



512.584.8272 Phone  
512.584.8492 Fax

700 Lavaca Street, Suite 930  
Austin, Texas 78701

[www.txcharterschools.org](http://www.txcharterschools.org)

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Press Contact: Tracy Young  
Phone: 512.584.8272

email: [tyoung@txcharterschools.org](mailto:tyoung@txcharterschools.org)

### **TCSA supports legislation filed to strengthen and grow quality charter schools**

(Austin, Texas) – Today, legislation was filed in the Texas Senate focused on supporting and encouraging the growth of quality charter schools that are effectively and positively impacting public school students across Texas. TCSA Executive Director David Dunn issued the following statement in support of Senate Bill 2 (author Sen. Dan Patrick, SD 7):

"Texas public charter schools are proud to work with Sen. Dan Patrick on legislation that will strengthen the quality of charters, streamline the process to encourage more innovation and make necessary changes so that students are well-served in the school of their choice," said David Dunn, executive director of Texas Charter Schools Association. "We are especially pleased to see TCSA member legislative priorities addressed including a lifting of the arbitrary cap, enhancing the renewal and replication for quality charters, and a clear process for TEA to close poor-performing charters."

"In combination with a lifting of the cap, full facilities funding would allow charters to expand now to meet the needs of more than 101,000 Texas students who are on the waiting lists across the state. We appreciate the recognition of the need for facilities funding with the addition of money for charter facilities. Charters use \$800 to \$1,000 per student from instructional dollars to fill the gaps left by the state. The amount of facilities funding proposed in this legislation, approximately \$150 per student, is insufficient to fill this gap, but it is a start toward meeting the needs of existing charter school students, and parents and students looking for options in public schools across the state."

"Charter school parents, students and leaders across the state look forward to working with the Texas House and Senate to pass legislation that will strengthen and support effective charter schools in Texas because of the strong impact that quality public charter schools have on students and public education across the state"

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The Texas Charter Schools Association is the statewide Association representing more than 85% of students in open-enrollment charter schools in every part of our great state. In total, more than 154,000 Texas students attend open-enrollment charter schools on over 500 campuses with more than 101,000 additional students on waiting lists.

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