

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
CLOSURES AND OTHER INTERRUPTIONS IN SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Q: If a charter school my child is attending closes, what options are available for my child?

A: Parents may seek educational options for their children at:

- other charter schools approved for the geographical boundary the student lives in,
- the traditional school district in which the student resides,
- private schools, or
- home-school options.

Q: May another charter school deny enrollment to my student?

A: Charter schools are required to offer services to students in their approved geographic boundaries if there is space available for the student, and the student is age/grade appropriate to attend the charter school. Parents will need to provide a birth certificate and proof of residency to enroll their child. Shot records will need to be provided within the first 30 days of enrollment. A charter may not prohibit a student from attending school pending receipt of transcripts or records from the school district or open-enrollment charter the student previously attended.

Q: May a traditional school district deny my student?

A: Traditional school districts are required to accept any students who reside in their geographic boundaries. Parents will need to provide a birth certificate and proof of residency to enroll their child. Shot records will need to be provided within the first 30 days of enrollment. A school district may not prohibit a student from attending school pending receipt of transcripts or records from the school district or open-enrollment charter the student previously attended. The following site provides additional information about enrolling your child in a traditional school district:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=25769817423>.

Q: If my child is transferring from one school to another what steps do I take to ensure a smooth transition?

A: Return any instructional materials that belong to the school. Ensure you have the belongings of your students. You may request a copy of your student records and immunization records from the charter school; however, the new charter or school district will send a request to the sending school for the official records.

Q: Where can I find additional information about other educational opportunities for my student?

A: The charter school website <http://tea.texas.gov/index2.aspx?id=25769817891> has a resource section for parents and students. An interactive map is available at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4_wide.aspx?id=25769814767 for parents to type in their address in the text box in order to find charter schools in their area or to determine the traditional district of residence.

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Q: How are parents to know if it is a good charter school?

A: Resources are available to help parents make informed decisions about their school choice options. The following links may be useful in your search for the best educational opportunity for your children:

- Accountability ratings at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/account/>;
- Texas Academic Performance Reports (TAPR) at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/tapr/>
- Charter Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) results at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=6491>;
- Accreditation statuses at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=2147494532&menu_id=2147483702; and
- Financial audits at <http://tuna.tea.state.tx.us/audit/PDFviewer.asp>.

Q: What resources are available locally?

A: The Texas Education Agency coordinates educational services with the state's twenty regional educational service centers (ESCs). A map to discover the ESC in your area may be found at the following site: http://www.tea.state.tx.us/regional_services/esc/.

Q: Is there a FAQ that offers answers to general educational questions?

A: The Office of General Inquiry has a wide range of topics concerning traditional education. The site can be accessed at http://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Contact_Us/General_Inquiry/.

Q: What does it mean for a school district to be accredited?

A: Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 19 Section §97.1055(a)(1)(A) requires the commissioner of education to assign an accreditation status to every public school district in the state. The accreditation status of a public school district is determined by the district's ability to meet specific academic and financial standards established in Texas Education Code (TEC), §39.052(b) and (c).

Q: What are attendance requirements for students*?

A: The Texas Education Code (TEC) outlines the compulsory attendance laws for our state. Any child who is enrolled in a traditional district or charter school must comply with §25.085 which requires children who are least six years of age to attend a public school until the student's 18th birthday.

Q: Do parents and/or guardians have responsibilities to ensure an education for their children*?

A: Yes, parents and guardians have responsibilities to ensure that children under their care have access to educational services through: traditional school districts, charter schools, private schools, or home-school options. The Texas Education Code (TEC) outlines the compulsory attendance laws for our state. Any child who is enrolled in a traditional district or charter school must comply with §25.085 which requires children who are least six years of age to attend a public school until the student's 18th birthday.

Note: Beginning 9/1/15, a child who is at least six years of age, or who is younger than six years of age and has previously been enrolled in first grade, and who has not yet reached the child's 19th birthday shall attend school.