



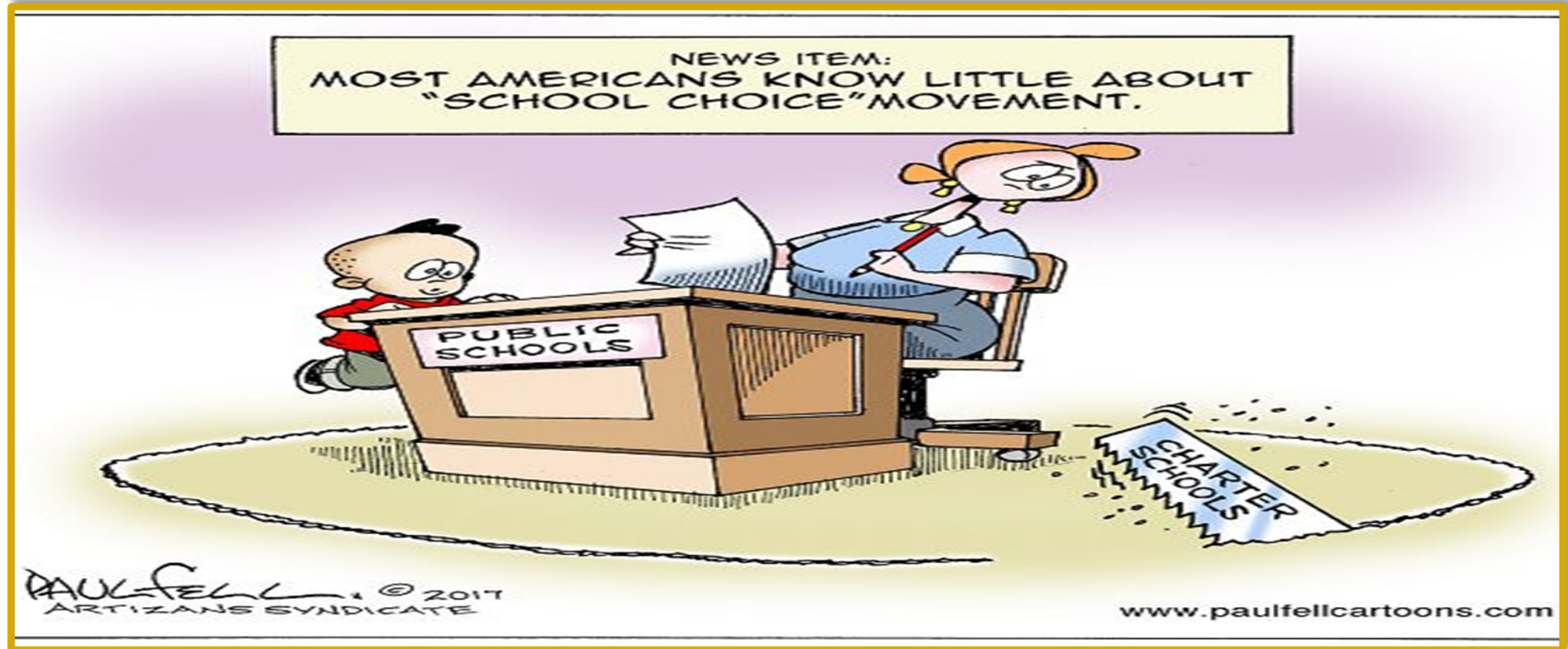
# An Overview: The State's Separate System of Privately Operated Charter Schools in



August 2020

By: William J. Gumbert

# It's Your Schools, Students, Tax Dollars and Communities

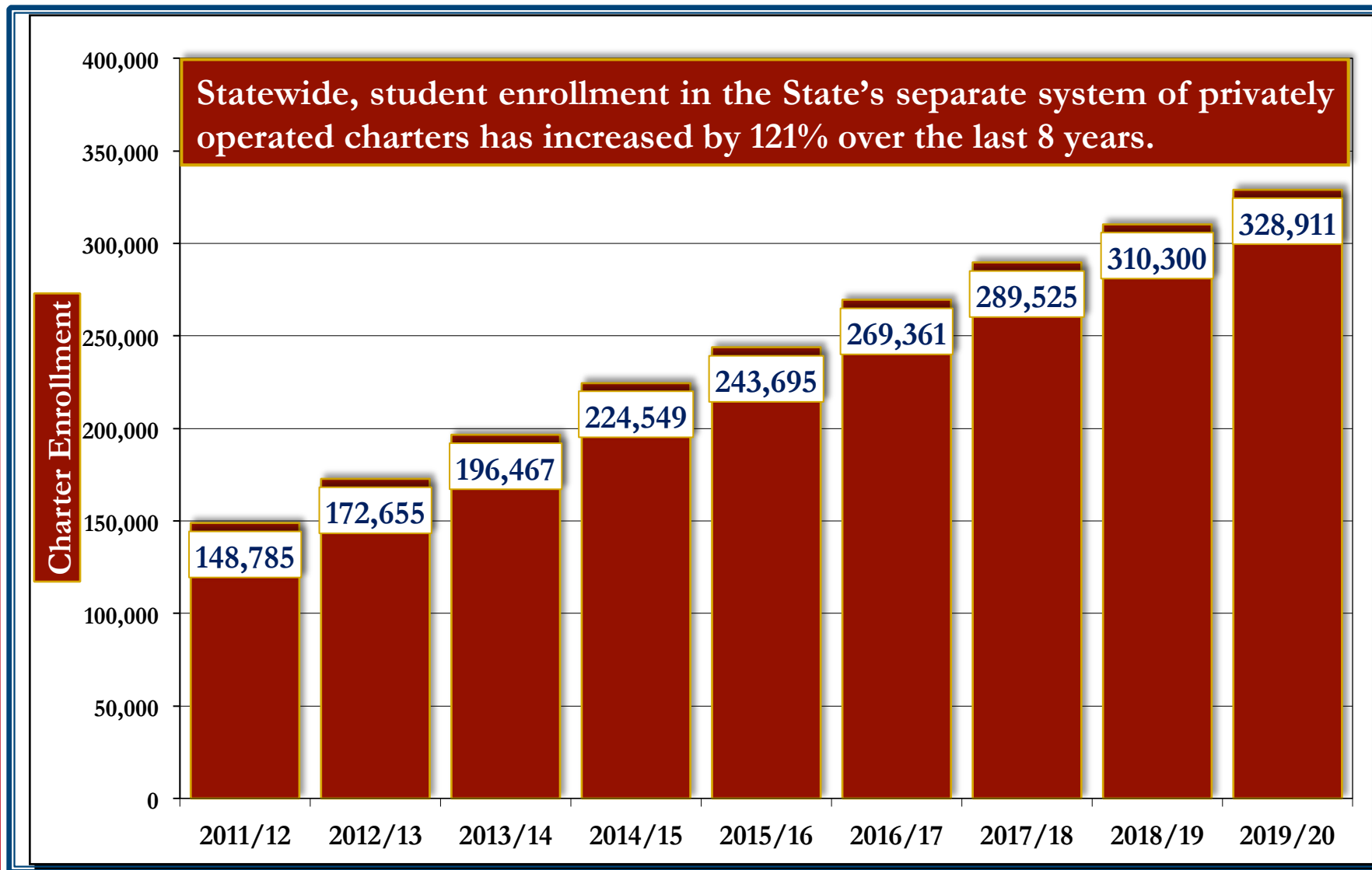


With limited information being available to local parents, taxpayers and stakeholders, this material is intended to provide an overview of the State's separate system of privately operated charter schools ("charters") that operate and continue to expand in Dallas ISD.

# State Charters: Introduction

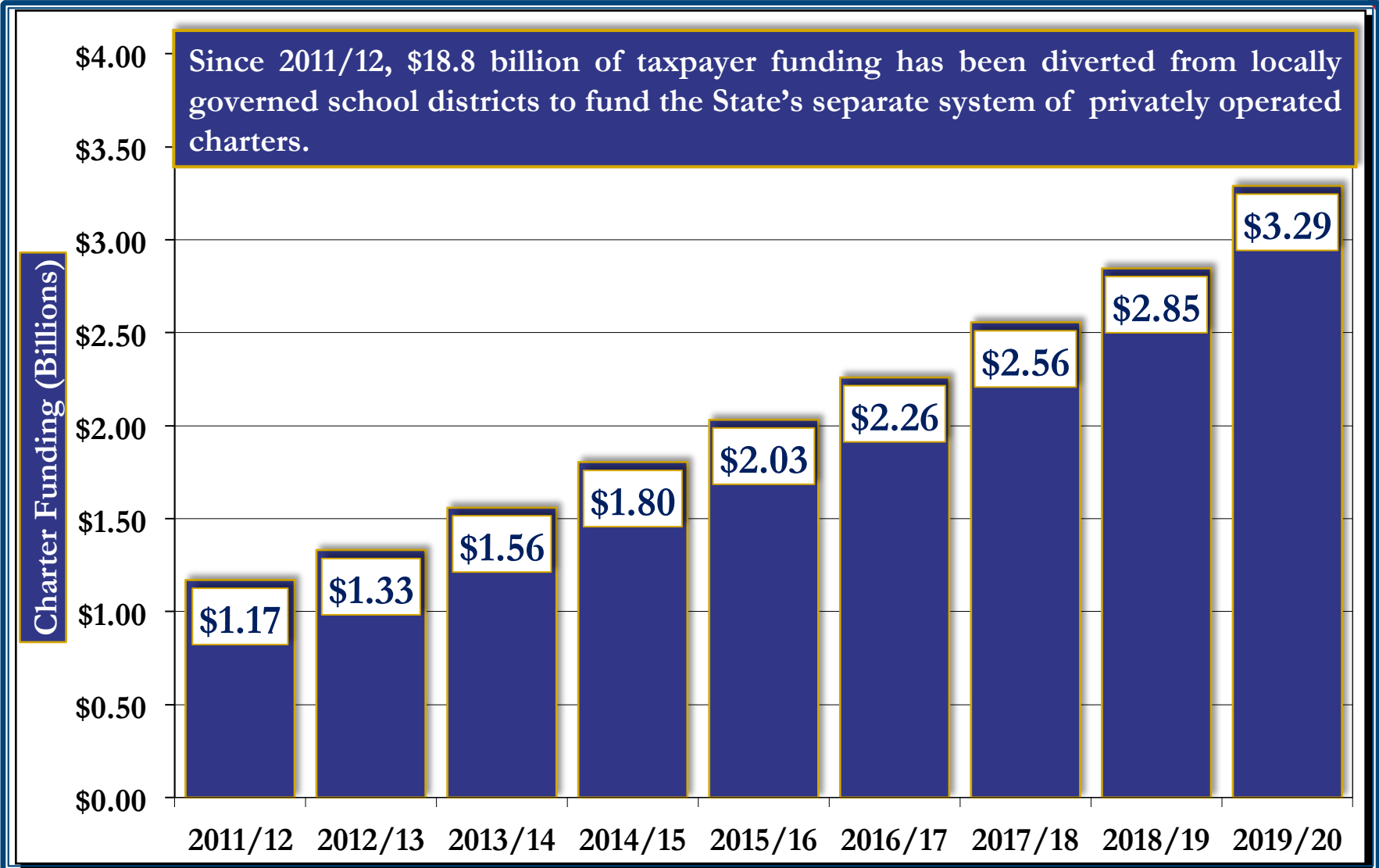
- **State Charters:** Are private organizations that are provided a State contract to independently operate taxpayer funded schools for students residing in school districts.
- **Approval Process:** The Texas Legislature has empowered the Texas Education Agency (“TEA”) to unilaterally approve the expansion of charters in local communities. No input from parents, taxpayers or stakeholders is required or requested.
- **Governance:** State charters are governed by a private Board of Directors that is “appointed” by the charter. Board members are not required to reside in Dallas ISD.
- **Presence:** There are currently 176 different State charters that are recruiting students from school districts to enroll at the 750 charter campuses operating across Texas.

# Historical Charter Enrollment: State of Texas





# Taxpayer Funding for Charters: State of Texas



# Top 10 Most Impacted Texas School Districts

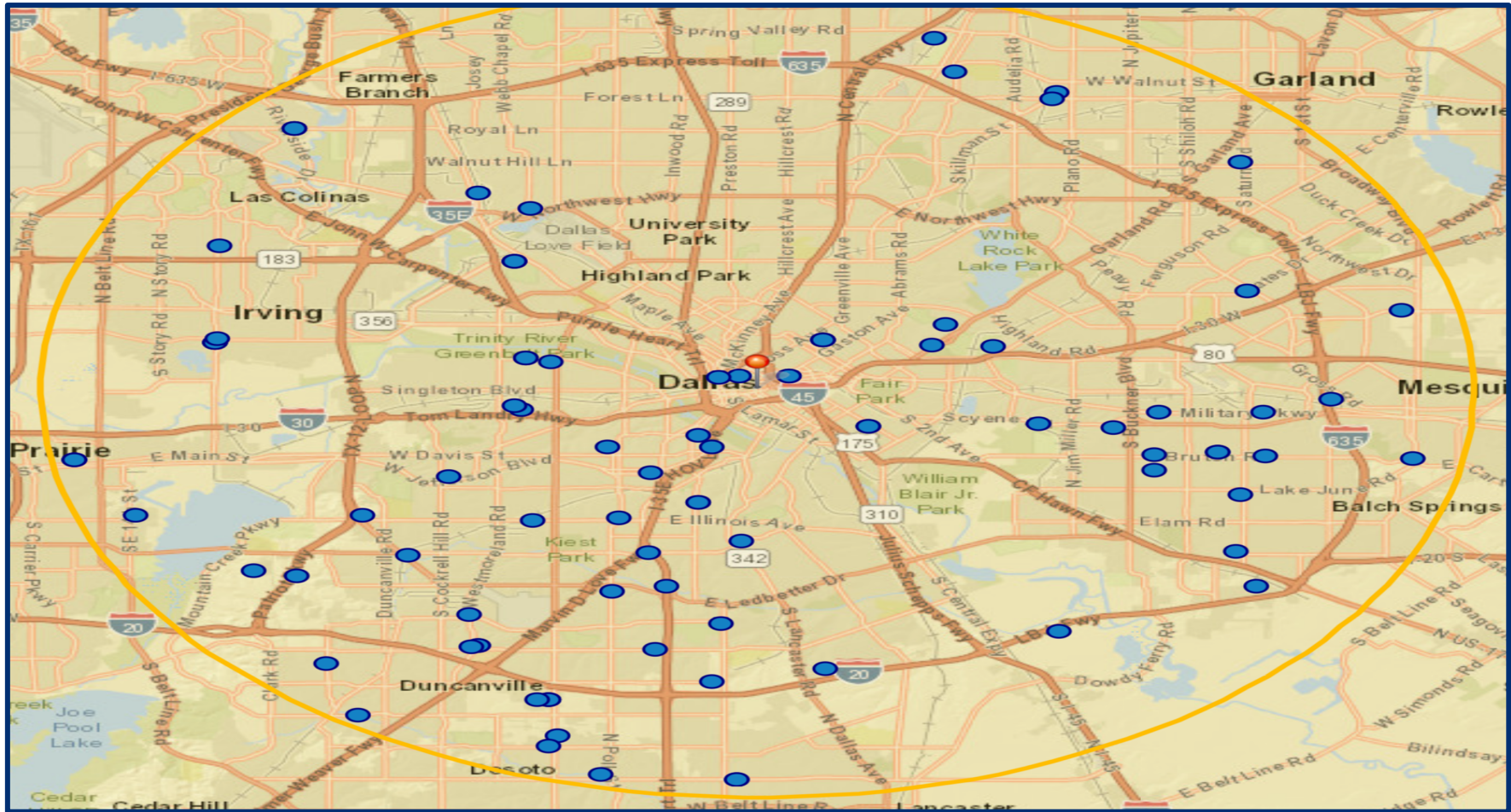
- Dallas ISD is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most impacted school district as a result of the State's separate system of privately managed charters, which reduces its annual funding for student programs and services by \$271 million.
- The State has continued to expand the number of charters despite 90% of these school districts having an "A" or "B" State Academic Accountability Rating.

No.	School District	State Academic Rating	Charter Transfers -2019/20	Estimated Revenue Loss – 2019/20
1	Houston ISD	88	41,638	\$ 312,285,000
2	Dallas ISD	86	36,127	\$ 270,952,500
3	Austin ISD	89	15,454	\$ 115,905,000
4	Fort Worth ISD	79	10,722	\$ 80,415,000
5	San Antonio ISD	83	10,435	\$ 78,262,500
6	Northside ISD	87	9,525	\$ 71,437,500
7	Alief ISD	85	7,848	\$ 58,860,000
8	Brownsville ISD	91	7,723	\$ 57,922,500
9	Arlington ISD	86	7,269	\$ 54,517,500
10	North East ISD	89	6,885	\$ 51,637,500

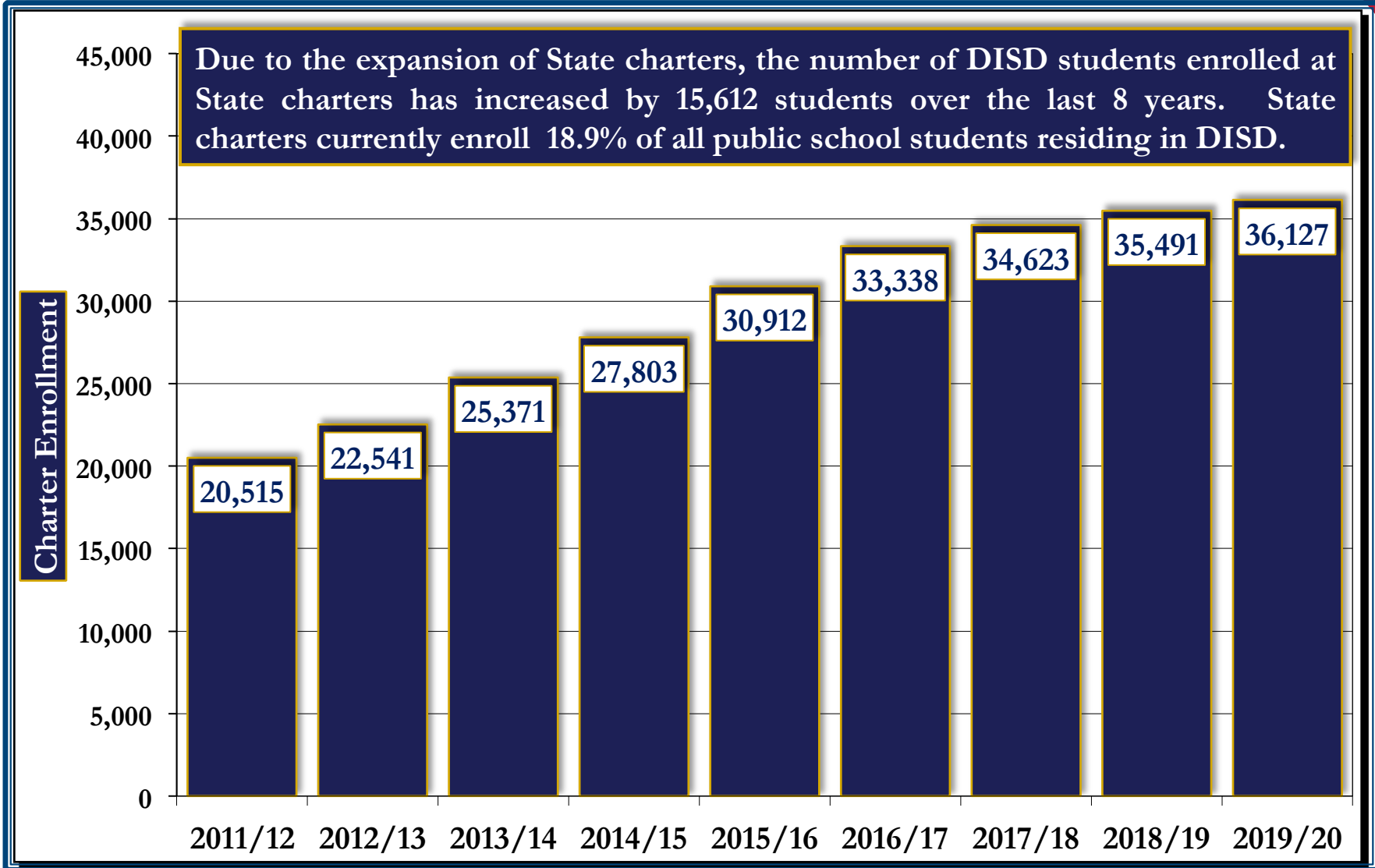
Academic Rating	Number	Percent
A-B	9	90.0%
C	1	10.0%
D-F	0	0.0%

# State Charters: Campuses Serving Students in DISD

Without any input from local parents, taxpayers or stakeholders, the State has authorized 38 State charters to operate 92 charter campuses to recruit students from Dallas ISD.



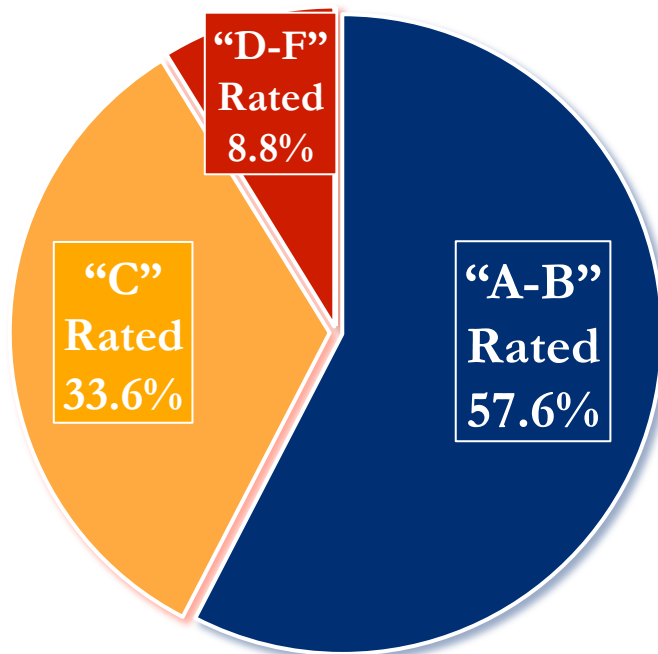
# Dallas ISD: Historical Charter Enrollment



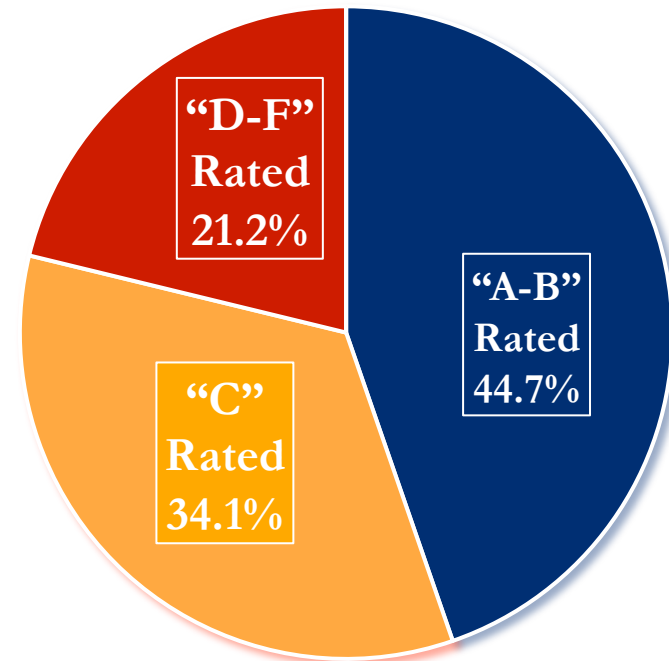
# Academic Outcomes: Dallas ISD Outperforms State Charters

While the State has supported the expansion charters, the State's Academic Accountability Rating system documents that Dallas ISD outperforms the State charters enrolling DISD students.

**Dallas ISD - Campuses**



**Charter Campuses – DISD Students**



# “D/F” Rated Charter Campuses Enrolling DISD Students

The table below is a representative listing of 10 different State charters enrolling DISD students in 13 charter campuses that are rated “D” or “F”. Charters with multiple “D/F” rated campuses include KIPP Texas and Uplift Education.

<b>Charter Campus Enrolling Students in DISD</b>	<b>State Academic Rating</b>
<b>KIPP Destiny Elementary</b>	<b>F (50)</b>
<b>KIPP Truth Elementary</b>	<b>F (52)</b>
<b>Lumin Lindsley Park Community School</b>	<b>F (55)</b>
<b>A+ Academy Elementary</b>	<b>D (61)</b>
<b>Nova Academy Elementary</b>	<b>D (62)</b>
<b>International Leadership of Texas – Lancaster Elementary</b>	<b>D (64)</b>
<b>ResponsiveEd – Founders Classical Academy - Mesquite</b>	<b>D (64)</b>
<b>Inspired Vision Academy - Elementary</b>	<b>D (66)</b>
<b>Uplift Pinnacle Preparatory - Primary</b>	<b>D (68)</b>
<b>A.W. Brown Fellowship Leadership Academy - Intermediate</b>	<b>D (68)</b>
<b>Uplift Gradus Preparatory - Primary</b>	<b>D (68)</b>
<b>Gateway Charter Academy - Elementary</b>	<b>D (69)</b>
<b>KIPP Oak Cliff Academy</b>	<b>D (69)</b>



# KIPP Texas Campuses Enrolling DISD Students

As the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest State charter enrolling DISD students, KIPP Texas operates 7 campuses that primarily recruit low-income, African American and Hispanic families from DISD. Despite serving a low percentage of “At Risk” students, KIPP’s campuses have academic ratings of “C”, “D” and “F”!

Description	KIPP Truth Elem. (K-4)	KIPP Truth Academy (Grades 5-8)	KIPP Oak Cliff Academy (Grade 9)	KIPP Pleasant Grove (K-3)	KIPP Pleasant Grove (Grades 5-6)	KIPP Destiny Elem. (K-4)	KIPP Destiny Middle (Grades 5-8)
State Rating	F (52)	C (76)	D (69)	C (77)	C (71)	F (50)	C (77)
Enrollment	592	468	112	478	224	552	407
African-American	53.4%	37.6%	51.8%	65.5%	48.7%	80.4%	70.3%
Hispanic	42.1%	56.6%	43.8%	31.0%	47.8%	16.5%	25.6%
Other Races	4.5%	5.8%	4.4%	3.5%	3.5%	3.1%	4.1%
At Risk	33.1%	42.5%	35.7%	18.6%	31.7%	10.7%	20.1%

# Student Populations and Charter Campus Ratings

**While advocacy organizations promote that charters are providing better school options for low-income and underserved students:**

- The “A” rated charter campuses enrolling DISD students are not representative of the student population within Dallas ISD. In comparison to Dallas ISD, these campuses consist of at least 49% fewer “Economically-Disadvantaged”, “At Risk”, “Students with Disabilities”, and “Mobile” students;
- In comparison to Dallas ISD with a “B” academic rating, State charters underserve “At Risk”, “Students with Disabilities”, and “Mobile” students across every rating category.

## Student Populations and Ratings of Charter Campuses Enrolling DISD Students

Description	Dallas ISD: “B” Rating	Charter Campuses: “A” Rating	Charter Campuses: “B” and “C” Rating	Charter Campuses: “D/F” Rating
Economically Disadvantaged	86.2%	44.6%	83.3%	83.7%
At Risk	62.9%	27.7%	53.3%	43.5%
Students with Disabilities	8.8%	4.8%	7.4%	5.7%
Student Mobility	19.1%	8.7%	7.2%	11.0%

# Comparison of Per Student Expenditures – 2018/19

- Uplift Education and KIPP Texas are the largest State charters enrolling students in DISD, collectively enrolling 12,327 students.
- Despite not incurring the costs to serve students with “Disciplinary Placements”, both State charters allocate less per student for Instruction, Extracurricular Activities, Health and Community Services, and “Students with Disabilities”. But as privately operated organizations, both State charters allocate more taxpayer funding for Administrative/Leadership expenses.

Per Student Expenditure	Dallas ISD	Uplift Education	KIPP Texas
Student Instruction	\$ 5,515	\$ 5,201	\$ 4,733
Guidance & Counseling	\$ 436	\$ 527	\$ 358
Extracurricular	\$ 210	\$ 28	\$ 86
Health, Community Services and Social Work	\$ 211	\$ 146	\$ 149
Students with Disabilities	\$ 1,117	\$ 850	\$ 673
General Administration/School Leadership	\$ 933	\$ 1,090	\$ 1,874

# Comparison of Staffing – 2018/19

In comparison to Uplift Education and KIPP Texas, Dallas ISD serves the unique needs of all students with:

- More “Certified” Classroom Teachers;
- More Experienced Classroom Teachers;
- Lower Teacher Turnover that Retains High-Quality Teachers; and
- Lower Students Per Teacher.

Description	Dallas ISD	Uplift Education	KIPP Texas
Certified Teachers	94.2%	76.6%	53.2%
Average Teacher Experience	9.9 Years	3.2 Years	4.1 Years
Teacher Turnover	19.1%	27.0%	35.6%
Students Per Teacher	15.4	15.8	19.9

# State Charters: Annual Funding Impact to Dallas ISD



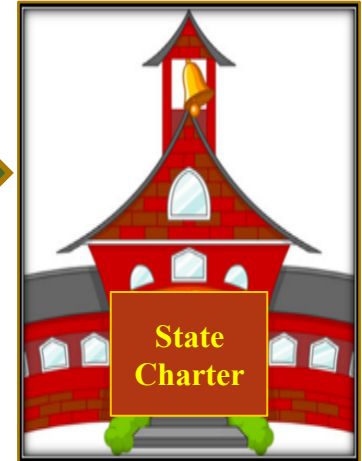
**Dallas ISD**



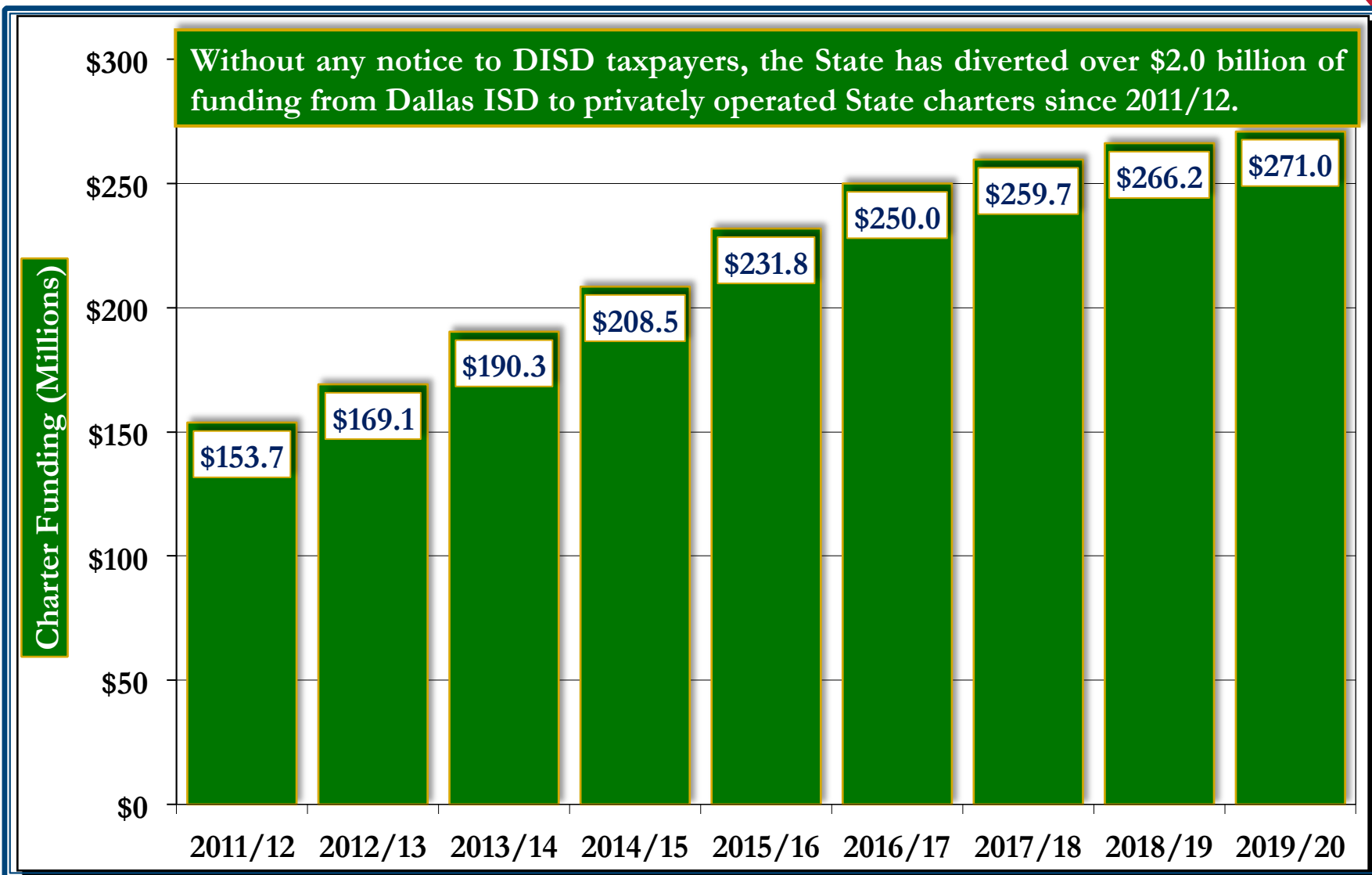
Since State charters recruit existing students from DISD schools, \$271 million of taxpayer funding is annually diverted from DISD to the private organizations within the State's separate system of charters.



**State Charters**



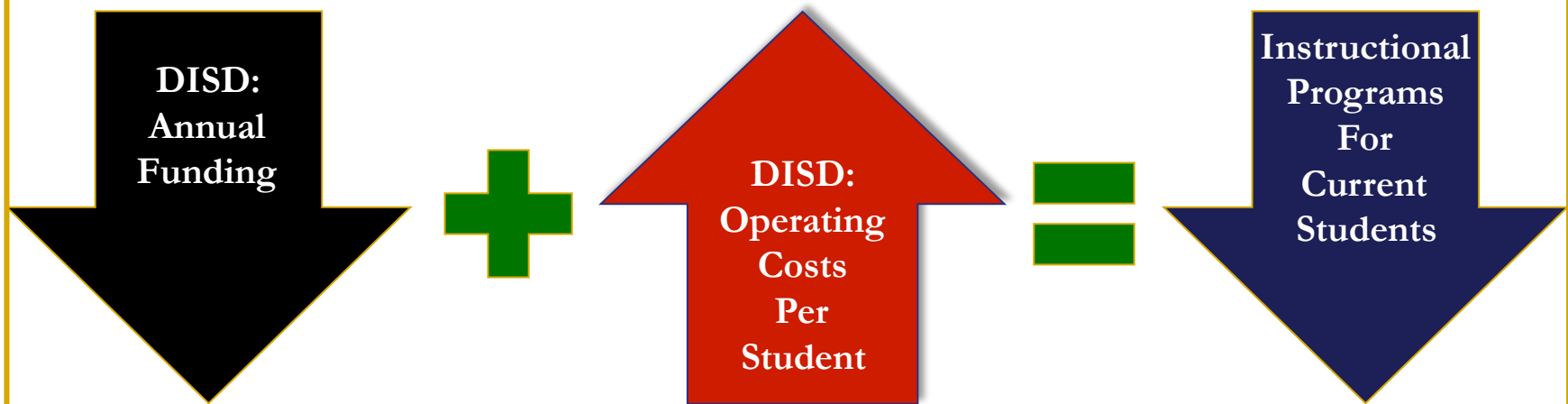
# Dallas ISD: Financial Impact of State Charters





# Dallas ISD: Financial Impact of State Charters

- As DISD students have been recruited by State charters, Dallas ISD's:
  - Funding has been reduced by \$271 million per year; and
  - Per student costs have increased as education support systems serve fewer students.
- Assume 10 students at every Dallas ISD campus transfer to a State charter. In this scenario, Dallas ISD's annual funding declines by approximately \$17.4 million. But Dallas ISD cannot reduce its costs by \$17.4 million as a minimum number of teachers, counselors, nurses, curriculum professionals, bus drivers, principals, etc. is needed to serve remaining students. In addition, Dallas ISD cannot immediately reduce its fixed costs for utilities, transportation, insurance, health services and student programs.
- **The Result: Lower Resources to Deliver Instructional Programs to Current Students**










# Dallas ISD: Financial Impact of State Charters

- Dallas ISD has prudently managed its financial position to minimize the impact of State charters as the per student funding it currently provides for “Instruction” is equal to the State average.
- But the table below demonstrates the impact that State charters have imposed on Dallas ISD.
  - ✓ With fewer students and lower funding, Dallas ISD has closed schools to reduce its costs. But the costs to provide counselors, nurses, coaches, curriculum professionals, principals, etc. for fewer students must consume a higher percentage of Dallas ISD’s budget.
  - ✓ As a result, Dallas ISD has been forced to reduce the percentage of expenditures devoted to “Student Instruction/Instructional Resources” by 4%. This means the “Instructional” resources annually available for Dallas ISD students have declined by \$64 million.

Description	2011/12	2018/19	
<b>Student Instruction and Instructional Resources</b>	<b>59.0%</b>	<b>55.0%</b>	4% = \$64 Million
Guidance and Counseling Services	3.9%	4.3%	
Extracurricular	1.4%	2.1%	
Health and Community Services & Social Work	1.4%	2.1%	
Instructional and School Leadership	7.0%	8.6%	
<b>Facility Maintenance &amp; Operations</b>	<b>10.4%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	Closed Campuses
General Administration	2.9%	3.0%	

# School Attribute Report Card: Dallas ISD Outperforms State Charters

Despite the State's efforts, Dallas ISD continues to outperform State charters on most school attributes that are likely to be important to parents and the community, except for the resources dedicated to manage its public perception/reputation.

Dallas ISD	School Attribute	Charters in DISD
	Higher Percentage of "A/B" Rated Campuses and Lower Percentage of "D/F" Rated Campuses	
	More Experienced and Certified Teachers	
	Lower Teacher Turnover/Retention of Quality Teachers	
	Less Students Per Teacher	
	Higher Per Student Expenditures for "Instruction"	
	Higher Per Student Expenditures for "Student Services"	
	More Resources Devoted to "Health/Community Services"	
	Lower "Administrative/Leadership" Costs	
	Enrolls and Serves All Students that Register	
	Resources to Manage Public Perception/Reputation	

# Disclosures

**It's YOUR: Children**  
**It's YOUR: Family**  
**It's YOUR: Schools**  
**It's YOUR: Tax Dollars**  
**It's YOUR: Community**  
**It's YOUR: Choice**



*Disclosures: This material was prepared by William J. Gumbert, a voluntary advocate of public education. The material was assembled to educate parents, taxpayers and stakeholders in Dallas ISD on the State's separate system of taxpayer funded, privately operated charter schools. **No direct or indirect compensation has been provided to the author for the preparation of this material and such material was not requested by any elected official or Texas school district employee.***

*The contents herein are based upon information provided by the Texas Education Agency, Txschools.gov, Google Maps, and other publicly available information. While the author believes these sources to be reliable, the author has not independently verified the information. The material also contains estimates that are based upon the professional experience of the author.*

*For purposes of this material, the State charters reviewed consisted of all charters within a 15-mile radius of Dallas. The opinions expressed herein are solely the opinions of the author. **All readers are encouraged to complete their own review of the "Charter Movement" and make their own independent conclusions.***