

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY
DIVISION OF AUTHORIZING
2024 CHARTER SCHOOL WAITLIST REPORT
MARCH 2025

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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 27, 2024, with final reporting due no later than Friday, October 25, 2024.

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, 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.

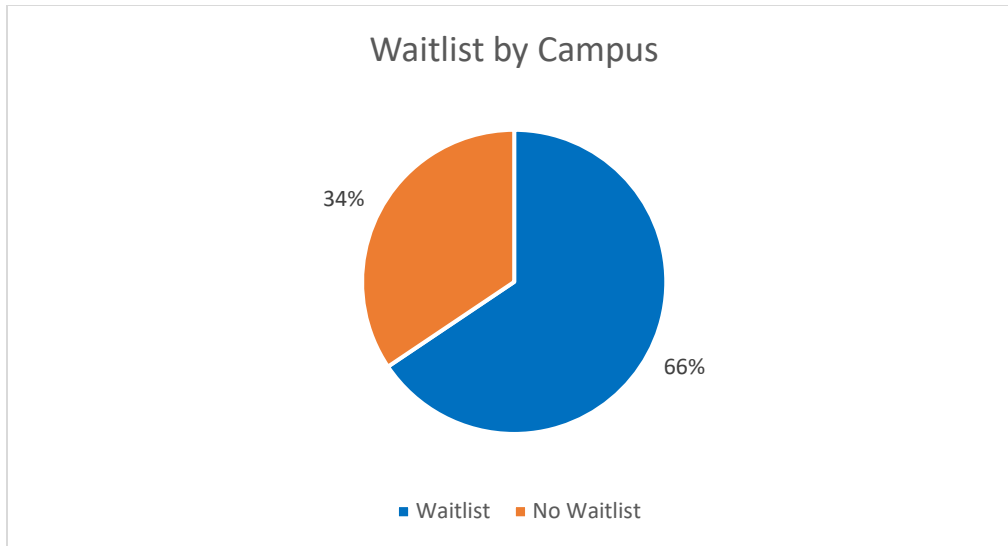
KEY FINDINGS

The 2025 CSW resulted in 100% (188) charter schools reporting. Of the charter school campuses in the state's portfolio:

- 66% (628) reported having a waitlist.
- 34% (330) of campuses reported no waitlist.

The total reported charter school waitlist count was 89,672, which contains approximately 11,851 duplicated students who have applied to and been reported by multiple charter schools on their respective waitlists. These 11,851 students were representative of 27,710 entries on the waitlist. This accounts for 15,859 duplicate responses.

When filtering for duplicative students reported on multiple waitlists, the total number of individual students reported on charter schools with waitlists in 2024 was 73,813.



As of the October 2024 Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) snapshot, there were 436,031 students enrolled in charter schools in the state of Texas. This represents roughly 7.86% of all public-school enrollment. During the 2024 CSW collection, charter schools submitted enrollment data as of Friday, October 25 2024. This year’s reported enrollment reflected 435,944 students.

Charter schools also reported a facility enrollment capacity of 556,857. 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
436,031	556,857	73,813

While there appears to be a difference of 120,913 seats between actual enrollment and enrollment capacity, upon the aggregation and analysis of statewide totals, there is no causal relationship between these data points.

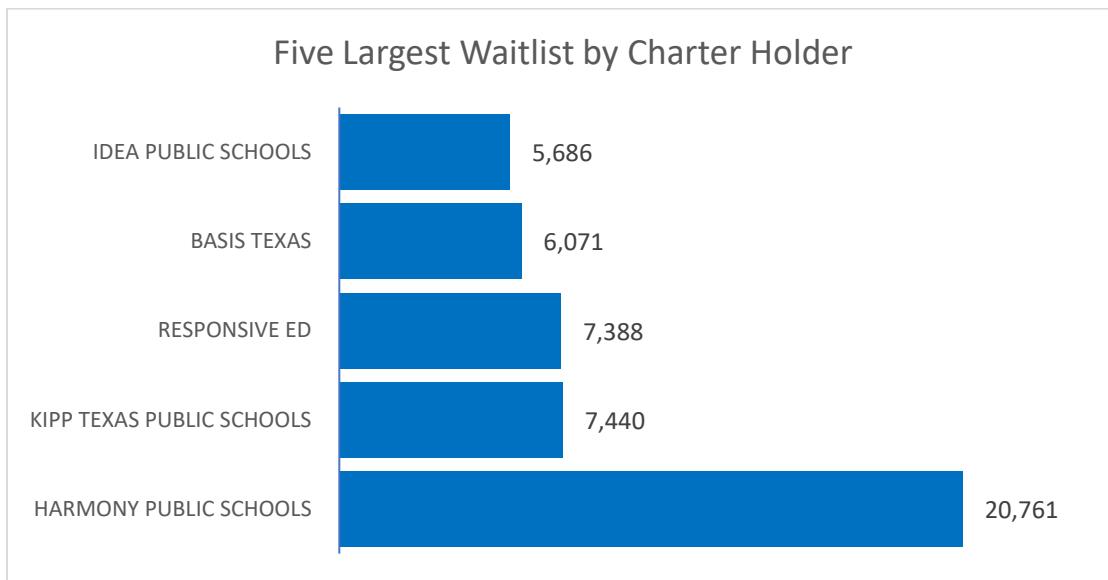
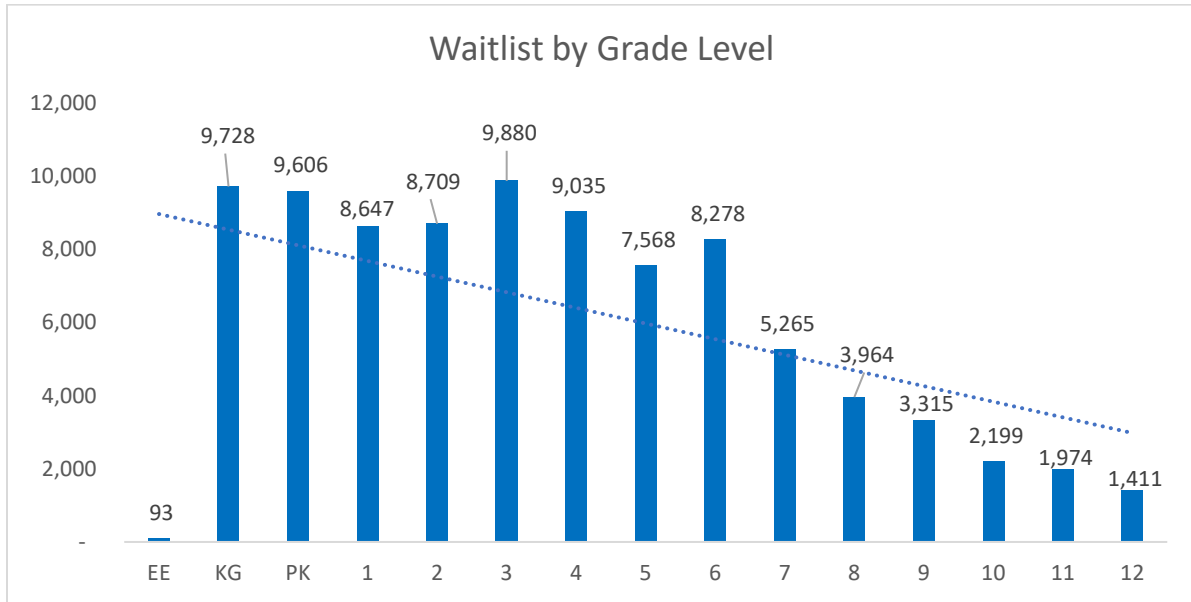
For instance, a charter campus may report a larger enrollment capacity than actual enrollment with no waitlist. This is due to the difference in definition of each type of enrollment. Although the building and staffing may allow for additional enrollment, the charter school may not have received applicants to fill 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 120,913 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 each 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 2024 Charter School Waitlist collection.

Large Operators 10+ Campuses	Medium Operators 6-9 Campuses	Small Operators 2-5 Campuses	Standalone Operators 1 Campus
16 Operators	21 Operators	75 Operators	76 Operators
513 Campuses	149 Campuses	220 Campuses	76 Campuses
253,803 Students Enrolled	75,003 Students Enrolled	80,776 Students Enrolled	26,449 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
2024	436,031	556,857	73,813
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

Future Collection Dates

Snapshot Date	Submission Date	Report Date
Friday, September 26, 2025	Friday, October 31, 2025	Friday, March 13, 2026

Count of Student UID Reported by Charter District

CDN	LEA	WAITLIST COUNT
227816	HARMONY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	20,761
101858		
101846		
101862		
161807		
015828		
071806		
227820	KIPP TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	7,440
072801	RESPONSIVE ED	7,388
221801		
061806		
015834	BASIS TEXAS	6,071
108807	IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS	5,686
101845	YES PREP PUBLIC SCHOOLS INC	5,208
057803	UPLIFT EDUCATION	4,964
015835	GREAT HEARTS TEXAS	4,354
227829	VALOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS	4,291
246801	MERIDIAN WORLD SCHOOL LLC	2,381
057848	INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF TEXAS (ILTEXAS)	2,241
043801	IMAGINE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF NORTH TEXAS	2,091
015827	SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	1,814
220810	WESTLAKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	1,623
014804	ORENDA CHARTER SCHOOL	1,462
061804	LEADERSHIP PREP SCHOOL	1,202

101803	ARISTOI CLASSICAL ACADEMY	1,062
015806	LEGACY TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS - TEXAS	686
057847	VILLAGE TECH SCHOOLS	637
057807	LIFE SCHOOL	636
015831	SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DISCOVERY	596
101870	BETA ACADEMY	594
068802	COMPASS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	588
227804	NYOS CHARTER SCHOOL	544
108808	VANGUARD ACADEMY	434
227826	MONTESSORI FOR ALL	421
227825	AUSTIN ACHIEVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	350
057839	LA ACADEMIA DE ESTRELLAS	326
170802	THRIVE CENTER FOR SUCCESS	302
212804	UT TYLER UNIVERSITY ACADEMY	254
227805	TEXAS EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY	238
057813	TRINITY BASIN PREPARATORY	214
057845	UME PREPARATORY ACADEMY	205
101847	BEATRICE MAYES INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL	167
070801	FAITH FAMILY ACADEMY	162
161802	RAPOPORT ACADEMY PUBLIC SCHOOL	162
123807	BOB HOPE SCHOOL	144
227819	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL	142
101815	ALIEF MONTESSORI COMMUNITY SCHOOL	130
220802	ARLINGTON CLASSICS ACADEMY	130
236802	SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY CHARTER SCHOOL	104
123805	EHRHART SCHOOL	95
057844	MANARA ACADEMY	89
108810	BRILLANTE ACADEMY	79
015838	COMPASS ROSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	78
227803	WAYSIDE SCHOOLS	78
061805	TRIVIUM ACADEMY	77
174801	STEPHEN F AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY CHARTER SCHOOL	76

084802	ODYSSEY ACADEMY INC	74
101819	AMIGOS POR VIDA-FRIENDS FOR LIFE PUB CHTR SCH	73
071801	BURNHAM WOOD CHARTER SCHOOL DISTRICT	67
227814	CHAPARRAL STAR ACADEMY	56
015815	HERITAGE ACADEMY	56
101861	THE RHODES SCHOOL FOR PERFORMING ARTS	41
101853	BAKERRIPLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	40
220820	ROCKETSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS	40
246802	GOODWATER MONTESSORI SCHOOL	38
152802	RISE ACADEMY	38
057829	A+ ACADEMY	33
108802	HORIZON MONTESSORI PUBLIC SCHOOLS	30
178807	CORPUS CHRISTI MONTESSORI SCHOOL	26
226801	TEXAS LEADERSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS	25
003801	PINEYWOODS COMMUNITY ACADEMY	24
101828	HOUSTON GATEWAY ACADEMY INC	23
015808	INSPIRE ACADEMIES	23
220809	FORT WORTH ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS	21
220817	NEWMAN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF ARLINGTON	18
013801	ST MARY'S ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	15
212801	CUMBERLAND ACADEMY	14
101814	VARNETT PUBLIC SCHOOL (THE)	13
101806	RAUL YZAGUIRRE SCHOOLS FOR SUCCESS	11
101838	SOUTHWEST PUBLIC SCHOOLS	11
057808	UNIVERSAL ACADEMY	11
101872	ETOILE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	10
015805	NEW FRONTIERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INC	10
227817	CEDARS INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY	8
057830	INSPIRED VISION ACADEMY	8
071807	LA FE PREPARATORY SCHOOL	8
015807	SOUTHWEST PREPARATORY SCHOOL	8
015844	ESSENCE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL	7

015839	PROMESA ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	7
057841	CITYSCAPE SCHOOLS	3
057806	ADVANTAGE ACADEMY	2
101837	CALVIN NELMS CHARTER SCHOOLS	2
015836	ELEANOR KOLITZ HEBREW LANGUAGE ACADEMY	1