

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
CLOSURES AND OTHER INTERRUPTIONS IN SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Q: Do parents and/or guardians have responsibilities to ensure an education for their children?

A: Yes, parents and guardians have responsibilities to ensure that children under their care have access to educational services through traditional school districts, charter schools, private schools, or home-school options.

Q: If a charter school my child is attending closes, what options are available for my child?

A: Parents may seek educational options for their children at:

- other charter schools approved for the geographical boundary the student lives in,
- the traditional school district in which the student resides,
- private schools, or
- home-school options.

Q: May another charter school deny enrollment to my student?

A: Charter schools are required to offer services to students in their approved geographic boundaries if there is space available for the student, and the student is age/grade appropriate to attend the charter school. Parents will need to provide a birth certificate and proof of residency to enroll their child. Shot records will need to be provided within the first 30 days of enrollment. A charter school may not prohibit a student from attending school pending receipt of transcripts or records from the school district or open-enrollment charter school the student previously attended.

Q: May a traditional school district deny my student?

A: Traditional school districts are required to accept any students who reside in their geographic boundaries. Parents will need to provide a birth certificate and proof of residency to enroll their child. Shot records will need to be provided within the first 30 days of enrollment. A school district may not prohibit a student from attending school pending receipt of transcripts or records from the school district or open-enrollment charter school the student previously attended. The [School District Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) page provides additional information about enrolling your child in a traditional school district.

Q: If my child is transferring from one school to another what steps should I take to ensure a smooth transition?

A: Return any instructional materials that belong to the school. Ensure you have the belongings of your students. You may request a copy of your student records and immunization records from the school; however, the new charter or school district will send a request to the sending school for the official records.

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Q: What are attendance requirements for students?

A: The Texas Education Code (TEC) outlines the compulsory attendance laws for our state. Any child who is enrolled in a traditional district or charter school must comply with §25.085 which requires children who are least six years of age to attend a public school until the student's 18th birthday.

Q: Where can I find additional information about other educational opportunities for my student?

A: The [charter school website](#) has a resource section for parents and students. An [interactive map](#) is available, on which parents can enter their address and find charter schools in their area or to determine the traditional school district where they live.

Q: How are parents to know if it is a good charter school?

A: Resources are available to help parents make informed decisions about their school choice options. The following links may be useful in your search for the best educational opportunity for your children:

- [Accountability Ratings](#);
- [Texas School Report Cards](#);
- [Texas Academic Performance Reports \(TAPR\)](#);
- [Charter Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas](#) (FIRST);
- [Accreditation Statuses](#); and
- [Financial audits](#).

Q: Does my child lose their spot at the charter school if the charter re-opens during the school year?

A: No, for charters affected by an interruption in operations, students enrolled prior to the interruption will have their position held for a reasonable period of time.

Q: How does the public know if a charter affected by an interruption in operations re-opens?

A: Charters should notify parents of the resuming operations. After a reasonable period of time charters may fill any vacancies pursuant to their existing admission policy.

Q: What resources are available locally?

A: The Texas Education Agency coordinates educational services with the state's twenty regional educational service centers (ESCs). The TEA has a [map to help find the ESC in your area](#).

Q: Is there an FAQ that offers answers to general educational questions?

A: The Office of General Inquiry has an [FAQ covering a wide range](#) of topics concerning traditional education.

Q: What does it mean for a school district or charter school to be accredited?

A: Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 19 Section §97.1055(a)(1)(A) requires the commissioner of education to assign an accreditation status to every public school district in the state. The accreditation status of a public school district is determined by the district's ability to meet specific academic and financial standards established in Texas Education Code (TEC), §39.052(b) and (c).