

TEXAS

(Law passed in 1995; last amended in 2011;
15th weakest of the nation's 42 charter laws)

444 charters serving 149,348 students.

52 charter schools closed as of December 2011.

NOTEWORTHY

Demonstrating the power of charters to influence traditional education structures, the Houston school district has begun to implement techniques from high-performing urban charter schools to show that they can be replicated in their traditional public schools. The district has studied the success of YES Prep and KIPP (which was founded in Houston), and has begun implementing five key practices from these schools in a handful of elementary and high schools.

INDEPENDENT OR MULTIPLE AUTHORIZERS - YES (2)

APPROVAL	School boards and the State Board of Education.
APPEAL	None

OPERATIONAL AUTONOMY

STATE	Limited. Waiver requests considered on a case-by-case basis. Over the years, bills have been passed that have increased the administrative responsibilities of charter schools, forcing them to adhere to regulations not even required for conventional schools. Virtual schools are allowed. Management contracts with ESPs are not restricted, but are highly regulated.
LOCAL	No. Waiver requests considered on a case-by-case basis. Certain government code regulations of school boards also apply to open-enrollment charter schools. District-authorized charter schools are governed and financed by local board of trustees.
TEACHER FREEDOM	Yes for open-enrollment schools; teachers are free from district work rules and agreements. No for district-approved schools; teachers remain part of district. Charter schools must participate in the state's retirement system.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS ALLOWED

CAP	Yes. 215 open enrollment charter schools, sponsored by the State Board of Education, which also allows multiple campuses in state. No cap on charters authorized by school districts (campus charters) or university-partnered charters. Highly effective charter schools may expand without pre-approval from the state department of education.
-----	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



EQUITY	
STUDENT FUNDING	<p>For district charters, funds pass through the district. For open-enrollment charters, funds pass through the state. Charter schools receive state funds based on average daily attendance, but only certain types of categorical funding. Open-enrollment charters do not receive local funds. As of 2011, state-authorized charter schools can apply to have their bonds guaranteed by the Permanent School Fund.</p> <p>“A charter holder is entitled to receive for the open-enrollment charter school funding under Chapter 42 equal to the greater of: (1) the percentage specified by Section 42.2516 (i) multiplied by the amount of funding per student in weighted average daily attendance, excluding enrichment funding under Sections 42.302 (a-1) (2) and (3), as they existed on January 1, 2009, that would have been received for the school during the 2009-2010 school year under Chapter 42 as it existed on January 1, 2009, and an additional amount of the percentage specified by Section 42.2516 (i) multiplied by \$120 for each student in weighted average daily attendance; or (2) the amount of funding per student in weighted average daily attendance, excluding enrichment funding under Section 42.302 (a), to which the charter holder would be entitled for the school under Chapter 42 if the school were a school district without a tier one local share for purposes of Section 42.253 and without any local revenue for purposes of Section 42.2516. .” [Tex. Educ. Code § 12.106]</p>
FACILITIES FUNDS	No Additional Funds.

[LINK TO THE TEXAS CHARTER SCHOOL LAW](#)