

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY
CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZING DIVISION
2025 CHARTER SCHOOL WAITLIST REPORT
MARCH 2026

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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. 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 2025 CSW special collection snapshot date was Friday, September 26, 2025, with final reporting due no later than Friday, October 31, 2025.

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.

Charter schools included in this reporting set consist of Open-Enrollment Charter Schools authorized under Texas Education Code (TEC) Chapter 12, Subchapter D, and University or Junior College Charter Schools authorized under Subchapter E. Statutory provisions governing charter school admission practices and waitlists under TEC Chapter 12 do not explicitly extend to Adult High School Charter School Programs authorized under Subchapter G. Furthermore, Subchapter G charter schools are not identified as subject to waitlist requirements in 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §100.1023. Historically, the agency has reported waitlist data for Subchapter G charter schools. However, because TEC §12.1174 does not apply to Subchapter G programs, this data was not included for 2025.

Finally, some charter schools are residential facilities and 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.

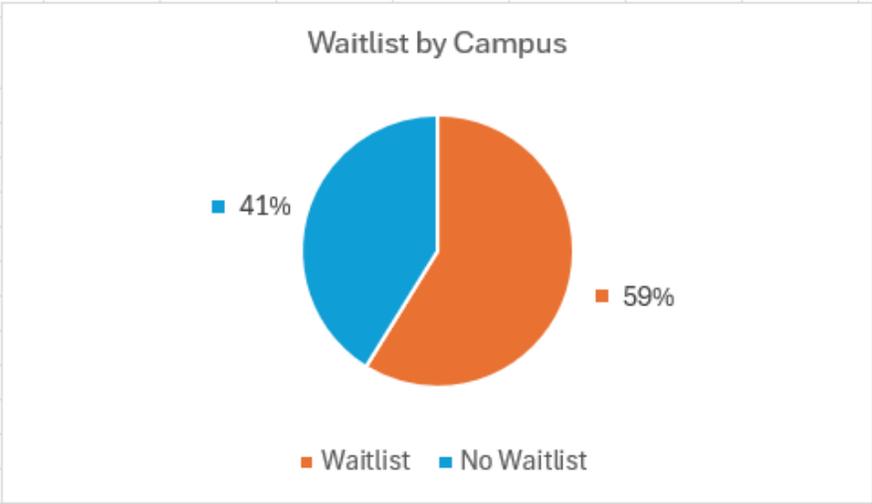
KEY FINDINGS

The 2026 CSW resulted in 100% (178) of subchapter D and E charter schools reporting. Of the charter school campuses in the state's portfolio:

- 59% (550) of campuses reported having a waitlist.
- 41% (385) of campuses reported no waitlist.

The total reported charter school waitlist count was 85,102, which contains approximately 11,396 duplicated students who have applied to and been reported by multiple charter schools on their respective waitlists. These 11,396 students were representative of 26,645 entries on the waitlist. This accounts for 15,249 duplicate responses.

When filtering for duplicative students reported on multiple waitlists, the total number of individual students reported on charter schools with waitlists in 2025 was 69,853.



As of the October 2025 Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) snapshot, there were 442,840 students enrolled in charter schools in the state of Texas. This represents roughly 8.1% of all public-school enrollment. During the 2025 CSW collection, charter schools submitted enrollment data as of Friday, October 31, 2025.

Charter schools also reported a facility enrollment capacity of 576,388. 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
442,840	576,388	69,853

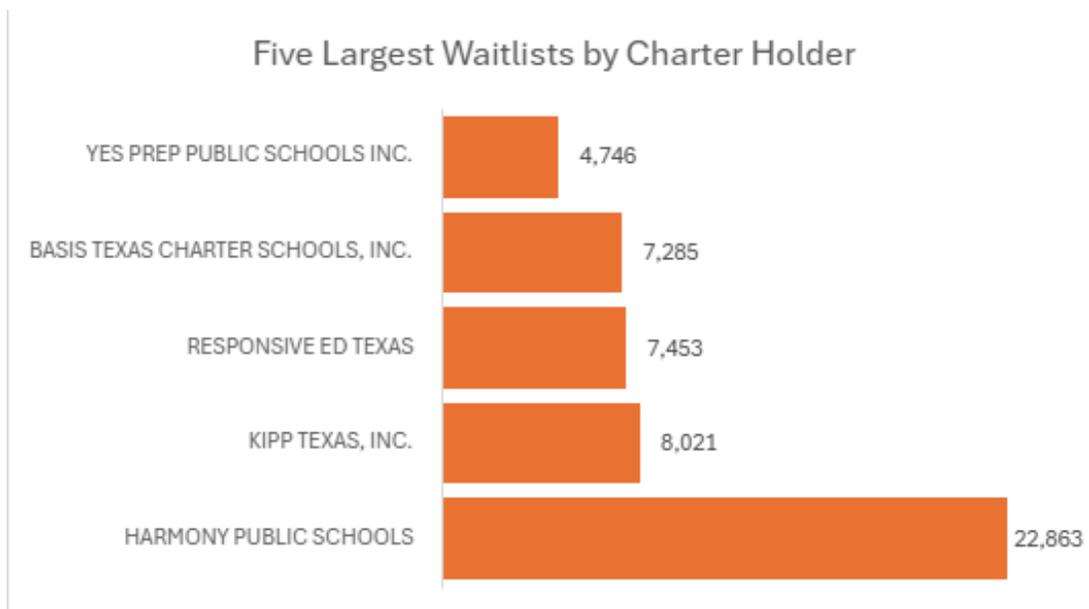
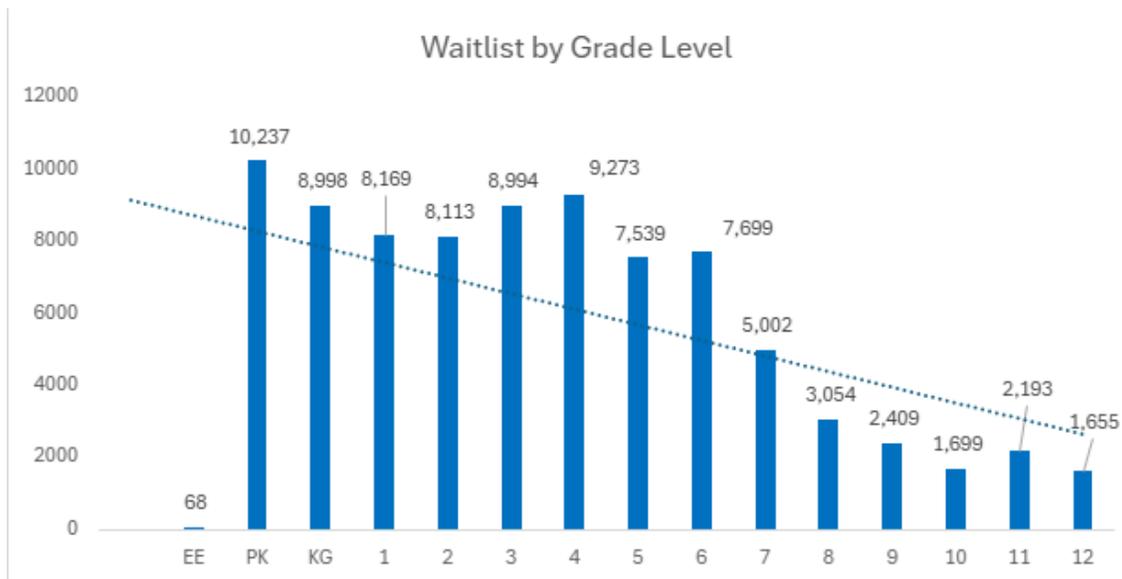
While there appears to be a difference of 133,548 seats between actual enrollment and enrollment capacity, upon the aggregation and analysis of statewide totals, there is no causal relationship between these data points.

For instance, a charter campus may report a larger enrollment capacity than actual enrollment with no waitlist. This is due to the difference in the 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 133,548 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 in the elementary grade levels may be the limited 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
15 Operators	19 Operators	74 Operators	70 Operators
503 Campuses	141 Campuses	221 Campuses	70 Campuses
260,721 Students Enrolled	75,992 Students Enrolled	80,883 Students Enrolled	25,244 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
2025	442,840	576,388	69,853
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

A. Future collection dates

Snapshot Date	Submission Date	Report Date
Friday, September 25, 2026	Friday, October 30, 2026	Monday, March 15, 2027

B. Count of student UID reported by Charter District

CDN	CHARTER LEA NAME	WAITLIST NUMBER
101862	HARMONY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	22,863
101858		
161807		
227816		
101846		
071806		
015828		
227820	KIPP TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	8,021
221801	RESPONSIVE ED TEXAS	7,453
072801		
015834	BASIS TEXAS	7,285
101845	YES PREP PUBLIC SCHOOLS, INC.	4,746
057803	UPLIFT EDUCATION	4,517
227829	VALOR EDUCATION	4,116
108807	IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3,385
015835	GREAT HEARTS TEXAS	2,913
057848	INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF TEXAS (ILTEXAS)	2,163
246801	MERIDIAN WORLD SCHOOL	2,106
043801	IMAGINE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF NORTH TEXAS	1,771
220810	WESTLAKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	1,295
014804	ORENDA CHARTER SCHOOL	1,243
015827	SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	1,067
068802	COMPASS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	786
015831	SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DISCOVERY	660
101803	ARISTOI CLASSICAL ACADEMY	658
227826	MONTESSORI FOR ALL	605
015806	LEGACY TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS - TEXAS	539
061804	LEADERSHIP PREP SCHOOL	531
227804	NYOS CHARTER SCHOOL	456
101870	BETA ACADEMY	431
170802	THRIVE CENTER FOR SUCCESS	337

123807	BOB HOPE SCHOOL	302
015808	INSPIRE ACADEMIES	299
161802	RAPOPORT ACADEMY PUBLIC SCHOOL	295
108808	VANGUARD ACADEMY	292
057845	UME PREPARATORY ACADEMY	267
057847	VILLAGE TECH SCHOOLS	249
220802	ARLINGTON CLASSICS ACADEMY	236
101847	BEATRICE MAYES INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL	231
212804	UT TYLER UNIVERSITY ACADEMY	203
057807	LIFE SCHOOL	196
057839	LA ACADEMIA DE ESTRELLAS	192
227819	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL	187
123805	EHRHART SCHOOL	156
070801	FAITH FAMILY ACADEMY	124
057804	TEXANS CAN ACADEMIES	120
057813	TRINITY BASIN PREPARATORY	120
227825	AUSTIN ACHIEVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	117
101878	HOUSTON CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOL	116
015822	JUBILEE ACADEMIES	99
057844	MANARA ACADEMY	98
057829	A+ ACADEMY	95
227814	CHAPARRAL STAR ACADEMY	95
227805	TEXAS EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY	83
101815	ALIEF MONTESSORI COMMUNITY SCHOOL	70
101853	BAKERRIPLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	67
108802	HORIZON MONTESSORI PUBLIC SCHOOLS	63
174801	STEPHEN F AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY CHARTER SCHOOL	54
015838	COMPASS ROSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	53
084802	ODYSSEY ACADEMY, THE	50
101828	HOUSTON GATEWAY ACADEMY, INC.	49
220809	FORT WORTH ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS	44
220817	NEWMAN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF ARLINGTON	42
101861	THE RHODES SCHOOL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS	42
057846	LEGACY PREPARATORY	39
013801	ST MARYS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	39
057830	INSPIRED VISION ACADEMY	37
236802	SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY CHARTER SCHOOL	34
108810	BRILLANTE ACADEMY	31
246802	GOODWATER MONTESSORI SCHOOL	31

226801	TEXAS LEADERSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS	26
101819	AMIGOS POR VIDA-FRIENDS FOR LIFE PUBLIC CHARTER SC	23
101837	CALVIN NELMS CHARTER SCHOOLS	23
101872	ETOILE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	23
003801	PINEYWOODS COMMUNITY ACADEMY	23
015815	HERITAGE ACADEMY	22
101873	YELLOWSTONE COLLEGE PREPARATORY	20
227817	CEDARS INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY	19
101875	BLOOM ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	17
178807	CORPUS CHRISTI MONTESSORI SCHOOL	16
101879	HERITAGE CLASSICAL ACADEMY	9
015844	ESSENCE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL	3
152802	RISE ACADEMY	3
057808	UNIVERSAL ACADEMY	3
057806	ADVANTAGE ACADEMY	2
212801	CUMBERLAND ACADEMY	2
220811	EAST FORT WORTH MONTESSORI ACADEMY	2
071807	LA FE PREPARATORY SCHOOL	1
061805	TRIVIUM ACADEMY	1