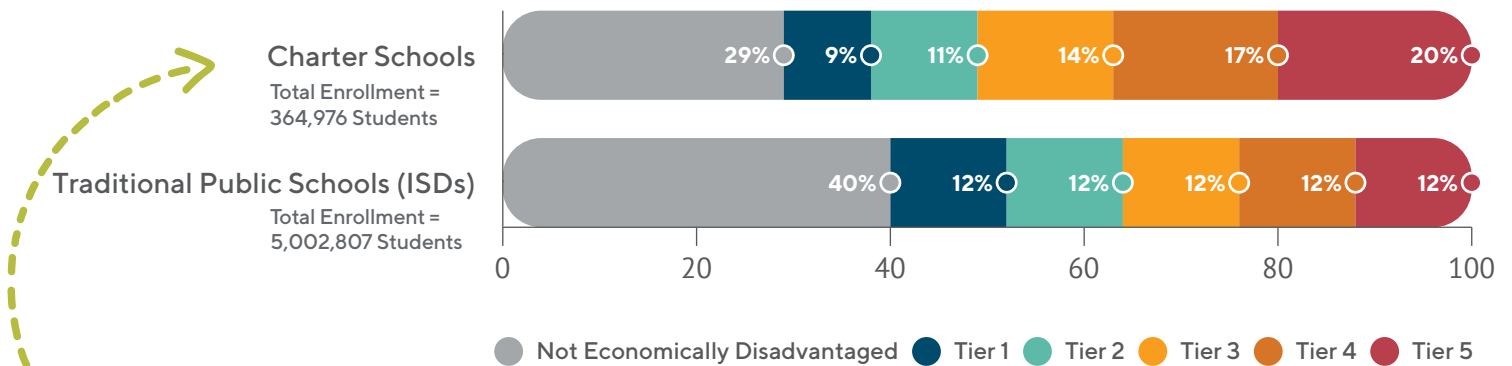


The Lowest-Income Texas Families Are Choosing Public Charters

Poverty prevents millions of Texans from meeting their basic needs for food, shelter and healthcare. And it impacts children even more acutely than adults. Alarming, the Lone Star State had the 10th-highest child poverty rate in the country in 2019 at 21.1%. Our lowest-income students need access to public schools that can fully support them. Many are choosing to attend public charter schools—where they're thriving.

Socioeconomic Census Block Tiers for Economically Disadvantaged Students: 2020-21



The data shows us that public charter schools serve not only a **higher rate of economically disadvantaged** students overall, but also a larger share of students from the most **profoundly disadvantaged** neighborhoods.

Tier	Median Household Income	% Home Ownership	% Single Parent	Educational Attainment Score ³
Tier 1	\$114,358	89%	11%	70%
Tier 2	\$68,724	75%	19%	60%
Tier 3	\$52,944	64%	27%	54%
Tier 4	\$40,507	54%	37%	48%
Tier 5	\$28,705	37%	53%	42%

A Closer Look at Poverty in Texas Public Schools

Traditionally, we've measured the economic disadvantage of students at a given public school using the percentage of students who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

This statistic doesn't tell the whole story. As a recent Stanford study¹ pointed out: *"The experiences of children living in families with incomes just below the poverty line are likely quite different from those living in extreme poverty."*

Fortunately, Texas' innovative use of Census block group data² to capture more detailed information about student neighborhoods gives us visibility into the true depth of poverty between schools. This data categorizes students into five "tiers" of economic disadvantage based on where they live, where Tier 5 represents the highest-need students.

1. See: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5615613/>

2. An explanation of this data and more details can be found here: <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/HB%203%20Master%20Deck%20Final.pdf>

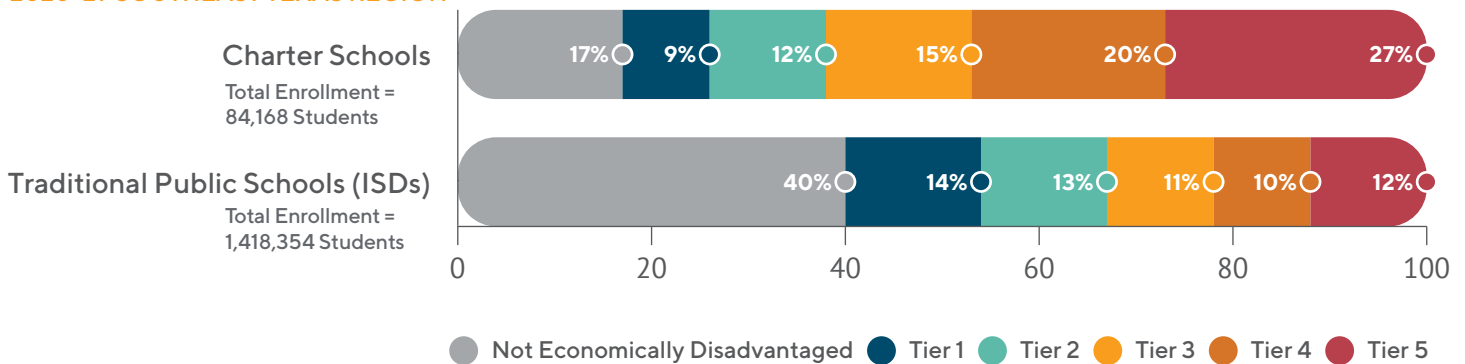
3. Educational attainment scores reflect the level of education completed by adults, with higher weights assigned to more education, based on U.S. Census data

At Southeast Texas Public Charter Schools, Low-Income Students Thrive

At Southeast Texas charter schools, 48% of students are from the lowest-income neighborhoods — compared to 22% at all other public schools. Southeast Texas charter schools are helping these students thrive by supporting them academically, helping them discover and explore their passions, and providing deeply personalized support.

Socioeconomic Census Block Tiers for Economically Disadvantaged Students

2020-21 SOUTHEAST TEXAS REGION



According to a study by Stanford University⁴, low-income students at Houston public charter schools made more academic progress than their peers statewide — math gains equivalent to having 95 extra days of learning and reading gains equivalent to 52 extra days.

Public charter schools achieve that progress, in part, by supporting whole families — so that students can stay laser-focused on learning.

George I. Sanchez Charter Schools ensure parents can better support students by providing easy access to early childcare, career services, prevention and counseling services, and even an adult education program called “Adelante.” Adelante provides adult education classes, including a Customer Service and Sales certification, to students and family members ages 18 years or older.



Most **Raul Yzaguirre Schools for Success** families live in a section of Houston’s East End with limited access to the healthy food, affordable housing, and health services found in other neighborhoods. So their school brings those resources directly to them.

Among the most powerful examples of this support is the teen health clinic operated by Baylor College of Medicine and located just steps from the Houston campus of RYSS. Its services include counseling from licensed social workers and—crucially for middle and high-school students—guidance for mental and sexual health.

4. See *City Study 2021: Houston* here: <https://credo.stanford.edu/city/houston/>

Across the state:

Charter schools receive
\$700
 less per pupil

Despite serving a higher rate of the lowest-income students, **Texas public charter schools receive an average of \$700 less per pupil than traditional public schools.** They are stretching every dollar to provide even more support for these students.

In 2019, 59% of Texas public charter school high school students met the criterion for college readiness in math, compared with 49% in traditional public schools. In that same year, **71% of Texas public charter school high school students met the criterion for college readiness in reading**, compared with 61% in traditional public schools.

