

# Stop City Discrimination Against Public Charter Schools

## The Problem

Local governments are unfairly discriminating against public charter schools, forcing them to spend taxpayer money on lawyers instead of students. Cities across the state are requiring public charter schools to follow different rules than ISDs on everything from parking lot size requirements to forcing schools to spend millions in classroom funding to buy more land than they need.

## The Solution

Public charter schools should receive the same treatment as ISDs for zoning, permitting, and fee decisions. Treating public charter schools the same as ISDs will allow them to focus their limited funds on their students, instead of red tape.

## SB 487 will:

- Require local governments to follow the same process for zoning, permitting, and most fee decisions for both ISDs and public charter schools
- Respect local zoning authority to protect health and safety
- Ensure local politics don't override state public education policy that is determined by state statute

## SB 487 will not:

- Grant public charter schools the power of eminent domain (the bill has been amended to make this clear)
- Apply to impact fees (public charter schools would still pay these fees)

"Dallas zoning delayed our renovations by 6 months, and that meant we could not increase our enrollment until the next school year. With so many students on charter school waiting lists, these needless—and discriminatory—delays keep students out of schools that could meet their needs for years."

—ANGELA MCDONALD  
*Advantage Academy*

"In one case, to get zoning approval, we had to pay for a water line to supply residences with water, which cost us an additional \$400,000 and delayed it by three months. Not only did we have to jump through all the hoops of building an additional water line, this took money away from our students and teachers. Instead of pencils, we were buying pipes for the city."

—RANDY SHAFFER  
*Trinity Basin*