

Texas school laws: charters vs. ISDs

WHAT'S THE SAME AND WHAT'S DIFFERENT?

OPEN ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOLS

305 statutory cap (by 2019)

Employment "at-will"

No minimum salary scale for teachers

Locally proscribed student
code of conduct

No authority to levy property taxes

Not eligible for certain state
funding opportunities; some
facilities funding started in 2018

Services contracts
pre-approved by TEA

Some real properties tax exempt

Three strikes of poor financial
or academic rating triggers
mandatory closure

SAME

Academic accountability:
State AEIS system
& Federal ESSA

Financial accountability

Teacher retirement system

Immunity from tort

Required to have open meetings

Subject to open records

Mandatory board training

State curriculum & graduation

PEIMS reporting

Criminal history background checks

Required to disclose
conflicts of interests

Ban on nepotism

TRADITIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

More than 1,000 districts

Employment contracts

Minimum salary scale for teachers

Statutorily proscribed student
code of conduct

Authority to levy property taxes

Eligible for more state funding
opportunities; facilities funding
subsidized by state or local tax

Services contracts approved
solely by school board

All real properties tax exempt

No automatic closure triggers
in place for poor academic
or financial performance

