

# Act Now for Our Future 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

#ActNowForOurFuture



## District-Authorized Campus Partnerships

To provide targeted educational programs to the diverse student body in Texas, school districts must innovate and collaborate. District-authorized campus partnerships offer this opportunity.

### What are district-authorized campus partnerships?

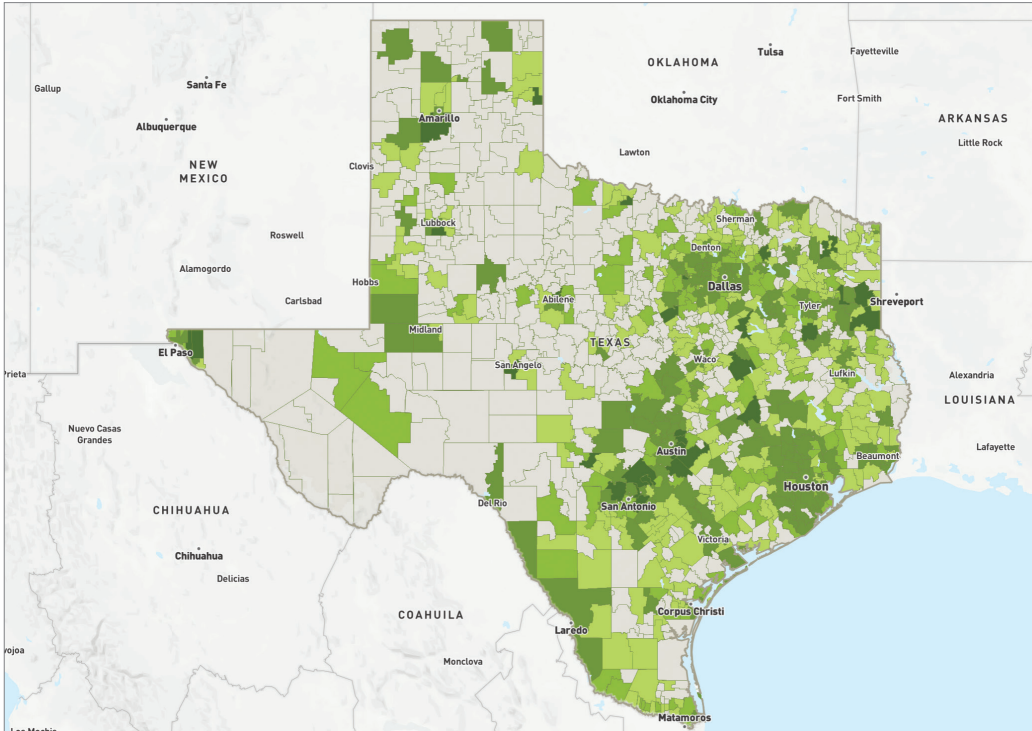
Senate Bill 1882, passed in 2017, incentivized school districts to “partner to operate a campus” with institutions of higher education, non-profit corporations, governmental bodies, and state-authorized open-enrollment charter schools. Campuses participating in a partnership are funded like state open-enrollment charters, which is considerably higher than urban and suburban school districts. Low-performing campuses participating in a partnership are also eligible for a two-year respite from mandatory state accountability sanctions.

The funding incentive can be a significant boost for Texas districts:

Houston ISD	\$1,806/student	Amarillo ISD	\$1,696/student
Dallas ISD	\$1,895/student	Denton ISD	\$1,841/student
Austin ISD	\$1,740/student	Eagle Pass ISD	\$1,802/student

You can look up other districts using this link:

[RaiseYourHandTexas.org/district-partnerships](https://RaiseYourHandTexas.org/district-partnerships)



## 1882 Partnerships Boost District Funding

Districts across Texas would benefit from Senate Bill 1882 incentive funding.

### Dollars per Average Daily Attendance (ADA)

No increase
\$1 - \$1,000
\$1,001 - \$1,500
\$1,501 - \$2,000
More than \$2,000

## How are these partnerships structured?

Partnership campuses remain part of the school district and the district remains responsible for student performance and state and federal program compliance. The district oversees the partner through a performance contract that allows it to intervene or revoke the contract for poor performance.

The partner retains control of the campuses but basic services like transportation, maintenance, and food services can be provided by the district. The partner must approve and manage the instructional staff, but district employees may remain under state teacher contracts if the district and partner agree. Staff at the campus retain all of the same Teacher Retirement System benefits regardless of the employer. The campus may also take advantage of the many exemptions from state requirements enjoyed by state open-enrollment charters. Districts may appoint individuals to the board of the partner entity, but may not appoint a majority. A nonprofit board structure allows multiple stakeholders to participate in governance of the partnership.

Partnerships are subject to Texas Education Agency rules,<sup>1</sup> and partnerships with any entity that is not also a state-authorized open-enrollment charter are subject to Commissioner of Education approval.

## What kinds of programs can be funded under district partnerships?

The higher charter-level funding—as much as \$30,000 per classroom in many districts—can support innovative programs and provide districts the expertise of a partner entity. Examples of partnerships include:

### Dual Credit/Early College Programs

Many districts already have agreements with local colleges to support dual credit programs. Additional funding from a partnership agreement with a college can be used to pay tuition, buy books, or fund stipends for teachers or counselors in the program. Many existing Early College High Schools and other district/college relationships can be converted to a partnership structure.

### Teacher Residency

The additional funding under a partnership structure can support a residency program enabling teacher candidates to be paid as they gain valuable classroom experience.

### Pre-Kindergarten

Partnerships with existing private providers, foundations, and governmental bodies can support pre-k expansion through the additional funding. Galveston and Austin ISDs will open pre-k pilot programs with nonprofit corporations in the 2018-19 school year.

## Policy Recommendations





- ▶ Support voluntary district partnerships to operate individual campuses, including additional charter-level funding and exemptions.
- ▶ Expand the ability of locally-elected school boards to access the same levels of funding and flexibility as charter schools.



## References

<sup>1</sup> Texas Education Agency SB 1882 Implementation website. Retrieved from [https://tea.texas.gov/Texas\\_Schools/District\\_Initiatives/Texas\\_Partnerships\\_\(SB\\_1882\)/](https://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Schools/District_Initiatives/Texas_Partnerships_(SB_1882)/)

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