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**51 Texas Public Charter Schools Named 2020 College Success Award Winners**

**Austin, TX —** More than 50 public charter schools in Texas have won 2020 College Success Awards from the nonprofit GreatSchools, which analyzes educational data from across the country to identify standout campuses.

The 51 public charter winners in Texas enroll a combined 35,100 students – a majority of whom come from low-income households. They are excelling on college entrance exams such as the ACT and SAT and enrolling in college at unprecedented rates.

In determining the awards, GreatSchools also reviewed how many graduates from each high school require remedial courses once in college, as well as how many go on to earn a degree. There were 314 total schools in Texas that won awards and 2,158 nationally across 29 states.

At Texas charters that won the awards, 53% of students are low-income, compared to 38% at ISD campuses that won.

“We are incredibly proud to see so many Texas public charter schools recognized for the role they play in preparing our students for success in college and the jobs of tomorrow,” said Starlee Coleman, CEO of the Texas Public Charter Schools Association. “Helping more students achieve high-level skills is critical to the future of our state – and public charters are leading the way.”

"NYOS Charter School is committed to providing college readiness to our students through an environment of equity and support that emphasizes the value of both personal and academic achievement."- Norma Reyes, AP Coordinator and PALS, Principles of Education, & College Transition Teacher.

“Vanguard Academy is proud to be a part of this group of highly successful charter schools that
not only help students get to college, but also prepare them to get through college!” “This
recognition is an honor to our teachers and school leaders who work hard every day to ensure
students are well prepared for college, career, military and life!” “Vanguard Academy has built a system of wrap around support in which students are mentored and provided with guidance during their time at Vanguard Academy that will prepare them to be successful after they
graduate from our schools.” -Diana Ybanez, Vanguard Academy Rembrandt Secondary T-STEM
Early College High School Director

“UME Preparatory Academy strives to prepare our scholars to enter college with a strong work ethic and a firm grounding in core academic content, so it is truly our honor to be recognized by GreatSchools for the accomplishments of our graduates and our faculty in this area” -   Kayla Smith, Superintendent

“The teachers, faculty, staff, and administration at Da Vinci strive to create a learning environment that helps students excel in a university setting. It is an amazing honor to know that our efforts are being recognized by the Texas Public Charter School Association. As educators at Da Vinci, we see the tremendous potential in each of our students, and we work hard to help our students reach their academic goals. It is a privilege to be able to celebrate student success with the Great Schools College Success Award.” -Joshua Colby, Da Vinci English Teacher and Mentor

These awards echo the findings of a recent TPCSA study that found public charters are sending more students to college than traditional districts – especially students from traditionally underserved populations. For example: English learners and students with disabilities at Texas charters are twice as likely to attend college as their non-charter peers.

Below is a district-by-district breakdown of winning schools across Texas. [To view the entire list of winning schools, click here.](https://www.greatschools.org/texas/college-success-award/)

Houston – 10

Dallas – 8

Lewisville – 4

Austin – 3

El Paso – 3

San Antonio – 3

Edinburg – 2

Pharr – 2

San Juan – 2

Beaumont – 1

Brownsville – 1

Bryan – 1

Carrollton – 1

Corpus Cristi – 1

Donna – 1

Euless – 1

Garland – 1

Georgetown – 1

McKinney – 1

Mission – 1

Round Rock – 1

San Benito – 1

Waco – 1

To arrange an interview with one of the award winners, or to learn more, please contact James Scimecca at james@school-forward.com

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