



Community Leadership Committee

March 7, 2016

Legislative Interim Charges

House Public Education Committee

- ▶ Accessibility to broadband services for schools, libraries, and institutions of higher education
- ▶ Professional Code of Ethics
- ▶ Partnerships between higher education institutions, public school districts, and workforce that promote postsecondary readiness
- ▶ Policies and initiatives regarding middle grades
- ▶ Programs that address the needs of high performing students
- ▶ Parental school choice in education

Legislative Interim Charges

Senate Education Committee

- ▶ School choice programs, examining education savings account and tax credit scholarship programs in particular
- ▶ Approval, expansion and revocation of charter schools
- ▶ Teacher shortage and retention and educator preparation programs
- ▶ Ways to improve efficiency, productivity and student academic outcomes
- ▶ Digital learning opportunities in classrooms and existing barriers to schools' ability to provide digital learning environment
- ▶ Professional Code of Ethics

Charter Schools

- ▶ Began as schools within traditional public schools free of regulation
- ▶ Initial tenets: Experimentation, teacher voice and integration
- ▶ Shifted to a market-driven vision with emphasis on competition

Charter Schools

- ▶ Serve only **6 percent** of public school students **nationwide**
- ▶ Serve only **4.5 percent** of public school students in **Texas**
- ▶ Serve only **1.8 percent** of public school students in **Cypress-Fairbanks ISD**
- ▶ **60%** of charters campuses are located in the top 5 counties

Charter Schools

- ▶ Taxpayer-funded public schools
- ▶ Governed by **appointed** Board of Managers
- ▶ **Exempt** from certain rules and regulations regarding school management - 22:1, uniform school start date, teacher contracts, discipline, teacher prep and planning time, etc.
- ▶ May **NOT** charge tuition
- ▶ Must participate in state assessment, accountability and financial programs

Charter School Performance Data

2014 STAAR Passing Rates by Subject

Subject	Standard Charters	Traditional School Districts
Reading	79%	77%
Math	75%	78%
Writing	73%	73%
Science	75%	79%
Social Studies	74%	77%
All Tests	76%	77%

Charter Schools

- ▶ In 2014, 8.2% of charter schools did NOT pass the state's financial accountability rating system (only 1.2% of ISDs)
- ▶ In 2013-2014, charter schools received a base amount per student of \$6,774
- ▶ Per-pupil funding is higher than per-pupil funding for 50% of the students in traditional public school districts

Vouchers

- ▶ Government subsidy of private schools funded by taxpayer money
- ▶ Exempt from all provisions in Texas Education Code
- ▶ Charge tuition
- ▶ No obligation to serve students with disabilities or other learning needs
- ▶ Not required to comply with state and/or federal academic or accountability standards or open record laws

Vouchers

- ▶ Traditional vouchers - taxpayer savings grants, student scholarship programs, parental choice scholarship grants, school choice grants
- ▶ Traditional vouchers - either direct payment or reimbursement to parents
- ▶ Tax credit vouchers - tax credit scholarship, corporate scholarship program, education tax credit, educational improvement tax credit
- ▶ Tax credit vouchers - tax credits granted to individuals or corporations



84th Legislative Session Priorities

1 SCHOOL FINANCE

Adopt a school finance system that is adequately funded that: meets the State's college and career readiness academic standards, reflects current costs of education, is equitable to all school districts, addresses the challenges of fast-growth districts, and is designed to meet the mission and policy statements currently contained in statute.

Support an increase in the funding formula for the Existing Debt Allotment, which has not increased since it was established in the late 1990s, providing local tax relief.

Support legislation that would reinstate funding for the New Instructional Facilities Allotment to provide fast-growth school districts with more funding to open new schools.

Support the need for adequate funding associated with the implementation of House Bill 5 curriculum.

Support full state funding for full-day Pre-K programs for all four-year-old students eligible under TEC 29.153.

2 SCHOOL CHOICE

Support school choice available within the current system. Increase accountability and transparency required of schools not governed by locally elected trustees, including charter and contract schools/ services.

Oppose legislation that diverts funding from public education.

3 TRANSPARENCY

Support the existing transparency laws—including clear and concise ballot language—and the general public's right to meaningful financial transparency.

Oppose legislation that requires districts to provide either duplicative, unneeded or comparative data or information to taxpayers.

Oppose measures calling for major expansions in ballot language.

4 ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT

Restore a positive focus on student learning by mitigating overreliance on state assessments and by promoting students' access to higher education.

Utilize district and campus ratings *Exemplary*, *Recognized*, *Acceptable* and *Unacceptable* in lieu of letter grades.

Reduce tests to be included in the state accountability system. *Utilize other assessment instruments in grades 4, 6 and 8 to satisfy federal requirements.*

Require alignment of higher education admission requirements to the high school graduation requirements established by HB 5.