

# WE STAND FOR THE FUTURE

# WE STAND FOR ALL



Equity and innovation will create a world-class public school system for all Texans.

Raise Your Hand Texas believes through equity and innovation, we can create a world-class school system that fuels a brighter future for all Texans. We must continue to invest in high-quality programs, enhance public accountability, and ensure our teachers have the support they need. Because the future of Texas is in our public schools.

## Public Schools Need Our Support Now More Than Ever

In 2019, the Texas public education system received a much-needed investment with the passage of House Bill 3. These new policies, if fully implemented, will positively affect our teachers, students, and economy for generations to come. COVID-19, however, changed Texas' education landscape, and the academic and funding impacts on our schools are unknown.

### Policy Recommendations:

- ▶ Protect all investments made in House Bill 3 (2019), including the funding for full-day pre-Kindergarten.
- ▶ Ensure federal stimulus dollars are used to increase public education funding.
- ▶ Continue to invest in our students with the goal of reaching the national average in per student funding.

## COVID Will Cost Schools More Money, Not Less



Sources: Association of School Business Officials International and AASA, The School Superintendents Association

## Public Dollars Must Remain in Public Schools

As Texas continues to respond to the impacts of COVID-19, the Texas Legislature should refrain from investing state resources into programs that fail to support our neediest students or fail to create equitable access to educational opportunities. This includes any and all forms of voucher programs, including vouchers for remote or virtual learning from private vendors.

### Policy Recommendations:

- ▶ Support quality school choice and innovative programs within the public school system.
- ▶ Oppose any form of taxpayer subsidies to private schools and vendors, such as Tax Credit Scholarships, Education Savings Accounts, vouchers for students in special education, and virtual vouchers.

## Texas Students Deserve a High-Quality Virtual Education

Texas can and should lead efforts to better utilize technology to provide the best educational opportunities for our students. But we should do so thoughtfully, ensuring the delivery of a high-quality educational experience for all students.

### Policy Recommendations:

- ▶ Close persistently poor-performing full-time virtual schools and oppose the expansion of full-time virtual programs until academic performance improves.
- ▶ Improve accountability and transparency for current full-time virtual programs.
- ▶ Focus state policies on addressing the long-term solutions to the digital divide.
- ▶ Consider additional investments in blended learning programs.

**86%**

of Texas students enrolled in full-time virtual schools attend a campus with a rating of "C" or lower.

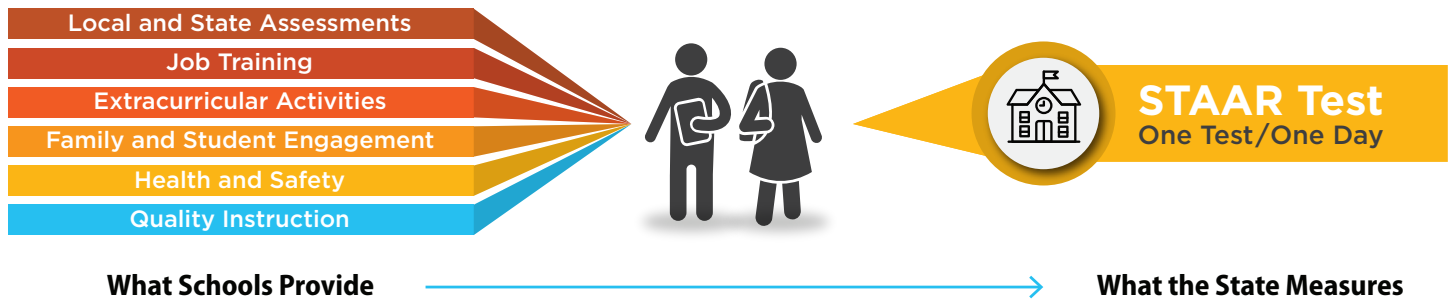
## Now is Not the Time for a Punitive Accountability System

As Texas' public education system adjusts to new instructional approaches and deals with technology issues due to COVID-19, state policymakers must take this time to re-evaluate whether our accountability system appropriately measures all the factors of an effective education.

### Policy Recommendations:

- ▶ Suspend the use of the punitive A-F accountability system throughout the current pandemic.
- ▶ Establish a statewide working group to create a new school accountability system that appropriately measures all factors of an effective education.
- ▶ Provide assessments that are timely and inform instruction.

**In Texas, one test on one day is the most significant factor that determines an A-F rating**



## All Texas Communities Deserve an Equal Playing Field

Charter schools were founded on the promise of fostering locally developed, innovative approaches to educating children. But policies that favor charter schools over traditional schools have created a parallel and inefficient public school system at a significant cost to the state and its students.

### Policy Recommendations:

- ▶ Discontinue the funding advantage to charter schools and require the same enrollment and disciplinary rules as traditional public schools.
- ▶ Empower the State Board of Education or local school boards to oversee charter school expansion to ensure public input and spending efficiency.
- ▶ Pause the expansion of charters until they receive the same funding as traditional schools and serve a population of students that is representative of the community in which they are located.

### Charters Receive More Funding and are Subject to Fewer Regulations



#### Charter Schools



#### School Districts

Charter schools receive more than **\$1,100 per student\*** in additional funding and have fewer regulations compared with neighboring urban and suburban district schools.

\*The average was estimated using the most recent data from the Texas Education Agency for per-student, campus-level funding projected for the 2019-2020 school year.

## Strengthen the Teaching Pipeline

To meet the growing needs of our student population, Texas must recruit diverse and high-achieving students into quality teacher preparation programs. Effective recruitment requires transparent and accessible data that identifies quality within the more than 129 teacher preparation programs in Texas.

### Policy Recommendations:

- ▶ Increase transparency and accountability in the state's educator data system.
- ▶ Support research-based improvements in Texas' teacher preparation programs, including enhanced clinical practice prior to certification.
- ▶ Support programs and practices proven to recruit diverse candidates into the field.

#### For more information, contact:

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