

Remove Politics from Public Charter School Approvals

The approval process for new charter schools in Texas is among the **most rigorous in the country**. 58,000+ students are stuck on public charter school waitlists—but politics are getting in the way.

The multi-step vetting process takes 6+ months and includes:



Multiple independent experts blind review the 500+ page applications



TEA departments review applications within their areas of expertise



TEA and SBOE interview applicants for academic and financial preparedness



TEA Commissioner recommends select applicants for approval



SBOE holds public hearings and makes final approval decisions

The Problem

Despite a rigorous approval process, public charter schools' strong academic results, and sky-high demand from parents, the SBOE now vetoes nearly all of the Commissioner's recommendations.

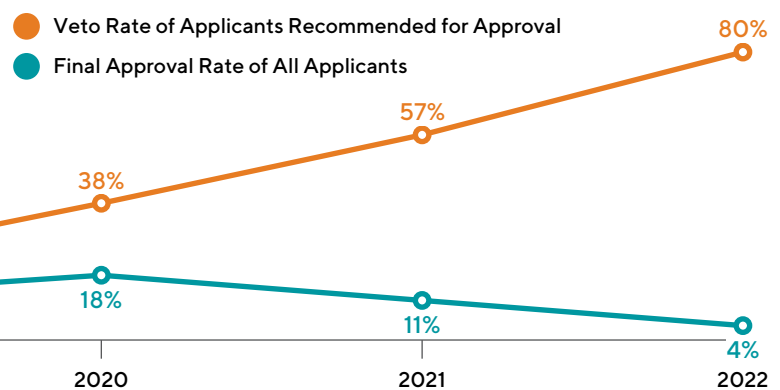
- The SBOE has rejected **over a dozen exceptional educators with innovative school ideas** over the past few years, despite the TEA Commissioner's recommendations for approval.
- Several SBOE members put politics over students and veto any and all applications, **regardless of community need, parent support, and the application's merits**.
- The SBOE's veto politics have accelerated over the last 5 years to an 80% veto rate in 2022. **Just one new charter was granted last year** for the entire state, an historically low 4% approval rate.
- As a result, a dwindling number of new public schools are approved even as Texas' population booms and **58,000+ students are stuck on public charter school waitlists**.

The Solution

Require an SBOE supermajority to veto TEA's approval recommendations, as is required to veto SBEC proposals.

- Considering the rigorous vetting process culminating in the TEA Commissioner's approval recommendation, a simple majority to veto is too low.
- A two-thirds SBOE majority is already required to override SBEC rules (TEC §21.042).
- This would safeguard against politics derailing approvals, while still respecting the SBOE's oversight role.

New Texas Public Charter Schools SBOE Veto Rate and Final Approval Rate



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

