opportunities that will set more students on a path to success.



In April 2025, **Mater Academy San Antonio** became the first applicant approved through the new High-Performing Entity process for operators with proven results—another win made possible by the two-year rule revision project with the Texas Education Agency.

House Speaker Dustin Burrows with SBOE Members Tom Maynard, Aaron Kinsey, and Brandon Hall at the Texas Speaker Day



OUR TEAM

Natalie Kaharick

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Jennifer Acevedo

Data & Research Analyst

Bryce Adams

VP of Government Affairs

Renelle Bedell

VP of Operations

Kelsey Borza

Director of Advancement

Mallory Chesser

Grants Manager

Katrina Corte

Director of Special Events

Ally CrutcherDirector of Regional Advocacy,
North Texas**Inga Dhillon**

Policy Analyst

Brandon Garcia

Director of Legislative Affairs

Laurel GarciaSenior Director of Continuing
Education**Elizabeth Gunter**

Development Project Manager

Jimmy Jackson

Director of Sponsorships

Shawn Kanning

Controller

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Advocacy**Nadia Luna**

VP of Member Engagement

Ila Mar

Digital Director

Amy Miller

Director of Advocacy Initiatives

Chelbi Mims

VP of External Engagement

Delisa MoralesDirector of Regional Advocacy,
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Southeast Texas**Crystal Rios**

Director of SBOE Engagement

Angel Salazar

CRM and Data Administrator

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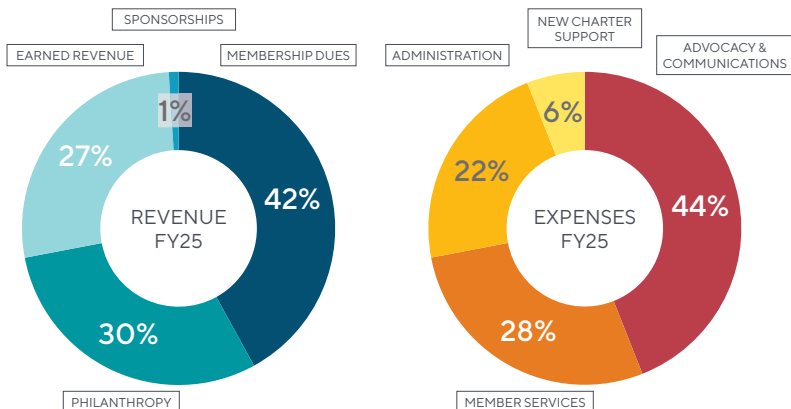
Beatrice Mayes Institute

Cynthia A. Trigg

Evolution Academy

Staci WeaverLegacy Preparatory Charter
Academy

FINANCES



The Texas Public Charter Schools Association supports and advocates for a policy and regulatory climate that ensures every student in Texas has access to ever-improving public school options.

This year, we represented 130 member charter holders serving 89% of the state's public charter school students—and advocated on behalf of the entire Texas charter community.

Thank you to the generous individuals, foundations, and sponsors who helped advance high-quality public education opportunities for hundreds of thousands of students.



**SCAN
FOR THE
FULL
DIGITAL
REPORT**

3005 S. Lamar Blvd • Suite D-447 • Austin, TX 78704
admin@txcharterschools.org • ph. 512-584-8272

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