DON’T GET FOOLED:
Charter Schools are Public Schools

Opponents are working hard to pit district and charter schools against one another. Charter schools are proud to be part of the public school landscape. Let’s set the record straight.

× CLAIM  “Charter schools hurt public schools.”

✓ REALITY Charter schools ARE public schools. They are simply another option for families within the public education system.

× CLAIM  “Charter schools get more money than ISDs.”

✓ REALITY Charter schools receive less money than ISDs.

- Charter schools receive 94% of funding received by ISD schools.
- $10,721 per charter school student
- $11,397 per ISD student

× CLAIM  “Charter school financial dealings are not disclosed to the public and are not available for public review.”

✓ REALITY Texas law requires charter schools to make their budgeting and financial statements available for public review on their websites.

× CLAIM  “1882 partnerships are the same thing as a charter school takeover.”

✓ REALITY ISD and charter partnerships are rooted in collaboration. The elected boards of ISDs keep control of the campus and set the performance standards. If expectations are not met, the ISD board can vote to end the partnership.
CLAIM “If charters were funded in the same manner as public schools, the state of Texas would save taxpayer dollars.”

REALITY Charter schools ARE public schools and funded the same way—with public dollars based on the number of students they serve. However, public charters receive, on average, $676 less per student than ISDs when their local funding is accounted for.

CLAIM “Charter schools create an inefficient system that is unaccountable.”

REALITY Public charter schools are part of a single public education system and are chosen by parents who want a different public education option for their students. Texas charter schools have the strictest accountability in the country and are shut down if they don’t perform. Charter schools are also subject to the same open record, conflict of interest, and accounting regulations as district schools.

CLAIM “Students are leaving district schools for charter schools.”

REALITY Some students are leaving their assigned schools. But charter schools still only educate 6% of Texas students.

Get more facts at txcharterschools.org

Source: Texas Education Agency, Summary of Finances Report
M&O: Maintenance and Operations funding; I&S: Interest and Sinking funds

Questions? Contact Timothy Mattison at tmattison@txcharterschools.org or (512) 717-6697.