

# 2021 Legislative Successes

## FOR TEXAS PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS



The Texas public charter school community achieved important wins for students during the 2021 legislative session. With support from advocates across the state, we passed four out of five policy priorities, blocked every bill that proposed new charter-only red tape, and protected public charter school funding.

### POLICY WINS

With your help, we were able to pass important legislation that protects public charter school freedom. Here's what we're celebrating:



**HB 3610:** Public charter schools may be **exempt from property tax on leased school buildings**. This fix may help keep school funds where they belong: in the classroom.\*



**SB 346:** Public charter schools will now be allowed to apply for 'JET' program grants, which **funds career and technical training program equipment**. Our schools will now have access to the resources they need to prepare their students—the future workforce of Texas—to be successful and competitive in the job market.



**SB 879:** A critical fix was made to the designation for Dropout Recovery Schools so they are **evaluated and funded fairly**. This will help the charter school campuses providing these specialized programs continue to serve some of our most vulnerable students.



**HB 1525:** Eligibility for Teacher Incentive Allotment bonuses was expanded. Now our amazing public charter school teachers can **get the paychecks they deserve**.



More than

# 10,000

different charter teachers, parents, board members, and supporters in 134 different counties sent emails or made calls to their lawmakers.



Teachers and parents in our signature training programs, the Teacher Advocate Leadership Institute and the Texas Charter Parents Council, made over

# 400

 personal phone calls to their lawmakers.

In total, lawmakers received over

# 50,000

emails and calls from the community this session—and the results speak for themselves!



“Following a year of uncertainty, where families of the Lone Star State needed support, options, and access, Texas's charter school advocates ran one of the most aggressive packages of state legislative bills in the country. The enacted bills will ensure greater equity and access to high quality public schools for Texas charter school students and will undoubtedly help thousands of students and families recover and grow.”

TODD ZIEBARTH  
SVP, State Advocacy and Support  
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

\*Two weeks after sine die, the State Supreme Court ruled that in order to make public charter schools exempt from property taxes on leased buildings, a constitutional amendment may be required. This calls into question whether HB 3610 would survive a legal challenge. TPCSA is working with attorneys and will do what we can to protect this win for the public charter school community.