

End Municipal Discrimination Against Public Charter Schools

HB 1707 (Klick), HB 4977 (Klick), & SB 472 (Hughes)

Some municipalities unfairly discriminate against public charter schools in the zoning and permitting process – diverting taxpayer money away from students and their classrooms. The **SAME** rules should apply to **ALL** public schools.

The Problem

Some municipalities unfairly impose unreasonable zoning and permitting rules on public charter schools. These extra fees, punitive delays, and arbitrary measures take precious resources away from the students in public charter school classrooms.

In recent years, public charter schools have been required to over-purchase land and to fund expensive city infrastructure improvements unrelated to the school. Rezoning has been delayed and denied on arbitrary grounds as well.

Municipalities should not be allowed to use unfair and unreasonable permitting and zoning rules to divert precious taxpayer dollars away from schoolchildren and their classrooms.

The Solution

Municipalities should have the same rules for zoning, permitting, and fees for all public schools. The resulting predictability and fairness will allow public schools to spend limited funds on students, instead of red tape.

The Legislation WILL

- ✓ Require municipalities to apply the same rules across all public schools
- ✓ Respect local control to set rules, so long as they are applied equally
- ✓ Ensure local politics don't override the Legislature on highly-rated public charter schools

The Legislation WILL NOT

- ✗ Grant eminent domain powers to public charter schools (explicitly prohibited in the bill)
- ✗ Stop cities from determining safe and appropriate sites where public charter schools are allowed to locate.
- ✗ Give public charter schools any special/preferential rights above other public schools

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We wanted to build a new campus on 20 acres of land we already own, but city officials refused to change the outdated agricultural zoning of the property. They're prioritizing a patch of dirt over new educational opportunities for families.”

Dr. Narciso Garcia
Superintendent
VANGUARD ACADEMY

A-Rated District

99%

Hispanic

74%

Economically
Disadvantaged

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We're proud of the way we meet the needs of historically-underserved students in southeast Houston. So it was shocking when the city wouldn't grant us permits to build a new campus unless we spent \$500,000 on repairs to roads that were used and damaged by neighboring businesses. Our resources belong in the classroom.”

Latisha Andrews
Founder and Superintendent
BETA ACADEMY

A-Rated District

89%

Students
of Color

72%

Economically
Disadvantaged

Questions? Contact Bryce Adams at badams@txcharterschools.org.