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## **RELEASE: New Report Dispels Myths About Texas Charter Schools and Outlines Their Positive Impact**

**AUSTIN, TX** — Today, to coincide with National Charter Schools Week, the Texas Charter Schools Association released a [new report](#) that corrects the record about Texas public charter schools and serves as a critical resource for lawmakers, reporters and the public. The report, “The Truth About Texas Charter Schools,” compiles robust data, facts, and independent research findings to address myths perpetuated by charter opponents on a range of topics.

Despite public charter schools enjoying tremendous support from both policymakers and families—with nearly 300,000 students currently enrolled and over 140,000 student names on waitlists—there are still many myths about the way they operate, the students they serve, and the results they produce. This paper takes on each of those myths and serves as a guide for policymakers, advocates, reporters, and parents.

“This report shows what hundreds of thousands of families across Texas already know: that public charter schools are providing a student-centered, high-quality education for children from all types of backgrounds,” said **Starlee Coleman, Chief Executive Officer of Texas Charter Schools Association**. “We’re excited to kick off National Charter Schools Week here in Texas by sharing facts about the life-changing work happening every day at public charter schools.”

“As a school leader, I have witnessed firsthand the innovative education environments cultivated by public charter schools,” said **Juan Juarez, Instructional Leader at KIPP Texas Public Schools - Austin**. “Public charter schools educate students of *all* background and abilities and are dedicated to supporting teachers and providing personalized instruction that meets the individual needs of students. We’re providing families more choice and setting our students up for success, and it’s time to set the record straight.”



The report, which pulls from publicly available resources—including the Texas Education Code and multiple key reports by the Texas Education Agency—debunks more than two dozen of the most prevalent myths and falsehoods perpetuated by charter public school opponents, including:

1. *MYTH: Public charter schools receive more money than traditional ISDs*

- Public charter schools receive only 85% of funding per pupil that ISDs receive, which amounts to an average \$1,700 funding shortfall per student for charter schools.
- Traditional public schools are funded by state and local tax dollars. However, public charter schools receive no local tax dollars, which accounts for this difference.

2. *MYTH: Public charter schools do not perform as well as ISDs*

- Public charter schools send more students from diverse backgrounds to college than traditional public schools. Across every metric—including race, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and economically disadvantaged background—public charter schools are sending students to college at higher rates.
- In the U.S. News and World Report’s *Best High Schools in Texas Ranking*, 35% of the top 50 high schools in the state are public charter schools.

3. *MYTH: Public charter schools are not held accountable*

- Public charter schools must meet higher and stricter accountability standards than ISDs. In addition to being required to meet rigorous educational outcome standards, they are also held accountable to the public through financial requirements and required to follow all Texas open government laws.
- Texas has the strictest accountability standards in the country for public charter schools. The ‘3-strikes’ law ensures any public charter school that does not meet academic or financial accountability standards 3 years in a row is closed.

4. *MYTH: Public charter schools “cherry pick” students*

- Charter schools are public, free, open to all students, and are legally prohibited from cherry picking students from particular backgrounds. Enrollment is determined on a first come, first served basis or a blind lottery system that does not consider factors such as a race, income, special needs, or academic performance.

5. *MYTH: Public charter schools do not enroll or support students with special needs*

- Charter schools are not allowed to discriminate against children with special needs. Enrollment is determined on a first come, first served basis or a blind lottery system that



does not consider factors such as a race, income, special needs, or academic performance.

- Charter schools are committed to supporting students regardless of their educational background or needs. 8% of charter school students have special needs, and charter schools are held to federal and state standards that ensure they receive an education that serves their individual needs.

To arrange interviews with TCSA CEO Starlee Coleman or a charter school leader, teacher, or parent in your region, please contact John Vitzileos at [jvitzileos@wearerally.com](mailto:jvitzileos@wearerally.com).

To download the full report, and access the facts that counter each myth, click [here](#).

For more information about charter schools in Texas, click [here](#).

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### **About Public Charter Schools**

Charter schools are tuition-free public schools that are open to all students and are held to strict financial and academic accountability standards in exchange for more autonomy and flexibility. With a student-centric approach, Texas charter schools are sending more English Learners and students from academically disadvantaged backgrounds to college. Over 20 percent of Texas' A-rated school districts are charter school districts, despite educating only 6 percent of the state's students.

### **About the Texas Charter Schools Association**

The Texas Charter Schools Association (TCSA) was created in 2008 to unify, support, and grow the charter movement. For more about TCSA, visit [txcharterschools.org](http://txcharterschools.org).