



A Comparison of TEA Data: *Open-Enrollment Charter Schools vs. Traditional School Districts*

Comparing TEA's 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 Snapshot data for open-enrollment charter schools and traditional public schools in Texas:

Student Demographics

- **Special Populations:** Charter schools educate a higher percentage of minority students and economically disadvantaged students, but they serve a lower percentage of limited English proficient students and students with disabilities than traditional public schools.ⁱ

Student Performance

- **Attendance/Dropout Rates:** Charter schools have *lower* attendance rates and higher dropout rates than traditional public schools. The difference in the longitudinal dropout rates (the percentage of ninth graders who graduate with their class) is especially significant.ⁱⁱ
- **TAKS Passing Rates:** Over the five school years analyzed, *fewer* charter school students passed each of the TAKS tests, especially the math and science TAKS, than students in traditional public schools. Not a single subgroup of students in charter schools performed better than their public school peers on the TAKS tests.ⁱⁱⁱ
- **College Readiness:** *Fewer* students in charter schools met the state's standards for college readiness, as measured by the percentage of students who took the SAT and ACT exams and the average scores on each of those exams.^{iv}

School Staff

- **Administrators:** Charter schools employ *more* central office and school administrators and spend a greater percentage of their operating budget on district and school administration than school districts.^v
- **Teacher Salaries:** Charter schools pay teachers *less*, have greater than twice the percentage of *less experienced* (0-5 years) teachers, and have *fewer* teachers with advanced degrees than school districts.^{vi}
- **Teacher Turnover:** Charter schools have a *significantly higher* teacher turnover rate, almost triple the turnover rate than traditional public schools.^{vii}

Revenue and Expenditures

- **Cost to the State:** Charter schools cannot levy a local tax rate. Therefore, the state pays a larger percentage of the cost of educating each student in a charter school than it does in a traditional public school.

- **Per Student Funding:** Students in charter schools are provided state funding based on the *statewide average funding per weighted student* (including the enrichment tier). Consequently, per-pupil funding for students in charter schools is *higher* than per-pupil funding for 50 percent of the students in traditional Texas public schools.^{viii}
- **Total Revenue Per Pupil:** Charter schools get less *total* revenue per student than traditional school districts, but “total revenue” includes local tax revenue for facilities and only school districts can levy a facilities (I&S) tax rate.^{ix} Though not allowed to levy a facilities tax rate, charter schools have access to state and federal facilities funding, including: the state’s New Instructional Facilities Allotment, Permanent School Fund Bond Guarantee Program, Foundation School Program Credit Enhancement Program, and the federal qualified school construction bond program.
- **Expenditures on Instruction:** In each of the five school years analyzed, charter schools also spent a *lower* percentage of their operating budgets on instruction than did school districts.^x
- **Expenditures on Administration:** Over the five school years analyzed, charter schools spent on average more than twice what school districts spent per student on central administration and 38 percent more on campus administration, though in 2011, charter schools spent 60 percent more on campus administration than traditional schools did.^{xi}
- **Fund Balance:** Charter schools dedicate a larger percentage of their budget to fund balance than do school districts.^{xii}

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Summary Level	2007 Charter Schools	2008 Charter Schools	2009 Charter Schools	2010 Charter Schools	2011 Charter Schools	2007 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2008 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2009 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2010 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2011 Public Schools (excl. Charters)
Students										
3. Total Students	80,629	89,829	102,491	119,137	133,697	4,496,304	4,561,687	4,625,713	4,705,641	4,778,688
4. % African American	33	30	28	26	24	14	14	14	14	13
5. % Hispanic	48	49	51	53	53	46	47	48	48	50
6. % White	17	17	17	17	17	36	35	34	34	32
7. % Other	3	3	4	4	6	4	4	4	4	6
8. % Economically Disadvantaged	69.6	69.9	69.5	70.6	70.7	55.3	55	56.4	58.7	58.9
9. % LEP	14	14	15	16	16	16	17	17	17	17
10. % Special Education	10	9	8	8	7	11	10	9	9	9
11. % Bilingual/ESL Education	13	13	14	15	16	15	16	16	16	16
12. % Career & Technology Ed.	14	13	12	10	8	21	21	22	22	21
13. % Gifted & Talented Ed.	2	2	2	2	2	8	8	8	8	8

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Summary Level	2007 Charter Schools	2008 Charter Schools	2009 Charter Schools	2010 Charter Schools	2011 Charter Schools	2007 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2008 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2009 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2010 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2011 Public Schools (excl. Charters)
14. Attendance Rate	92.9	92.9	94	94.3	94.4	95.6	95.5	95.5	95.6	95.5
15. Annual Dropout Rate Gr. 7-8	1.8	1.6	1.3	1.1	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
16. Longitudinal Dropout Rate Gr. 9-12	23.8	30.1	31.6	29.7	26.2	8.3	10.6	9.4	8.3	6.3
17. Annual Graduate Count	4,600	5,147	5,100	6,024	6,640	235,314	236,022	246,944	258,233	273,840
18. Longitudinal Graduation Rate	33.5	32.7	33.3	36.2	43.5	82.1	79.9	81	82.6	86.1

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TAKS % Students Passing - Summed Across All Grades	2007 Charter Schools	2008 Charter Schools	2009 Charter Schools	2010 Charter Schools	2011 Charter Schools	2007 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2008 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2009 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2010 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2011 Public Schools (excl. Charters)
19. All Tests Taken	56	62	65	71	73	70	72	75	77	76
20. Reading/ELA	82	86	87	88	88	89	91	91	90	90
21. Writing	89	90	92	92	92	92	93	93	94	92
22. Mathematics	64	71	74	79	81	77	81	82	84	84
23. Science	51	61	67	77	79	72	74	78	83	83
24. Social Studies	78	83	87	92	94	89	92	93	96	95
25. African American	48	53	58	63	67	56	59	62	66	65
26. Hispanic	56	62	64	70	72	62	65	68	71	71
27. White	66	70	73	77	77	82	84	86	87	86
28. Other	85	88	90	92	88	87	89	90	91	88
29. Economically Disadvantaged	52	58	61	68	70	60	63	66	69	68

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College Admissions	2007 Charter Schools	2008 Charter Schools	2009 Charter Schools	2010 Charter Schools	2011 Charter Schools	2007 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2008 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2009 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2010 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2011 Public Schools (excl. Charters)
31. Percent Tested	18.2	19.9	21.8	19.3	23.8	66.7	69.3	66	62.6	63.6
32. Percent At or Above Criterion	19.5	17.8	18.6	20.6	22.6	27.1	27	27.2	26.9	26.9
33. SAT - Mean Total Score	927	924	925	955	959	992	992	988	985	985
34. ACT - Mean Composite Score	19.1	18.5	18.7	19.6	19.8	20.1	20.3	20.5	20.5	20.5

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Administration and Administrative Expenditures	2007 Charter Schools	2008 Charter Schools	2009 Charter Schools	2010 Charter Schools	2011 Charter Schools	2007 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2008 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2009 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2010 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2011 Public Schools (excl. Charters)
37. Staff - % Central Administrative	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1
38. Staff - % School Administrative	5	5	6	6	6	3	3	3	3	3
77. % Total Operating Expenditures per pupil - Central Administrative	14	14	14	14	14	6	6	6	6	6
78. % Total Operating Expenditures per pupil - School Leadership	8	8	8	8	8	6	6	6	6	5

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Teachers	2007 Charter Schools	2008 Charter Schools	2009 Charter Schools	2010 Charter Schools	2011 Charter Schools	2007 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2008 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2009 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2010 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2011 Public Schools (excl. Charters)
46. Average Teacher Salary	36,423	37,957	39,624	40,529	41,175	45,033	46,325	47,313	48,440	48,838
50. % With 5 or Fewer Years of Experience	70.8	69.7	72.1	73.2	74.1	36.6	37.1	37	36.2	35.0
51. Average Years of Experience	4.9	5	4.8	4.6	4.5	11.4	11.4	11.3	11.5	11.6
52. % With Advanced Degrees	15.4	16	15.9	16.6	16.2	21.7	21.6	21.5	22.0	22.5

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Teacher Turnover	2007 Charter Schools	2008 Charter Schools	2009 Charter Schools	2010 Charter Schools	2011 Charter Schools	2007 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2008 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2009 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2010 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2011 Public Schools (excl. Charters)
53. Teacher Turnover Rate	42.5	41.1	37.2	32.3	30.3	15.2	14.8	14.3	11.4	11.5

viii "To the Administrator Addressed Letter," 2010–2011 Preliminary *Summary of Finances for Charter Schools, July 6, 2010*; "Background Information on Charter School Funding," Texas Education Agency; Texas Education Code §12.106; 19 Texas Administrative Code §100.1041.

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Taxes and Actual Revenues	2007 Charter Schools	2008 Charter Schools	2009 Charter Schools	2010 Charter Schools	2011 Charter Schools	2007 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2008 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2009 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2010 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2011 Public Schools (excl. Charters)
67. Total Revenue Per Pupil	7,578	8,485	8,879	9,657	10,161	8,785	9,403	9,755	9,970	10,331

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Actual Expenditures	2007 Charter Schools	2008 Charter Schools	2009 Charter Schools	2010 Charter Schools	2011 Charter Schools	2007 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2008 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2009 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2010 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2011 Public Schools (excl. Charters)
75. Total Operating Expenditures Per Pupil	7,459	7,597	8,138	8,715	8,952	7,465	7,830	8,346	8,568	8,797
76. % Instructional	52	52	51	52	52	58	58	58	58	59
82. Total Instructional Expenditures Per Pupil	3,846	3,936	4,191	4,530	4,679	4,300	4,510	4,831	4,985	5,153

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Actual Expenditures	2007 Charter Schools	2008 Charter Schools	2009 Charter Schools	2010 Charter Schools	2011 Charter Schools	2007 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2008 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2009 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2010 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2011 Public Schools (excl. Charters)
77. Total Operating Expenditures - % Central Administrative	14	14	14	14	14	6	6	6	6	6
78. Total Operating Expenditures - % School Leadership	8	8	8	8	8	6	6	6	6	5

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Fund Balances	2007 Charter Schools	2008 Charter Schools	2009 Charter Schools	2010 Charter Schools	2011 Charter Schools	2007 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2008 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2009 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2010 Public Schools (excl. Charters)	2011 Public Schools (excl. Charters)
72. % Fund Balance district's budget	19	21	20	20	20	18	19	19	19	19