# 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

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