



Brief Analysis

Texas Charters, Choice and Performance

by Danielle Georgiou

Vgzcu"ku"cv"vjg"htgtpv"qh"cdnquuq o kpi"pcvkqpy kfg" e jctvgt"uejqnn"oqxg o gpv" Cnvjqwi j"e jctvgt"uejqnn"ctg" rwdnke {"hwpfgf."vjg {"ctg"htgg"qh"uq o g"qh"vjg"tg i wncvkqpu" vjcv"dwtfgp"rwdnke"uejqnn"cpf"ctg" o cpcigf"kpfg rgp- fgpvn {"0" E jctvgt"uejqnn"ctg"uwdlgev"vq"vjg"uvcvgu" ceeqwpv- cdnkiv {"u {uvg o . "kpenwf kpi"vjg"cppwcn"Vgzcu"Cuuguu o gpv"qh" Mpqyngf ig"cpf"Umknnu" *VCMU+0" Ocp {"Vgzcu"e jctvgtu"ctg" gctpkpi"vqr" o ctmu"qp"vjg"uvcvgu"cppwcn"gzc o 0" "Dwv"etkveu" uc {"eq o rctkuqpu"qh"cxgtc ig"vgu"ueqtgu"qh"e jctvgt"uejqnn" uwwfgpvu" ykvj"cxgtc ig"ueqtgu"qh"rwdnke"uejqnn"uwwfgpvu" ujqy"vjcv" o cp {"e jctvgt"uejqnn"ctg"nqy" rgtqat o kpi 0" Hqt"gzc o rng."kp"4226."qpn {"64" rgtgtpv"qh"Vgzcu"e jctvgt" uejqnn"uwwfgpvu"rcuugf"vjg"VCMU."eq o rctgf"vq"89" rgt- cent of students statewide.

Jqy gxtg."vjg"etkveu"ki pqtg"vjg"hev"vjcv" o cp {"e jctvgt" uejqnn"ctg"fguki pgf"vq"ugtvg"vjg"uwwfgpvu" yjq"ctg" o quv" nkmgn {"vq"hc kn"cpf"ftqr"qww"qh"rwdnke"uejqnn"Kp"hev."jcnh" vjg"e jctvgt"uejqnn"kp"Vgzcu"ctg"fguki pcvgf"cu"cnvgtpcvkxg" gfweckqp"ec o rwugu" *CGE+."cu"ctg"cu"o cmm" rgtgtpv"ig"qh" public schools. The other charter schools are open- gptqnn o gpv"uejqnn"nkmg"tg i wnc" rwdnke"uejqnn"Vjwu." vjg"tgngxcpv"eq o rctkuqpu"ctg"dgvyggp"cnvgtpcvkxg" e jctvgtu"cpf"cnvgtpcvkxg"rwdnke"uejqnn"ec o rwugu."cpf" qrgp/gptqnn o gpv"e jctvgtu"cpf"tg i wnc" rwdnke"uejqnn" Uwe j"eq o rctkuqpu"ujqy"vjcv"e jctvgt"uejqnn" rgtqat o " as well or better than their public school counterparts.

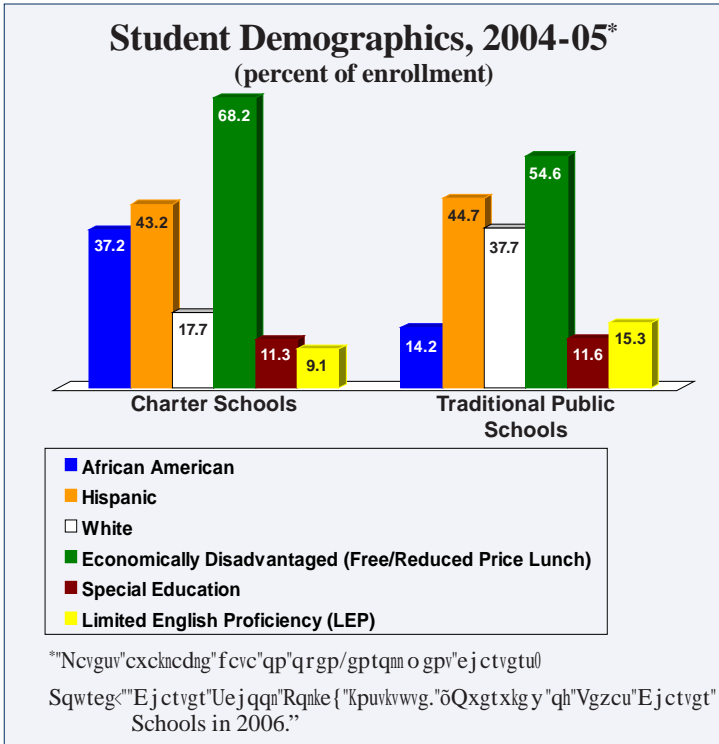
Growth of Texas Charter Schools. "Qxgt"vjg" rcu v"fgecfg."Vgzcu"e jctvgt"uejqnn"jcxg" i tqy p"htq o "c" f g f i n k p i " r t q i t c o " v q " p g q " h " v j g " p c v k q p u " n c t i g u v " e j c t v g t " u e j q n n " u { u v g o u " y k v j " : . 3 9 3 " u w w f g p v u " k p " q x g t " 4 5 ; " schools. Of these charters, 207 are state-authorized, qrgp/gptqnn o gpv"e jctvgtu."cpf"vjg {"gfwecvg"cdqww"v y q" rgtgtpv"qh"vjg"uvcvgu"uwwfgpv" rqrwncvkqp 0" Jqy gxtg." wpnkmg"vtc fkvkqpcn"rwdnke"uejqnn."vjg"tg"ku"pq"tgukf gpe {" tgs w k t g o g p v " h q t " e j c t v g t " u e j q n n " C p {" u w w f g p v " e c p " c w g p f " c p {" e j c t v g t " u e j q n n " v j c v " j c u " t q q o . " t g i c t f n g u u " q h " v j g " u w w f g p v u " t g u k f g p e {" 0

"E jctvgt"uejqnn"jcxg"fxgtug"ewttkewnc"cpf"rtq- i t c o " u " f g u k i p g f " v q " c v t t c e v " f k h h g t g p v " v { r g u " q h " u w w f g p v u " c p f " u g t x g " u w w f g p v u " y k v j " c " x c t k g v " { " q h " p g g f u 0 " H q t " instance, in 2005-2006, about 50 percent of charter

uejqnn"kp"Vgzcu"ygtg"tg i kuvgtg"cu"cnvgtpcvkxg"gfweckqp" ec o rwugu" *CGE+ "cpf" ceeqwpvg"htq"64" rgtgtpv"qh"vjg" uvcvgu"e jctvgt"uejqnn" gptqnn o gpv 0" CGE+ugtvg"uwwfgpvu" yjq"hcngf."ftqr"rgf"qww"qh"qt"ygtg"gzrgmgf"htq o "vtc fkvkqpcn"uejqnn."dgc o g"kpqxqngf"kp"vjg"lwxgpkng"lwwkng" u { u v g o " q t " y g t g " c v " t k u m " q h " c e c f g o k e " h c k n w t g 0 " Q p n { " 5 " r g t - e g p v " q h " v t c f k v k q p c n " r w d n k e " u e j q n n " y g t g " t g i k u v g t g " C G E u 0 "

Charter School Students. Charter schools tend to dg"u o cmm." ykvj"cp"cxgtc ig" gptqnn o gpv"qh"448"uwwfgpvu 0"Kp" Texas, a higher percentage of students in charter schools ctg"Chkcepc/C o g t k e c p " c p f " n q y / k p e q o g " v j c p " k p " r w d n k e " schools:

- ➔ E jctvgtu" gptqnn" o qtg" vjg" vykeg" cu" o cp {" Chkcepc/ C o g t k e c p " u w w f g p v u " * 5 9 0 4 " r g t g e p v + " c u " v t c f k v k q p c n " r w d n k e " u e j q n n " * 3 6 0 4 " r g t g e p v + . " c " u n k i j v n { " u o c m n g " r g t e g p v i c i g " q h " J k u r c p k e " u w w f g p v u " * 6 5 0 4 " r g t g e p v " x g t u w u " 6 6 0 9 " r g t g e p v + . " and less than half the proportion of white non-Hispanics uwwfgpvu" *3909" rgtgtpv" xgtuww" 5909" rgtgtpv+0
- ➔ "Vjg {"gptqnn" o qtg"nqy /kpeq o g"uwwfgpvu" yjq"ctg"gnk i kdng" to participate in the federal free/reduced-price lunch *HTN+ "rtq i t c o " * 8 : 0 4 " r g t g e p v + " v j c p " f q " v t c f k v k q p c n " r w d n k e " u e j q n n " * 7 6 0 8 " r g t g e p v + 0



➔ J q y g x g t . " e j c t v g t u " c p f " v t c f k v k q p c n " r w d n k e " u e j q q n u " u g t x g " c d q w v " v j g " l c o g " r g t e g p v c i g " q h " u r g e k c n k " g f w e c v k q p " u w v f g p v u " * 3 3 0 5 " r g t e g p v " c p f " 3 3 0 8 " r g t e g p v . " t g u r g e v k x g n { + 0 " " J U g g " v j g " L i w t g 0 _

D g e c w u g " q h " v j g k t " j k i j " g p t q n n o g p v " q h " o k p q t k v { " u w v f g p v u . " o c p { " e j c t v g t " u e j q q n u " u r g e k c n k | g " k p " g f w e c v k q p " r t q i t c o u " h q t " c v / t k u m " u w v f g p v u 0 " " D w v " v j g " f k x g t u g " u w v f g p v " r q r w n c v k q p u " c p f " f k h g t g p v " v { r g u " q h " u e j q q n u " o c m g u " k v " f k h L e w n v " v q " e q o - r c t g " V g z c u 0 " e j c t v g t u " v q " v t c f k v k q p c n " r w d n k e " u e j q q n u 0 " " "

Performance of Charters versus Traditional Public Schools. U w v f g p v u " k p " c n n " r w d n k e n { " h w p f g f " u e j q q n u " k p " V g z c u " v c m g " v j g " V C M U " v g u v . " d w v " e q o r c t k u q p u " q h " u e j q q n " r g t h q t - o c p e g " u j q w n f " d g " o c f g " d g v y g g p " u e j q q n u " v j c v " c t g " u k o k n c t 0 " " Q r g p / g p t q n n o g p v " * u v c p f c t f + " e j c t v g t " u e j q q n u " u j q w n f " d g " e q o r c t g f " v q " u k o k n c t " v t c f k v k q p c n " r w d n k e " u e j q q n u . " c p f " C G E u " e j c t v g t u " u j q w n f " d g " e q o r c t g f " v q " v t c f k v k q p c n " C G E u " r w d n k e " schools.

*U v c p f c t f " e j c t v g t " u e j q q n u " x g t u w u " v t c f k v k q p c n " r w d n k e " schools . " " C e e q t f k p i " v q " v j g " o q u v " t g e g p v " u w v f { " d { " v j g " V g z c u " E g p v g t " h q t " G f w e c v k q p " T g u g c t e j " * V E G T + . " u v c p f c t f " q r g p / g p t q n n o g p v " e j c t v g t u " c t g " k o r t q x k p i . " c p f " v j g " n c v g u v " v g u v " u e q t g u " u w i i g u v " u v t q p i " i c k p u 0 " " Q x g t c m n . " k p " 4 2 2 7 / 4 2 2 8 . " u w v f g p v u " c v " u v c p f c t f " e j c t v g t u " j c f " c " u k i p k L e c p m { " j k i j g t " k p e t g c u g " k p " r g t h q t o c p e g " v j c p " v j g k t " r g g t u " k p " v t c f k v k q p c n " r w d n k e " u e j q q n u 0 " " H q t " g z c o r n g <*

➔ Q r g p / g p t q n n o g p v " e j c t v g t " u w v f g p v u " q w v / r g t h q t o g f " t r a d i t i o n a l p u b l i c s c h o o l s t u d e n t s i n g r a d e s 6 t h r o u g h ; " k p " t g c f k p i l G N C " * G p i n k u j " N c p i w c i g " C t v u + " c p f " o c v j g o c v k e u 0

➔ V t c f k v k q p c n " r w d n k e " u e j q q n " u w v f g p v u " y k v j " j k i j " 4 2 2 7 " o c v j " c p f " u e k g p e g " u e q t g u " q p " v j g " V C M U " f k f " g c t p " j k i j g t " o c v j " c p f " u e k g p e g " u e q t g u " k p " 4 2 2 8 " v j c p " e q o r c t c d n g " j k i j / r g t h q t o k p i " e j c t v g t " u e j q q n " u w v f g p v u = " j q y g x g t .

➔ E j c t v g t " u e j q q n " u w v f g p v u " y k v j " n q y " 4 2 2 7 " V C M U " o c v j " u e q t g u " g c t p g f " j k i j g t " 4 2 2 8 " V C M U " o c v j " u e q t g u " v j c p " e q o r c t c d n g " r w d n k e " u e j q q n " u w v f g p v u 0

V j g t g " y c u " p q " c " u k i p k L e c p m " f k h g t g p e g " k p " t g c f k p i " u e q t g u . " c p f " u v c p f c t f " e j c t v g t " e c o r w u g u " j c f " n q y g t " 4 2 2 7 " i t c f w e c v k q p " t c v g u " * 7 8 " r g t e g p v + " v j c p " u v c p f c t f " v t c f k v k q p c n " e c o r w u g u " : 6 " r g t e g p v 0

E j c t v g t " C G E u " x g t u w u " v t c f k v k q p c n " C G E u 0 " " T o e a r n a n C e c f g o k e c n n { " C e e g r v c d n g " t c v k p i . " k p " 4 2 2 7 " v j g " V g z c u " c e - e q w p v c d k n k v { " u { u v g o " t g s w k t g f " u e j q q n u " v q " j c x g " c " r c u u k p i " t c v g " q h " c v " n g c u v " 7 2 " r g t e g p v " h q t " t g c f k p i l G N C . " y t k v k p i " c p f " u e k e c n " u w v f k g u . " 5 7 " r g t e g p v " h q t " o c v j g o c v k e u " c p f " 5 7 " r g t e g p v " h q t " u e k g p e g 0 " " C e e q t f k p i " v q " V E G T . " u w v f g p v u " k p " e j c t v g t u " t c v g f " w p f g t " v j g " c e e q w p v c d k n k v { " u { u v g o " h q t " c n v g t p c v k x g " g f w -

e c v k q p " e c o r w u g u " i g p g t c m n { " h c t g " d g v v g t " v j c p " v j g k t " r w d n k e " school peers.

➔ K p " t g c f k p i l G N C . " u w v f g p v u " c v " c n v g t p c v k x g " e j c t v g t " e c o r w u g u " r g t h q t o g f " c d q x g " v t c f k v k q p c n " c n v g t p c v k x g " g f w e c v k q p " s t u d e n t s i n g r a d e s 8 t h r o u g h 1 0 .

➔ K p " o c v j . " u w v f g p v u " c v " c n v g t p c v k x g " e j c t v g t " e c o r w u g u " r g t h q t o g f " c d q x g " v t c f k v k q p c n " c n v g t p c v k x g " g f w e c v k q p " s t u d e n t s i n g r a d e s 5 a n d 7 t h r o u g h 1 0 .

➔ K p " 4 2 2 7 . " : ; " r g t e g p v " q h " e j c t v g t " C G E u " t g e g k x g f " C e c f g o k e c n n { " C e e g r v c d n g " t c v k p i u " e q o r c t g f " v q " ; 7 " r g t e g p v " q h " v t c f k v k q p c n " C G E u 0

➔ D w v . " k p " 4 2 2 7 . " e j c t v g t " C G E u " j c f " u n k i j v n { " j k i j g t " i t c f w e c v k q p " t c v g u " v j c p " v t c f k v k q p c n " C G E u " * 5 9 " r g t e g p v " x g t u w u " 5 6 " r g t e g p v + 0

Improved Performance of Charter Students.

O q t g x g t . " u w v f g p v u " y j q " e q p v k p w q u w n { " g p t q n n " k p " c p { " e j c t v g t " u e j q q n " h q t " n q p i " r g t k q f u " q h " v k o g " * v j t g g { " g c t u " q t " o q t g + . " c p f " j c x g " i q q f " c v g p f c p e g " t g e q t f u . " j c x g " k o r t q x g f " v g u v k p i " q w v e q o g u 0 " " V j g " V g z c u " G f w e c v k q p " C i g p e { " * V G C + " h q w p f " v j c v . " k p " 4 2 2 8 . " u w v f g p v u " g p t q n n g f " k p " q r g p / g p t q n n o g p v " e j c t v g t u " h q t " o q t g " v j c p " v j t g g { " g c t u " r g t h q t o g f " c n o q u v " c v " u v c v g " n g x g n u " k p " d q v j " t g c f k p i l G N C " * : 7 " r g t e g p v " r c u u k p i " e q o r c t g f " v q " v j g " u v c v g " c x g t c i g " q h " : 9 " r g t e g p v + " c p f " o c v j " * 9 3 " r g t e g p v " r c u u k p i " e q o r c t g f " v q " v j g " u v c v g " c x g t c i g " q h " 9 7 " r g t e g p v 0 " E j c t v g t " e c o r w u g u " j c x g " d g g p " c d n g " v q " t g v c k p " v j g k t " g p t q n n o g p v u " h q t " n q p i g t " r g t k q f u . " t g u w m k p i " k p " t g f w e g f " u w v f g p v " o q d k n k v { " c p f " k o r t q x g f " u w v f g p v " c e j k g x g o g p v 0 " " C f f k v k q p c n n . " u o c m n " e n c u u " u k | g | j c u " d g g p " h q w p f " v q " k o r t q x g " u w v f g p v " c e j k g x g o g p v " k p " C G E u " e j c t v g t u 0

A possible future? " V g z c u " e j c t v g t " u e j q q n u " j c x g " i t q y p " f t c o c v k e c n n { . " d w v " h w t v j g t " i t q y v j " k u " j k p f g t g f " d { " v j g " e c r " q p " v j g " p w o d g t " q h " u v c v g / c w v j q t k | g f " q r g p / g p t q n n o g p v " e j c t - v g t u 0 " " V j g " e c r " k u " e w t g p v n { " u g y " c v " 4 3 7 . " c p f " V g z c u " c n t g c f { " j c u " 3 ; 6 # " " J q y g x g t . " v j g t g " k u " p q " n k o k v " q p " v j g " p w o d g t " q h " C G E u " e j c t v g t u 0 " " "

C " h g y " n c y o c m g t u " j c x g " e c n g f " c v v g p v k p " v q " v j g " L p c p - c i a l g a p b e t w e e n c h a r t e r s c h o o l s a n d t r a d i t i o n a l d i s t r i c t s . V g z c u " e j c t v g t u " t g e g k x g " c d q w v " & 3 . 4 2 2 " v q " & 3 . : 2 2 " n g u u " r g t " u w v f g p v " v j c p " v t c f k v k q p c n " r w d n k e " u e j q q n u . " c p f " t g e g k x g " p q " r w d n k e " o q p g { " h q t " d w k n f k p i u 0 " " U v c v g " U g p 0 " H n q t g p e g " U j c r k t q " c p f " U g p 0 " M { n g " L e p g m " j c x g " r t q r q u g f " n g i k u n c v k q p " v q " o c m g " i t c p v u " v q " e j c t v g t " u e j q q n u " h q t " h c e k n k v k g u " k h " v j g { " g c t p " j k i j " o c t m u " q p " v j g " V C M U " h q t " v y q { " g c t u 0 " " V j g k t " d k n n " y q w n f " c n u q " a l l o w t h e s t a t e t o s h u t d o w n f a i l i n g c h a r t e r s — s c h o o l s v j c v " t g o c k p " q p " v j g " u v c v g u " n q y / r g t h q t o k p i " n k u v " h q t " v y q { " g c t u 0 " " "

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P q v g < " P q i j k p i " y t k w g p " j g t g " u j q w n f " d g " e q p u w t w g f " c u " p g e g u a c t h a { " t g t g e v k p i " v j g " x k g y u " q h " v j g " P c v k q p c n " E g p v g t " h q t " R q n k e { " C p c n { u k u " o r a s a n a t t e m p t t o a i d o r h i n d e r t h e p a s s a g e o f a n y l e g i s l a t i o n .

*V j g " P E R C " k u " c " 7 2 3 * e + * 5 + " p q p r t q L v " r w d n k e " r q n k e { " q t i c p k | c v k q p 0 " " Y g " f g r g p f " g p v k t g n { " q p " v j g " L p c p e k e n " u w r r q t v " q h " k p f k x f w e n u . " e q r q t c v k q p u " c p f " h q w p f c v k q p u " v j c v " d g n k x g " k p " r t k x c v g " u g e v q t " u q m w k q p u " v q " r w d n k e " r q n k e { " r t q d n g o u 0 " " [q w " e c p " e q p v t k d w g " v q " q w t " g h h q t v " d { " o c k n k p i " { q w t " f q p c v k q p " v q " q w t " F c m c u " j g c f s w c t v g t u " q t " n q i - i k p i " q p " v q " q w t " Y g d " u k v g " c v " y y " y l p e r c l q t i " c p f " e n k e m k p i " o C p " k p x c v k q p " v q " U w r r q t v " W u l 0*