

Texas Education Agency

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ABSTRACT

The charter school program continues to thrive in Texas as state charter school laws support increasing the number of high-quality charter schools. In 1996 the State Board of Education (SBOE) authorized the first 20 charters. Today there are 215 active charters approved by the SBOE with 464 charter schools operating as part of these charters, serving 119,642 students. The number of charter schools under these charters grows each year as the commissioner of education considers and regularly approves expansion amendment requests for charters authorized by the SBOE. Additionally, legislation that allowed the SBOE to authorize an unlimited number of charters to public senior colleges or universities has been amended to include junior colleges, expanding the growth potential for high-quality charter schools.

The board of trustees of each independent school district in the state, a total of 1,030 different districts, also has the authority to award or provide for the creation of campus charters. Currently, 14 independent school districts operate 72 Texas campus charters and serve 28,750 students.

The two objectives that the Texas Education Agency has established for the state charter school grant program are to: (1) expand the number of high-quality charter schools available to students across the state, and (2) provide financial assistance for the start up and implementation of charter schools. Extensive evaluation programs coupled with early interventions are in place to ensure that Texas charters offer quality educational opportunities for Texas students. To support the work of the Texas charter school program, the Texas Education Agency requests \$51,711,917 in federal funding for the next five years from August 1, 2010 – July 31, 2015.