# TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

## DIVISION OF AUTHORIZING

## 2023 CHARTER SCHOOL WAITLIST REPORT

MARCH 2024

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## STATUTORY AUTHORITY

In 2019, the 86th Legislature passed Senate Bill 2293, which added Section 12.1174 to the Texas Education Code (TEC) and required open-enrollment charter schools to report the following:

- the number of students enrolled;
- the enrollment capacity;
- if a charter holder uses a waiting list of admission to campus: the total number of students on the waitlist and the number of students on the waiting list disaggregated by grade level;
- the information described by Subdivision aggregated for all campuses operating under the charter holder's charter; and
- any information required by the commissioner as necessary to identify each student admitted to or on a waiting list for admission to a campus operating under the charter holder's charter who is or was previously enrolled in a public school in this state.

This information must be reported to the agency's Internet website no later than March 15 of each year. The information contained within this report fulfills the statutory requirement outlined in TEC §12.1174.

## BACKGROUND

Senate Bill 2293, authored by Senator Fallon in the 86th Regular Legislative Session, added Sections 12.1173 and 12.1174 to the TEC. Section 12.1173 required the commissioner to adopt a common admission application form and a waiting list of admission for use by all open-enrollment charter schools in the state of Texas. Section 12.1174 required the annual reporting of data referred to as the Charter School Waitlist (CSW).

The Charter Student Admission Application (CSAA) creation allows for a uniform admission form to be utilized portfolio wide. Additionally, this common admission application form provides for eliminating questions or fields that may have an inherent bias. The CSAA helps gather the required CSW data for submission by charter schools in the state's portfolio.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) employs the Texas Student Data System (TSDS) to collect data from local education agencies (LEAs). The Texas Student Data System is a statewide data collection system utilized to collect, manage, and report Texas education data. Local education agencies (LEAs) load their data into the system, and the data is stored in a central repository.

## CHARTER SCHOOL ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT POLICIES

Charter schools authorized in Texas must create admission and enrollment policies per the Texas Education Code (TEC). The requirements for these policies are outlined in Sections 12.111 and 12.117. Charter schools that receive more applications than available seats are considered 'oversubscribed' and must conduct a lottery to determine accepted enrollees. Applicants who do not receive enrollment during a lottery are placed on a waiting list.

## PROCEDURE

Since August 1, 2020, all charter schools are required to use the CSAA for admission of students, and all students applying for admission to an open-enrollment charter school in Texas are required to submit the

CSAA to the charter school(s) they are applying to, thus ensuring the collection of necessary CSW data each year.

The required CSW data is gathered through a special collection with a snapshot of data taken on the last Friday in September and finalized reporting submitted no later than the last Friday in October. The 2024 CSW special collection snapshot date was Friday, September 29, 2023, with final reporting due no later than Friday, October 27, 2023

## LIMITATIONS

All public schools rely on a software matching system to identify individual student data. TSDS utilizes the 'Unique ID' (UID) system in which each student in the state of Texas is assigned a unique identification number. This UID is generated or 'matched' based on the student's social security number or alternative state-assigned ID (S-number when a social security number is not provided).

Consequently, each charter school registrar uses a student's social security number (SSN) or S-number to match the student to their UID. The CSAA does not require the submission of a social security number for privacy purposes (Privacy Act, 1974, 5 USC § 552a), nor is it required in Texas statute (TEC §25.002). The CSAA form provides a field for voluntary submission of an SSN to facilitate a match between an individual student and their UID. These requirements may pose limitations in reporting.

Finally, five different charter campuses did not report their waitlist counts for various reasons. Some are residential facilities, while others service a unique population. Their information was not included in the waitlist information but is counted in the overall total number of charter school campuses and students.

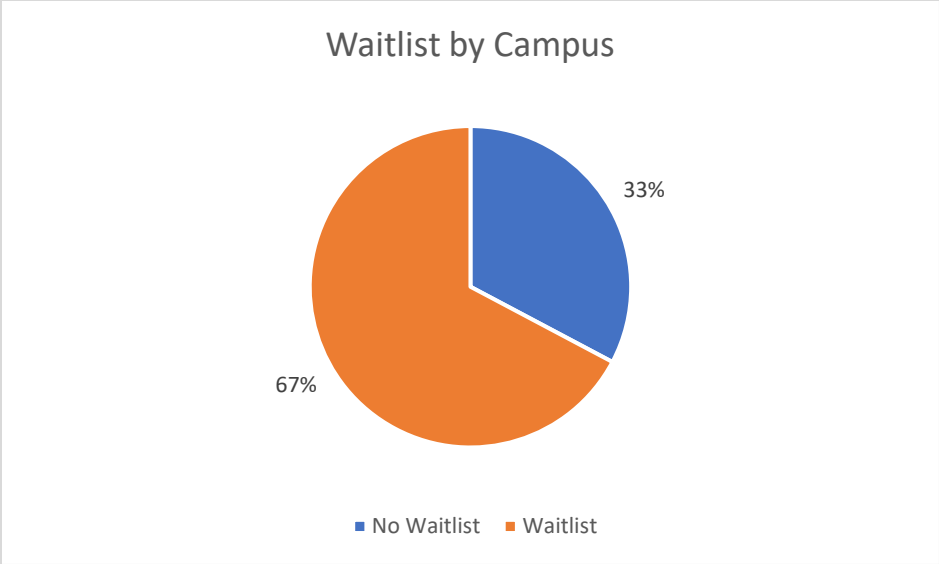
## KEY FINDINGS

The 2024 CSW resulted in 100% (186) charter schools reporting. Of the charter school campuses in the state's portfolio:

- 67% (617) reported having a waitlist.
- 33% (299) of campuses reported no waitlist.

The total reported charter school waitlist count was 91,069, which contains approximately 10,953 duplicated students who have applied to and been reported by multiple charter schools on their respective waitlists. These 10,953 students were representative of 26,026 entries on the waitlist. This accounts for 15,073 duplicate responses.

When filtering for duplicative students reported on multiple waitlists, the total number of individual students reported on charter schools with waitlists in 2023 was 75,996.




As of the October 2023 Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) snapshot, there were 422,930 students enrolled in charter schools in the state of Texas. This represents roughly 7.6% of all public-school enrollment. During the 2023 CSW collection, charter schools submitted enrollment data as of the last Friday, October 27, 2023. This year's reported enrollment reflected 418,378 students.

Charter schools also reported a facility enrollment capacity of 512,469. Enrollment capacity is defined as the number of students to which the charter school's campus can provide instruction without exceeding staffing and facility limitations and the approved charter holder's maximum enrollment.

| Actual Enrollment | Enrollment Capacity | Waitlist Count |
|---|---|---|
| 422,930 | 512,469 | 75,996 |

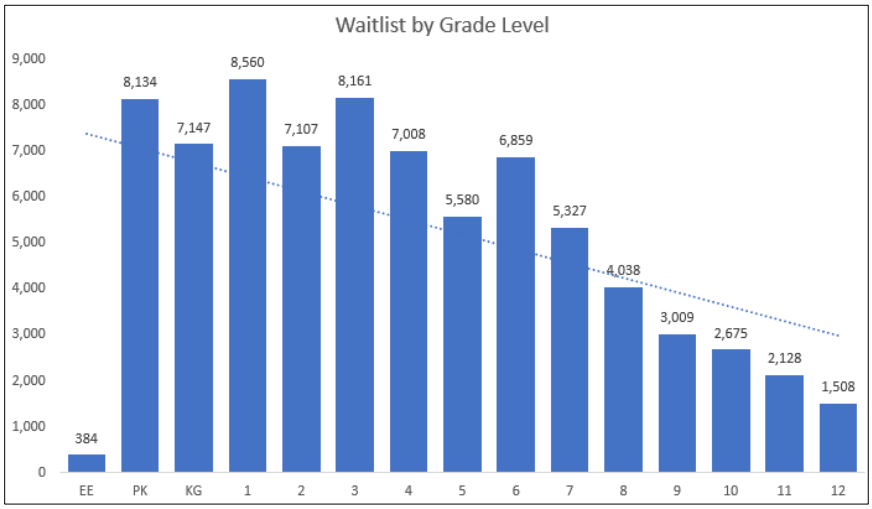
While there appears to be a difference of 89,539 seats between actual enrollment and enrollment capacity, upon the aggregation and analysis of statewide totals, there is no causal relationship between these data points.

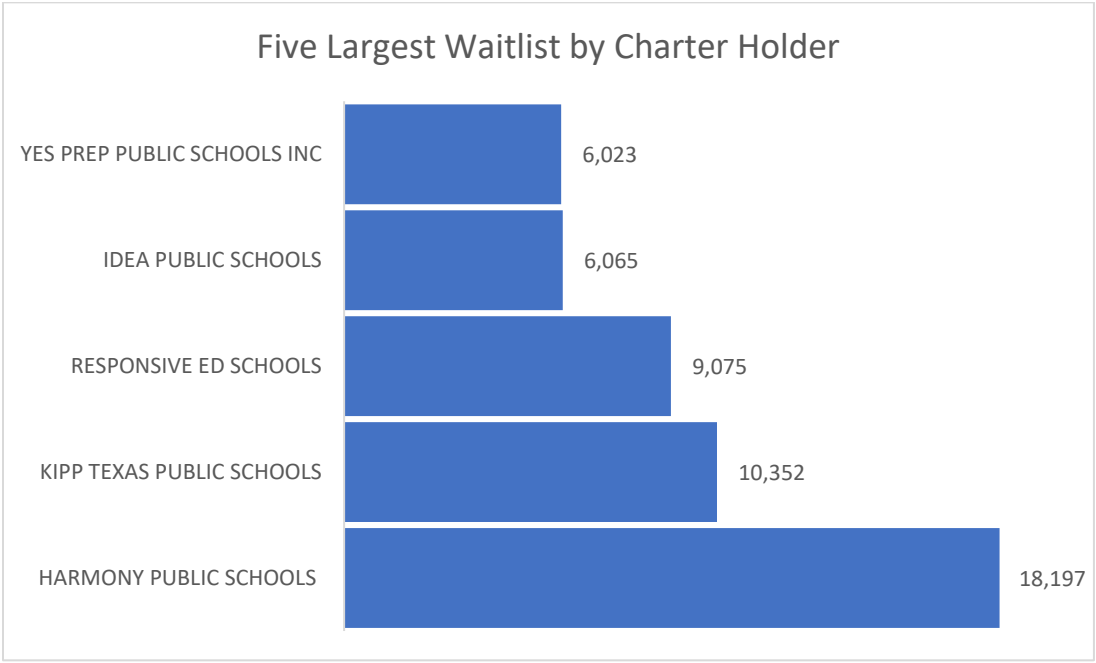
> For instance, a charter campus may report a larger enrollment capacity than actual enrollment with no waitlist. This is due to the difference in definition of each type of enrollment. Although the building and staffing may allow for additional enrollment, the charter school may not have received applicants to fulfill the positions or may not serve the requested grade-levels.
>
> In contrast, another charter campus may report a limited enrollment capacity and an extensive waitlist. This occurs when there is increased interest in the charter school with limited building and staff capacity.

When combined, this data is not necessarily a reflection of seats available at individual charter campuses. The 89,539 seats are disseminated across the state's charter portfolio and fourteen grade levels (EE-12).

Notably, as grade levels increase, waitlist numbers tend to decline. The following chart shows the reported waitlist count by grade level. This decline in part may be attributed to the smaller number of seats available in high school. As well as the decreased likelihood of a student transferring to a new educational

setting once they are established at a school. Another contributing factor to large waitlists during the elementary grade levels may be the fewer number of open seats available at those grade levels.




The graph above represents the five charter holders with the largest submitted waitlists in the state of Texas. Charter schools have been grouped according to their charter holder when appropriate. The totals within this graph contain duplicate unique student IDs as reported by the charter school. Duplication occurs when a Texas student applies to multiple charter schools in a given year. Individual school waitlists are not deduplicated to represent the true count of students who have submitted applications at each school.

## OPEN-ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOLS

Charter schools are public schools or LEAs operated by eligible entities such as 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, governmental entities, and colleges or universities. At a minimum, charter schools will have one charter school campus associated with the charter LEA, and in many instances, there are multiple charter school campuses associated with a charter LEA. The chart below contains a summary of information for charter schools that participated in the 2023 Charter School Waitlist collection.

| **Large Operators**<br>**10+ Campuses** | | **Medium Operators**<br>**6-9 Campuses** | | **Small Operators**<br>**2-5 Campuses** | | **Standalone Operators**<br>**1 Campus** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14 Operators | | 21 Operators | | 78 Operators | | 73 Operators | |
| 471 Campuses | 244,714 Students Enrolled | 145 Campuses | 71,457 Students Enrolled | 227 Campuses | 80,470 Students Enrolled | 73 Campuses | 26,289 Students Enrolled |

## SUMMARY

This data, summarized below, represents the fourth year of this collection. The agency continues to evaluate and analyze methodology and collections to ensure accurate reporting.

| CSW Report Year | Actual Enrollment | Enrollment Capacity | Waitlist Count |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2023 | 422,930 | 512,469 | 75,996 |
| 2022 | 404,740 | 523,160 | 66,512 |
| 2021 | 374,466 | 470,779 | 58,588 |
| 2020 | 336,745 | 441,293 | 55,059 |

## APPENDIX

A. Future collection dates

| Snapshot Date | Submission Date | Report Date |
|---|---|---|
| **Friday, September 29, 2023** | Friday, October 27, 2023 | Friday, March 15, 2024 |
| **Friday, September 27, 2024** | Friday, October 25, 2024 | Friday, March 14, 2025 |
| **Friday, September 26, 2025** | Friday, October 31, 2025 | Friday, March 13, 2026 |

B. Count of student UID reported by Charter District

| CDN | CHARTER NAME | WAITLIST COUNT |
|---|---|---|
| 227816<br>101858<br>101846<br>101862<br>161807<br>015828<br>071896 | HARMONY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | 18,197 |
| 227820 | KIPP TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS | 10,352 |
| 221801<br>072801 | RESPONSIVE ED | 9,075 |
| 108807 | IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | 6,065 |
| 101845 | YES PREP PUBLIC SCHOOLS INC | 6,023 |
| 015835 | GREAT HEARTS TEXAS | 4,445 |
| 015834 | BASIS TEXAS | 4,393 |
| 057803 | UPLIFT EDUCATION | 4,115 |
| 057848 | INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF TEXAS (ILTEXAS) | 2,965 |
| 043801 | IMAGINE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF NORTH TEXAS | 2,834 |
| 227829 | VALOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS | 2,710 |
| 246801 | MERIDIAN WORLD SCHOOL | 2,630 |
| 015827 | SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY | 1,946 |
| 014804 | ORENDA CHARTER SCHOOL | 1,471 |
| 220810 | WESTLAKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL | 1,471 |
| 227804 | NYOS CHARTER SCHOOL | 1,151 |
| 061804 | LEADERSHIP PREP SCHOOL | 1,149 |
| 015831 | SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DISCOVERY | 1,149 |
| 101803 | ARISTOI CLASSICAL ACADEMY | 707 |
| 057807 | LIFE SCHOOL | 613 |
| 101870 | BETA ACADEMY | 610 |
| 068802 | COMPASS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL | 533 |
| 057847 | VILLAGE TECH SCHOOLS | 492 |
| 057845 | UME PREPARATORY ACADEMY | 427 |

| CDN | CHARTER NAME | WAITLIST COUNT |
|---|---|---|
| 227826 | MONTESSORI FOR ALL | 420 |
| 227825 | AUSTIN ACHIEVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | 389 |
| 123807 | BOB HOPE SCHOOL | 333 |
| 108808 | VANGUARD ACADEMY | 260 |
| 070801 | FAITH FAMILY ACADEMY | 254 |
| 170802 | THRIVE CENTER FOR SUCCESS | 232 |
| 161802 | RAPOPORT ACADEMY PUBLIC SCHOOL | 220 |
| 220802 | ARLINGTON CLASSICS ACADEMY | 219 |
| 015838 | COMPASS ROSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | 199 |
| 057829 | A+ ACADEMY | 193 |
| 220817 | NEWMAN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF ARLINGTON | 185 |
| 084802 | ODYSSEY ACADEMY INC | 179 |
| 212804 | UT TYLER UNIVERSITY ACADEMY | 155 |
| 123805 | EHRHART SCHOOL | 151 |
| 057813 | TRINITY BASIN PREPARATORY | 138 |
| 108802 | HORIZON MONTESSORI PUBLIC SCHOOLS | 131 |
| 101847 | BEATRICE MAYES INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL | 120 |
| 101838 | SOUTHWEST PUBLIC SCHOOL | 107 |
| 227819 | UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL | 90 |
| 101853 | BAKERRIPLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL | 89 |
| 174801 | STEPHEN F AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY CHARTER SCHOOL | 87 |
| 071801 | BURNHAM WOOD CHARTER SCHOOL DISTRICT | 85 |
| 057839 | LA ACADEMIA DE ESTRELLAS | 80 |
| 015808 | INSPIRE ACADEMIES | 79 |
| 061805 | TRIVIUM ACADEMY | 73 |
| 246802 | GOODWATER MONTESSORI SCHOOL | 71 |
| 015839 | PROMESA ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL | 68 |
| 152802 | RISE ACADEMY | 63 |
| 003801 | PINEYWOODS COMMUNITY ACADEMY | 59 |
| 220815 | CHAPEL HILL ACADEMY | 53 |
| 057808 | UNIVERSAL ACADEMY | 53 |
| 013801 | ST MARY'S ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL | 50 |

| CDN | CHARTER NAME | WAITLIST COUNT |
|---|---|---|
| 236802 | SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY CHARTER SCHOOL | 49 |
| 227805 | TEXAS EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY | 47 |
| 227803 | WAYSIDE SCHOOLS | 45 |
| 015815 | HERITAGE ACADEMY | 44 |
| 101878 | HOUSTON CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOL | 43 |
| 226801 | TEXAS LEADERSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS | 43 |
| 212801 | CUMBERLAND ACADEMY | 41 |
| 227814 | CHAPARRAL STAR ACADEMY | 39 |
| 101819 | AMIGOS POR VIDA-FRIENDS FOR LIFE PUB CHTR SCH | 35 |
| 057846 | LEGACY PREPARATORY | 35 |
| 057830 | INSPIRED VISION ACADEMY | 29 |
| 015807 | SOUTHWEST PREPARATORY SCHOOL | 25 |
| 101861 | THE RHODES SCHOOL FOR PERFORMING ARTS | 22 |
| 057828 | WINFREE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS | 19 |
| 057844 | MANARA ACADEMY | 18 |
| 015806 | LEGACY TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS - TEXAS | 17 |
| 057841 | CITYSCAPE SCHOOLS | 15 |
| 227817 | CEDARS INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY | 13 |
| 057819 | JEAN MASSIEU ACADEMY | 12 |
| 178807 | CORPUS CHRISTI MONTESSORI SCHOOL | 11 |
| 101859 | STEP CHARTER SCHOOL | 10 |
| 057806 | ADVANTAGE ACADEMY | 7 |
| 220801 | TREETOPS SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL | 7 |
| 101872 | ETOILE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL | 6 |
| 015836 | ELEANOR KOLITZ HEBREW LANGUAGE ACADEMY | 5 |
| 220809 | FORT WORTH ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS | 4 |
| 015805 | NEW FRONTIERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INC | 4 |
| 015844 | ESSENCE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL | 3 |
| 015830 | SOMERSET ACADEMIES OF TEXAS (Formally BROOKS ACADEMY) | 3 |
| 021805 | ARROW ACADEMY | 2 |
| 105804 | DORAL ACADEMY OF TEXAS | 2 |

| CDN | CHARTER NAME | WAITLIST COUNT |
|---|---|---|
| 015822 | JUBILEE ACADEMIES | 2 |
| 043802 | LONE STAR LANGUAGE ACADEMY | 2 |
| 015841 | THE GATHERING PLACE | 2 |
| 057816 | A W BROWN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY | 0 |
| 101871 | A+ UNLIMITED POTENTIAL | 0 |
| 057814 | ACADEMY FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE | 0 |
| 101810 | ACADEMY OF ACCELERATED LEARNING INC | 0 |
| 057810 | ACADEMY OF DALLAS | 0 |
| 220821 | ACADEMY OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS | 0 |
| 101849 | ACCELERATED INTERMEDIATE ACADEMY | 0 |
| 101815 | ALIEF MONTESSORI COMMUNITY SCHOOL | 0 |
| 084804 | AMBASSADORS PREPARATORY ACADEMY | 0 |
| 227821 | AUSTIN DISCOVERY SCHOOL | 0 |
| 152806 | BETTY M CONDRA SCHOOL FOR EDUCATION INNOVATION | 0 |
| 015809 | BEXAR COUNTY ACADEMY | 0 |
| 193801 | BIG SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL | 0 |
| 101875 | BLOOM ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL | 0 |
| 213801 | BRAZOS RIVER CHARTER SCHOOL | 0 |
| 021803 | BRAZOS SCHOOL FOR INQUIRY & CREATIVITY | 0 |
| 057851 | BRIDGEWAY PREPARATORY ACADEMY | 0 |
| 108810 | BRILLANTE ACADEMY | 0 |
| 101837 | CALVIN NELMS CHARTER SCHOOLS | 0 |
| 101842 | COMQUEST ACADEMY | 0 |
| 184801 | CROSSTIMBERS ACADEMY | 0 |
| 178801 | DR M L GARZA-GONZALEZ CHARTER SCHOOL | 0 |
| 101856 | DRAW ACADEMY | 0 |
| 220811 | EAST FORT WORTH MONTESSORI ACADEMY | 0 |
| 092801 | EAST TEXAS CHARTER SCHOOLS | 0 |
| 057833 | EDUCATION CENTER INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY | 0 |
| 071804 | EL PASO ACADEMY | 0 |
| 071810 | EL PASO LEADERSHIP ACADEMY | 0 |
| 101877 | ELEVATE COLLEGIATE CHARTER SCHOOL | 0 |
| 072802 | ERATH EXCELS ACADEMY INC | 0 |

| CDN | CHARTER NAME | WAITLIST COUNT |
|---|---|---|
| 057834 | EVOLUTION ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL | 0 |
| 101811 | EXCEL ACADEMY | 0 |
| 108809 | EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY | 0 |
| 057831 | GATEWAY CHARTER ACADEMY | 0 |
| 015802 | GEORGE GERVIN ACADEMY | 0 |
| 101804 | GEORGE I SANCHEZ CHARTER | 0 |
| 057835 | GOLDEN RULE CHARTER SCHOOL | 0 |
| 015833 | HENRY FORD ACADEMY ALAMEDA SCHOOL FOR ART + DESIGN | 0 |
| 101828 | HOUSTON GATEWAY ACADEMY INC | 0 |
| 101821 | HOUSTON HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL | 0 |
| 105801 | KATHERINE ANNE PORTER SCHOOL | 0 |
| 105803 | KI CHARTER ACADEMY | 0 |
| 071807 | LA FE PREPARATORY SCHOOL | 0 |
| 111801 | LAKE GRANBURY ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL | 0 |
| 101874 | LEGACY SCHOOL OF SPORT SCIENCES | 0 |
| 015825 | LIGHTHOUSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | 0 |
| 130801 | MEADOWLAND CHARTER DISTRICT | 0 |
| 101855 | MEYERPARK ELEMENTARY | 0 |
| 165802 | MIDLAND ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL | 0 |
| 061802 | NORTH TEXAS COLLEGIATE ACADEMY | 0 |
| 057809 | NOVA ACADEMY (OAK CLIFF) | 0 |
| 057827 | NOVA ACADEMY SOUTHEAST | 0 |
| 183801 | PANOLA CHARTER SCHOOL | 0 |
| 057802 | PEGASUS SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES | 0 |
| 057850 | PIONEER TECHNOLOGY & ARTS ACADEMY | 0 |
| 015801 | POR VIDA ACADEMY | 0 |
| 015814 | POSITIVE SOLUTIONS CHARTER SCHOOL | 0 |
| 015843 | PRELUDE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL | 0 |
| 014803 | PRIORITY CHARTER SCHOOLS | 0 |
| 234801 | RANCH ACADEMY | 0 |
| 101806 | RAUL YZAGUIRRE SCHOOLS FOR SUCCESS | 0 |
| 236801 | RAVEN SCHOOL | 0 |

| CDN | CHARTER NAME | WAITLIST COUNT |
|---|---|---|
| 101876 | REVE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL | 0 |
| 014801 | RICHARD MILBURN ALTER HIGH SCHOOL - KILLEEN | 0 |
| 057840 | RICHLAND COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL | 0 |
| 220820 | ROCKETSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOL | 0 |
| 015842 | ROYAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS | 0 |
| 015840 | SAN ANTONIO PREPARATORY SCHOOLS | 0 |
| 178808 | SEASHORE CHARTER SCHOOLS | 0 |
| 101802 | SER-NINOS CHARTER SCHOOL | 0 |
| 057836 | ST ANTHONY SCHOOL | 0 |
| 123803 | TEKOA ACADEMY OF ACCELERATED STUDIES STEM SCHOOL | 0 |
| 057804 | TEXANS CAN ACADEMIES | 0 |
| 105802 | TEXAS PREPARATORY SCHOOL | 0 |
| 220814 | TEXAS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS | 0 |
| 227827 | THE EXCEL CENTER - FOR ADULTS | 0 |
| 101864 | THE LAWSON ACADEMY | 0 |
| 101868 | THE PRO-VISION ACADEMY | 0 |
| 046802 | TRINITY CHARTER SCHOOL | 0 |
| 071803 | TRIUMPH PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS-EL PASO | 0 |
| 240801 | TRIUMPH PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS-LAREDO | 0 |
| 152803 | TRIUMPH PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS-LUBBOCK | 0 |
| 108804 | TRIUMPH PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS-RIO GRANDE VALLEY | 0 |
| 101840 | TWO DIMENSIONS PREPARATORY ACADEMY | 0 |
| 227806 | UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS UNIVERSITY CHARTER SCHOOL | 0 |
| 227824 | VALERE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | 0 |
| 101814 | VARNETT PUBLIC SCHOOL, THE | 0 |
| 071809 | VISTA DEL FUTURO CHARTER SCHOOL | 0 |
| 101873 | YELLOWSTONE COLLEGE PREPARATORY | 0 |