There are more than 700 public charter school campuses in Texas, serving nearly 320,000 students.

What is a Charter School?

SOURCES
1. 2018 Near Final Summary of Finance, Texas Education Agency
2. Public Education Information Management System, Texas Education Agency
3. 2018-19 State Academic Accountability Ratings, Texas Education Agency
4. 2017 CREDO Center for Research on Education Outcomes Stanford University
What Exactly is a Charter School?
Charter schools are public, tuition-free, and open to all students. Unlike a traditional one-size-fits-all approach to education, public charter schools put the needs of students first by giving them the time and personalized attention they need to really learn. Charter schools are given greater flexibility to serve students’ individual needs, and with that flexibility comes greater oversight than traditional public schools. They are held accountable to high financial, academic, and managerial standards by oversight boards made up of parents, teachers, and community members. Charter schools currently educate 6% of Texas public school students, but make up more than 60% of A-rated districts in the state.

How are Charter Schools Funded?
Charter schools receive state funds based on the number of students who attend (just like traditional public schools). Charter schools receive less funding than traditional public schools because they receive state dollars only and do not receive any local taxpayer dollars. TPCSA advocates for more charter school funding to close the gap.

By the Numbers
- 316,869 charter school students
- 179 charter holders
- 761 charter school campuses
- 24 years charter schools have been serving students

How do Public Charter Schools Stack Up?
Public charter schools were authorized by the Texas Legislature in 1995. Since then, they have become a valuable part of the public education system. No matter the background of students they serve, charter schools are preparing students for lifelong success.

![Chart showing comparison between charter schools and ISD schools in various categories.]

- 20% more charter school students on average graduate with AP or IB credit.
- Limited English Proficiency students are twice as likely on average to master English Language Arts if they attend a public charter school.
- African American charter school students are meeting grade level in every subject at higher average rates and nearly twice as many ELL students are meeting grade level standards.
- Every year, public charter school students gain 17 more days of learning in reading. Over the course of a student’s K-12 lifetime, this comes out to 1 additional year of learning in reading.