

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZING & ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

2021 CHARTER SCHOOL WAITLIST REPORT

MARCH 2022

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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. Additionally, this common admission application form provides for eliminating questions or fields that may have an inherent bias. 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 2021 CSW special collection snapshot date was Friday, September 24, 2021, with final reporting due no later than Friday, October 29, 2021.

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.

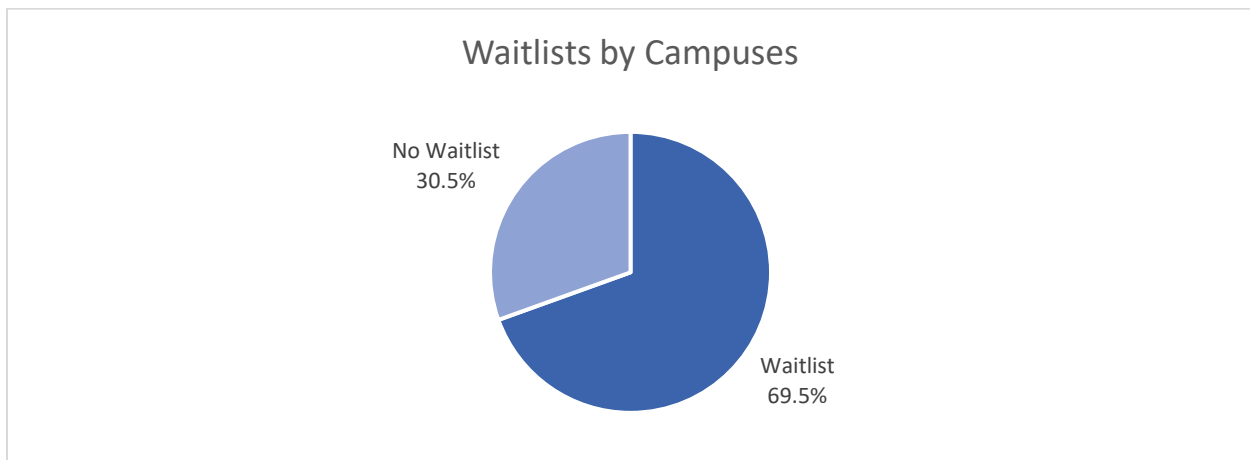
KEY FINDINGS

The 2021 CSW resulted in 100% (185) charter schools reporting. Of the charter school campuses in the state's portfolio:

- 69.5% (613) reported having a waitlist;
- 30.5% (269) of campuses reported no waitlist.

The total reported charter school waitlist count was 70,610, which contains approximately 12,022 duplicated students who may have applied to and been reported by multiple charter schools on their respective waitlists.

When filtering for duplicative students reported on multiple waitlists, the total number of individual students reported on charter schools with waitlists for the 2020-2021 school year was 58,588.



As of the October 2020 Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) snapshot, there were 361,894 students enrolled in charter schools in the state of Texas. This represents roughly 6.7% of all public-school enrollment. During the 2021 CSW collection, charter schools submitted enrollment data as of the last Friday in September 2021. This year's reported enrollment reflected 374,466 students.

Charter schools also reported a facility enrollment capacity of 470,779. 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.

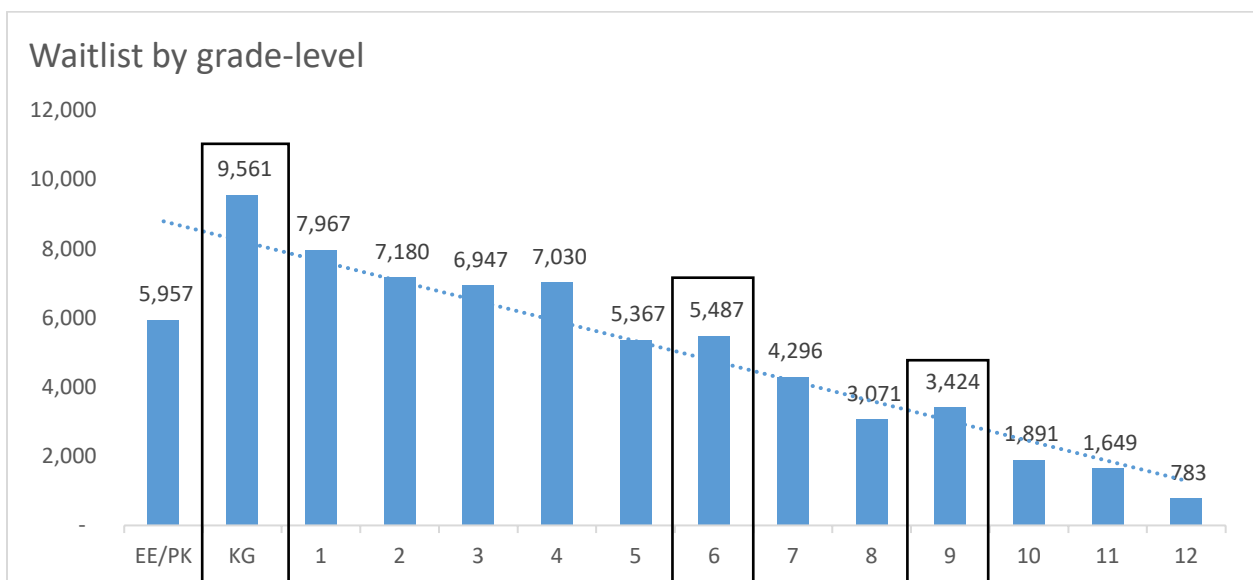
Actual Enrollment	Enrollment Capacity	Waitlist Count
374,466	470,779	58,588

While there appears to be a difference of 96,313 seats or enrollment between actual and enrollment and enrollment capacity, upon the aggregation and analysis of statewide totals, there is no causal relationship between these data points.

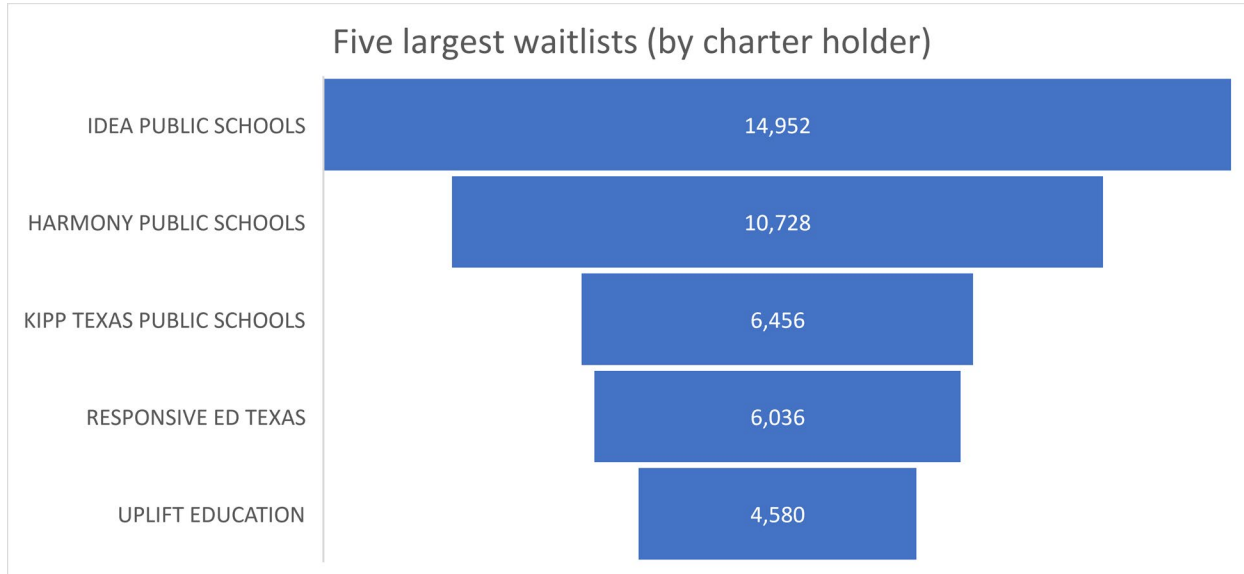
For instance, a charter campus may report a larger enrollment capacity than actual enrollment with no waitlist. This is due to the difference in definition of each type of enrollment. Although the building and staffing may allow for additional enrollment, the charter school may not have received applicants to fulfill 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 96,313 seats are disseminated across the state's charter portfolio and fourteen grade levels (PK-12).



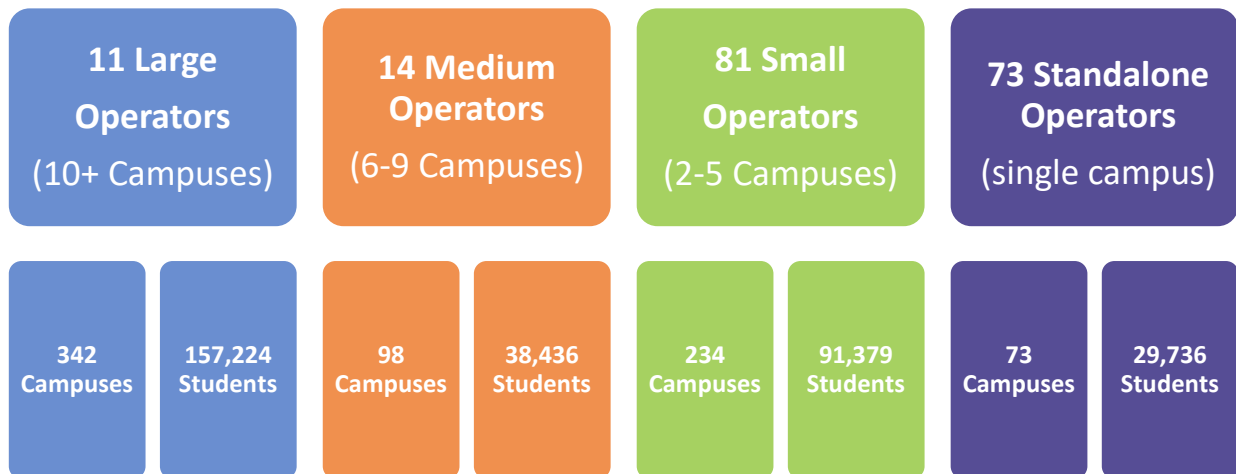
Notably, upon the disaggregation of data by grade levels, waitlist numbers peak during primary transition periods such as the entrance to kindergarten, sixth grade, and ninth grade. Additionally, as grade levels increase, waitlist numbers tend to decline. The following chart shows the reported waitlist count by grade level.



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 in a given year.

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.



SUMMARY

In summary, this data represents the second year of this collection; subsequent collections should provide a more thorough glimpse of trends in the state's charter portfolio. It is unknown what effect if any, the COVID-19 pandemic may have had on this collection.

Due to 2021 being the first full year of implementation, the 2021 Charter School Waitlist was not compared to the previous collection, which was a partial implementation. In future iterations with multiple full-year data sets, the agency will be able to provide comparative reports.

The agency continues to evaluate and analyze methodology and collections. Several considerations are being evaluated to improve collection including moving the CSW collection to align with the PEIMS Fall Snapshot timeline providing consistency for data collection across LEAs.

APPENDIX

A. Future collection dates

Snapshot Date	Submission Date	Report Date
Friday, September 23, 2022	Friday, October 28, 2022	Wednesday, March 15, 2023
Friday, September 29, 2023	Friday, October 27, 2023	Friday, March 15, 2024
Friday, September 27, 2024	Friday, October 25, 2024	Friday, March 14, 2025

B. Count of student UID reported by LEA

LEA	CHARTER NAME	COUNT OF STUDENT UID
108807	IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS	14,952
227816		
101858		
101846		
101862		
161807		
015828		
071806	HARMONY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	10,728
227820	KIPP TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	6,456
221801		
072801	RESPONSIVE ED TEXAS	6,036
057803	UPLIFT EDUCATION	4,580
101845	YES PREP PUBLIC SCHOOLS, INC.	3,039
057848	INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF TEXAS (ILTEXAS)	2,683
246801	MERIDIAN WORLD SCHOOL	2,524
015835	GREAT HEARTS TEXAS	2,265
227804	NYOS CHARTER SCHOOL	1,805
043801	IMAGINE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF NORTH TEXAS	1,694
220810	WESTLAKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	1,410
015834	BASIS TEXAS	1,118
014804	ORENDA CHARTER SCHOOL	1,066
227829	VALOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS	726
061804	LEADERSHIP PREP SCHOOL	703
220817	NEWMAN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF ARLINGTON	671
101870	BETA ACADEMY	527
057813	TRINITY BASIN PREPARATORY	470
068802	COMPASS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	443
227826	MONTESSORI FOR ALL	430

101853	PROMISE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	395
123807	BOB HOPE SCHOOL	389
015831	SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DISCOVERY	378
101803	ARISTOI CLASSICAL ACADEMY	361
212801	CUMBERLAND ACADEMY	354
015827	SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	345
084802	ODYSSEY ACADEMY, THE	329
057847	VILLAGE TECH SCHOOLS	272
057829	A+ ACADEMY	237
108808	VANGUARD ACADEMY	226
015808	INSPIRE ACADEMIES	202
057845	UME PREPARATORY ACADEMY	175
057839	LA ACADEMIA DE ESTRELLAS	172
227825	AUSTIN ACHIEVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	163
212804	UT TYLER UNIVERSITY ACADEMY	154
101815	ALIEF MONTESSORI COMMUNITY SCHOOL	127
057830	INSPIRED VISION ACADEMY	125
220819	HIGH POINT ACADEMY	121
072801	PREMIER HIGH SCHOOLS	120
057807	LIFE SCHOOL	116
057841	CITYSCAPE SCHOOLS	108
123805	EHRHART SCHOOL	107
174801	STEPHEN F AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY CHARTER SCHOOL	101
227805	TEXAS EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY	99
057846	LEGACY PREPARATORY	96
101847	BEATRICE MAYES INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL	91
161802	RAPOPORT ACADEMY PUBLIC SCHOOL	79
108802	HORIZON MONTESSORI PUBLIC SCHOOLS	76
068803	UTPB STEM ACADEMY	71
220802	ARLINGTON CLASSICS ACADEMY	65
057804	TEXANS CAN ACADEMIES	60
101819	AMIGOS POR VIDA-FRIENDS FOR LIFE PUBLIC CHARTER SC	56
003801	PINEYWOODS COMMUNITY ACADEMY	55
246802	GOODWATER MONTESSORI SCHOOL	50
101806	RAUL YZAGUIRRE SCHOOLS FOR SUCCESS	49
152802	RISE ACADEMY	45
226801	TEXAS LEADERSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS	45
021805	ARROW ACADEMY	41

057844	MANARA ACADEMY	39
057806	ADVANTAGE ACADEMY	37
013801	ST MARYS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	35
071801	BURNHAM WOOD CHARTER SCHOOL DISTRICT	28
220809	FORT WORTH ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS	25
057805	LUMIN EDUCATION	25
220815	CHAPEL HILL ACADEMY	21
236802	SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY CHARTER SCHOOL	20
057819	JEAN MASSIEU ACADEMY	16
227814	CHAPARRAL STAR ACADEMY	15
227819	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL	15
057808	UNIVERSAL ACADEMY	11
015836	ELEANOR KOLITZ HEBREW LANGUAGE ACADEMY	8
178808	SEASHORE CHARTER SCHOOLS	8
101838	SOUTHWEST SCHOOLS	8
015841	THE GATHERING PLACE	8
015825	LIGHTHOUSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	6
061805	TRIVIUM ACADEMY	6
178807	CORPUS CHRISTI MONTESSORI SCHOOL	5
227803	WAYSIDE SCHOOLS	5
084804	AMBASSADORS PREPARATORY ACADEMY	4
227817	CEDARS INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY	2
015807	SOUTHWEST PREPARATORY SCHOOL	1
123803	TEKOA ACADEMY OF ACCELERATED STUDIES S.T.E.M. SCH.	1