

# Create Property Tax Parity For All Public Schools

## The Problem

Schools—public and private—do not pay property taxes on buildings they own. But public schools (charter schools, ISDs, and community colleges) must use state funds to pay local property taxes on school buildings they lease. These funds could—and should— be used on teacher salaries, improved technology, instructional materials, and other critical classroom needs. It is estimated that public charter schools could keep 12 million dollars in their classrooms if they were exempt from paying property taxes on their leased school buildings.

“Odyssey Academy pays almost \$70,000 in property taxes for our portion of our OA-Galveston campus that we lease. That’s funding we would otherwise be spending on students and classroom needs.”

**JENNIFER GOODMAN,**  
*Odyssey Academy*

## The Solution

Exempt all public schools—including charter schools, ISDs, and community colleges—from paying property taxes on their leased school buildings. This legislation will ensure that critical dollars go where they are needed most: toward classroom instruction, supplies, technology, and other crucial school needs.

## HB 3610 will:

Grant a property tax exemption on real property a person owns and leases to a public school if:

- The real property is used exclusively by the school for educational functions;
- The real property is reasonably necessary for the operation of the school; and
- The owner certifies that the rent for the lease of the real property will be reduced by an amount equal to the tax savings.