

Texas Families Need More Access to Public Charter Schools

From Odessa to Houston, Texas families are asking for more high-quality public school opportunities, including more public charter schools.

Unfortunately, Texas isn't keeping up with demand. The number of students on public charter school waitlists reached an all-time high this school year. We need to deliver for these children and parents.

FACT

66,000

There are now more than 66,000 individual Texas students on at least one public charter school waitlist.



FACT

69% of campuses have waitlists and at 41 campuses, the waitlist has at least 500 students.



FACT

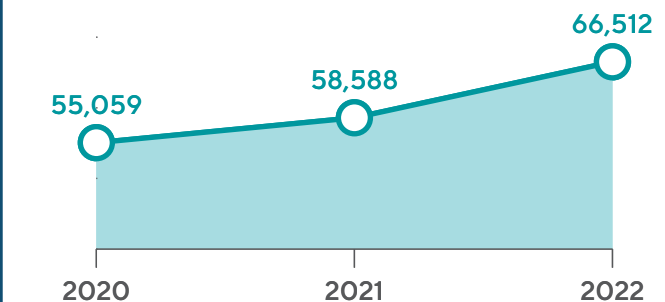
The number of students on public charter school waitlists increased 13.5% in the past year alone.

Much of that demand comes from the highest-need families in Texas.

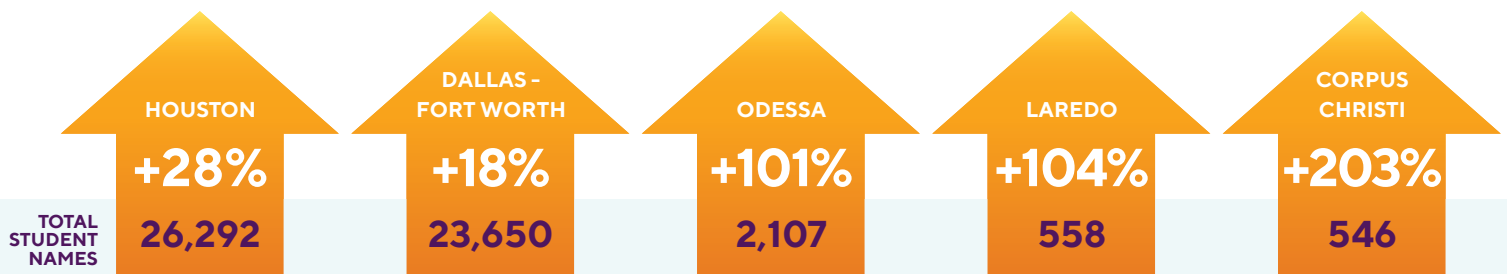
Among public charter school campuses with a waitlist, 191 are rated A or B and educate 80% or more low-income students.



Students on Public Charter School Waitlists



The Biggest Increases in Student Names on Waitlists By Metro Area



Public charter school waitlists got longer in metro areas across the state. That includes:

- Large cities such as Houston and Dallas, where tens of thousands of students remain stuck without a seat
- Odessa, where the number of student names on waitlists more than doubled as public charter schools have proven they meet families' needs
- Corpus Christi, where the number of student names on waitlists more than tripled

Too many families are still waiting.

More than **66,000** Texas students are on public charter school waitlists.

Don't just take our word for it.



Meridian School in Round Rock has a waitlist of 2,708 students – nearly 200 more than last year.

"The truth is that getting into Meridian School literally felt like a multi-million dollar prize for our family. We didn't just want it; we needed it. Both my children had their educational experience – and frankly, their lives – put onto a **completely different trajectory** after moving to an environment that was suited to their needs."

Jennifer Noonan
Parent



School of Science and Technology has a waitlist of 1,683 students – an increase of 1,305 in just one year.

"I am an adoptive mom of two amazing kids, Allison and Christopher. Sadly, at Allison's first IEP meeting at her district school, we were told she could either have speech therapy for her cleft palate or she could have a behavioral plan to help with her PTSD – but not everything she needed.

School of Science and Technology (SST) is open to anyone, regardless of where you live in town. Chris got in right away in kindergarten, but there was a waitlist for pre-K. So Allison stayed home a year until she too could go to kindergarten at SST.

They've been there for over four years now, and SST has become an important partner in our children's care. They've provided all the resources they need to help them feel safe enough to learn – including a 504 behavioral plan for Chris and BOTH speech therapy and a 504 plan for Allison. **SST has helped our kids to thrive, not just survive.**"

Susie Spencer
Parent



Beatrice Mayes Institute enrolls about 500 students, but 117 more are on the waitlist. That means 1 in 5 students who want to attend aren't able to do so.

"Ever since my parents founded the organization in 1966 and transitioned the school (K-8) to a public charter school, Beatrice Mayes Institute has **meant so much to the community**. It's the school I attended and the place I returned, after working for NASA, because I want all children to believe in their potential. Many of our teachers are alumni and all the work we do is out of love.

Today, more families want to send their students here than we have seats available. We need BMI to be able to grow so that we can provide rich educational opportunities to everyone who needs support."

Christopher Mayes
Superintendent