Public Charter Schools Make College Dreams Real

Every student deserves a bright future. For many young adults, that starts with a college or community college education. But preparation is the key to success.

Over half of all high-wage, high-demand jobs in Texas require a postsecondary credential.[1] College degrees can open doors to 21st-century careers that boost earnings — and our economy. Of course, students who choose ***not*** to attend college also benefit from a strong academic foundation that prepares them for success.

College-Ready Campuses are public high schools where at least 85% of graduates are designated college-ready.

These schools empower students from all backgrounds to reach their dreams. They give families confidence in whatever comes next.

Just **26%** of Texas high school students are residentially assigned to a College-Ready Campus within their traditional school district.

Public charter schools increase access to **63%** of high school students, meaning 2.5 times as many students have this opportunity.



Public Charter Schools Expand Access to College-Ready Campuses

2.5x as many students have this opportunity because public charter schools exist

63%
Including public charters: 1,074,528 students

26%
Without public charters: 432,222 students

STUDENTS WITH ACCESS TO COLLEGE-READY CAMPUSES









	San Antonio	RGV	Dallas/FW	Austin	Houston	El Paso
WITHOUT Public Charter Schools	5%	7%	32%	36%	21%	38%
INCLUDING Public Charter Schools	65%	83%	74%	70%	61%	68%

Our Analysis: An Innovative Way to Measure Impact[2]

1 Map ISD Attendance Zones

2 Count Students by Campus College-Ready Rate

3 Add Public Charter Schools & Calculate Impact

We used a **Geographic Information System (GIS)** to map the attendance zones of all ISD high school campuses. Each high school was matched with its 2024 college readiness rate, according to Texas Education Agency data.

Next, we incorporated U.S. Census data to see how many high school age students live in each ISD attendance zone. This allowed us to calculate how many students are residentially zoned to a College-Ready Campus.

Finally, we overlaid drive times to public charter high schools that meet the same College-Ready Campus standard. Hundreds of thousands of students who are not zoned to a College-Ready Campus still live within a 15-minute drive of a qualifying public charter school.

More Public Charter Schools Are College-Ready Campuses[3]

School Type	College-Ready Campuses	All High Schools	Share
Public Charters	140	212	66%
ISDs	489	1,494	33%
Total	629	1,706	37%

We focused on high schools with at least 85% of graduates designated college-ready because these are valuable options for families, but are not "miracle schools." It's an achievable standard.

One third of traditional district high schools are College-Ready Campuses, but ***two thirds*** of public charter high schools meet this mark.

Note: College-Ready Campuses are high schools where at least 85% of graduates are college-ready.

Public Charter Schools Unlock College for More Students[3]

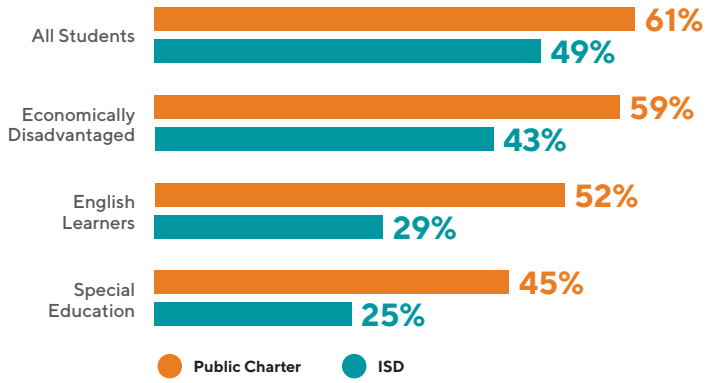
Our analysis focuses on college readiness, but Texas public charter schools are also helping more students — no matter who they are or where they come from — **enroll** in higher education.

Greater college readiness translates into real postsecondary opportunities.

Not everyone wants or needs to go to college, but **every** student deserves to be prepared for success on the path they choose.

Public charter schools expand opportunity beyond an assigned campus. When prepared students enroll in higher education, they can reach for the stars.

STANDARD ACCOUNTABILITY: GRADUATES ENROLLED IN TEXAS INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION (CLASS OF 2022)



Data Notes

1. Texas 2036 Education and Workforce Report
2. *For more details and a video of the methodology, see the* Data Appendix.
3. 2024-25 Texas Academic Performance Reports for Standard Accountability Campuses

Questions? Contact communications@txcharterschools.org