



Texas Public Policy Foundation

**Presentation to the
House Select Committee on Educational
Opportunity and Enrichment**

July 11-12, 2023

Topics:

1. Parent Empowerment
2. Current Education Options
3. ESA Effects

Parents' Responsibilities



Positive
Influences



Supporting
Educators



Good
Judgment



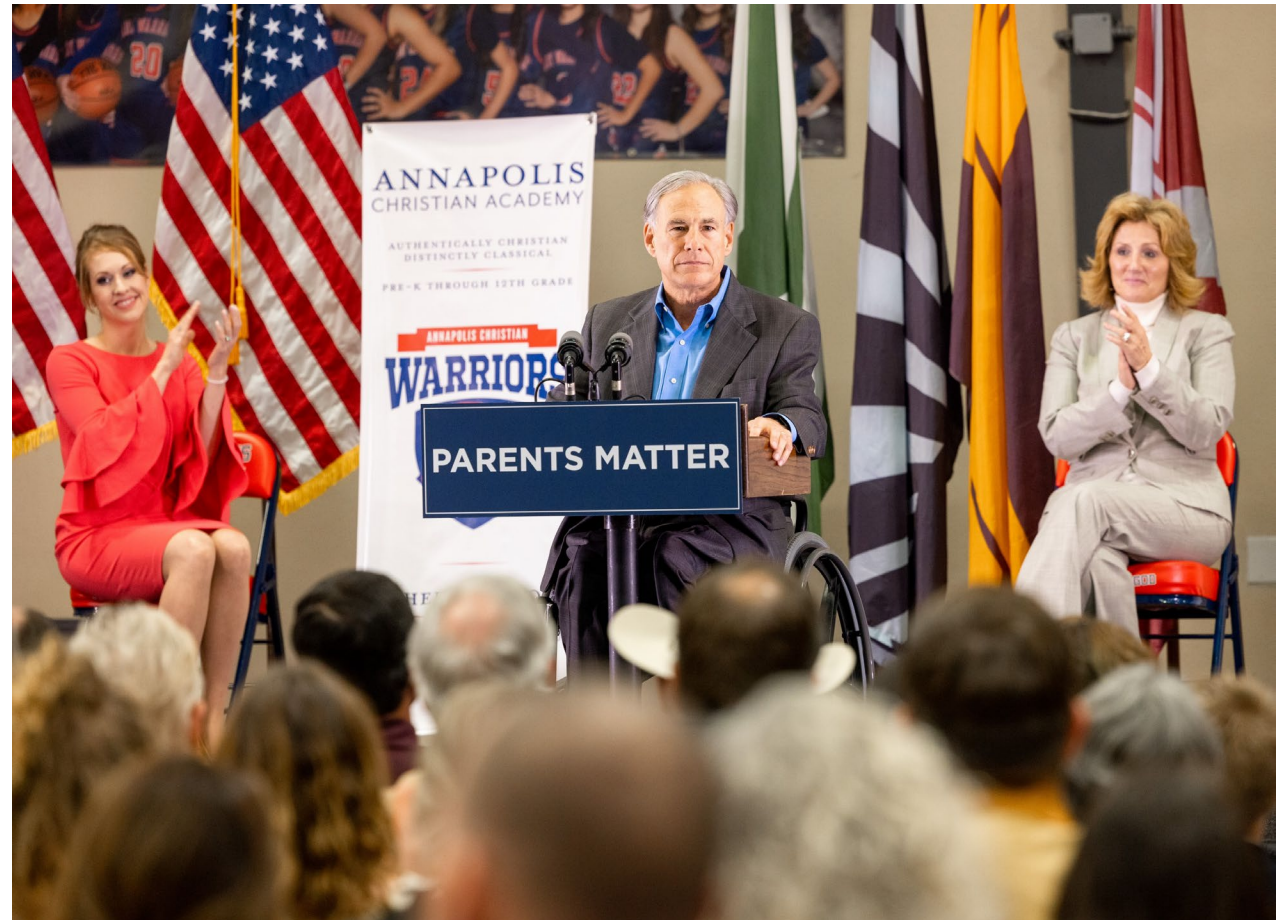
Removing
as Needed

The state's role is to support parents, not replace them,
in fulfilling these responsibilities.

Parents' Rights

As a result of their responsibilities, parents have a right to:

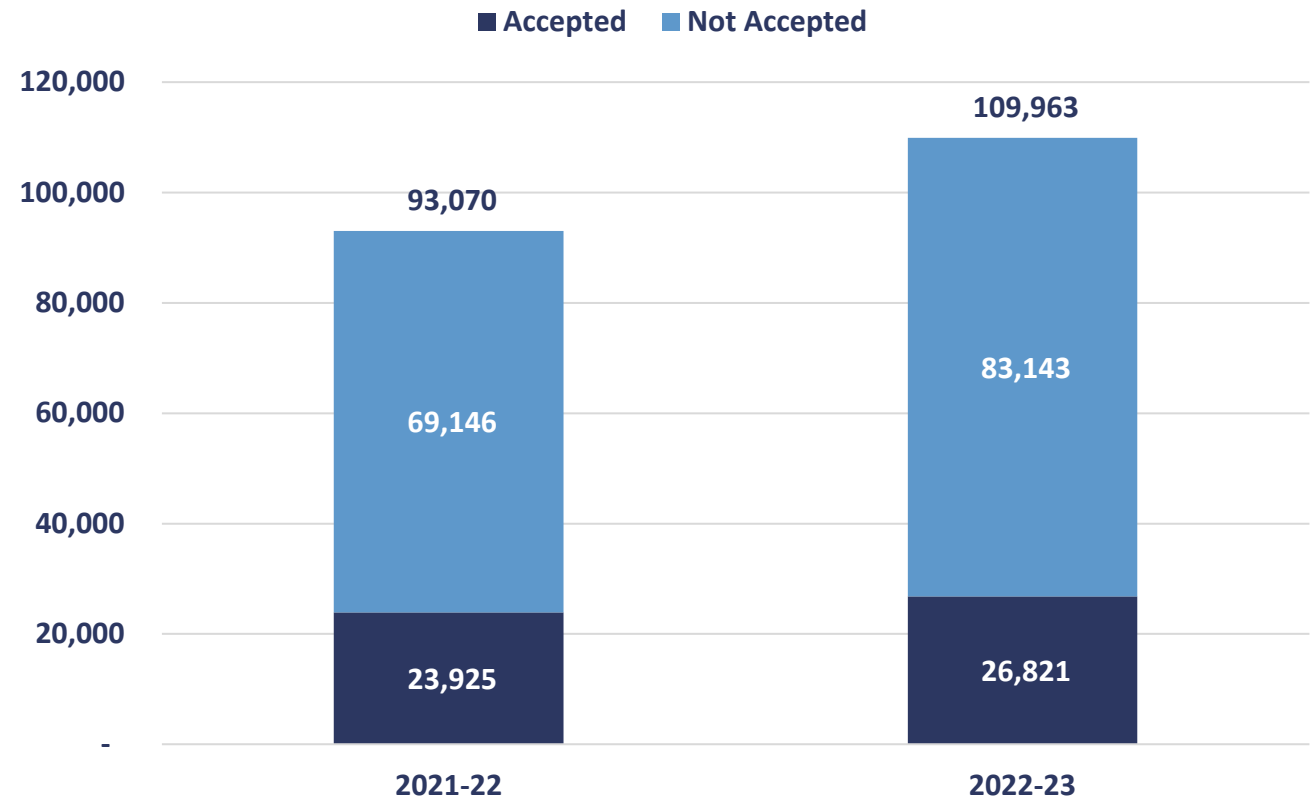
- **Transparency:** know what their children are taught and why;
- **Quality:** an education that prepares their children for success;
- **Respect:** when concerns arise; and
- **Choice:** in what and where their children are taught.



Current Options: Magnet Schools

- 76% of students who apply are not accepted.
- ISD policies ensure that students are vetted based on their “academic and disciplinary history and attendance records” (for example, see FDA(Local)).

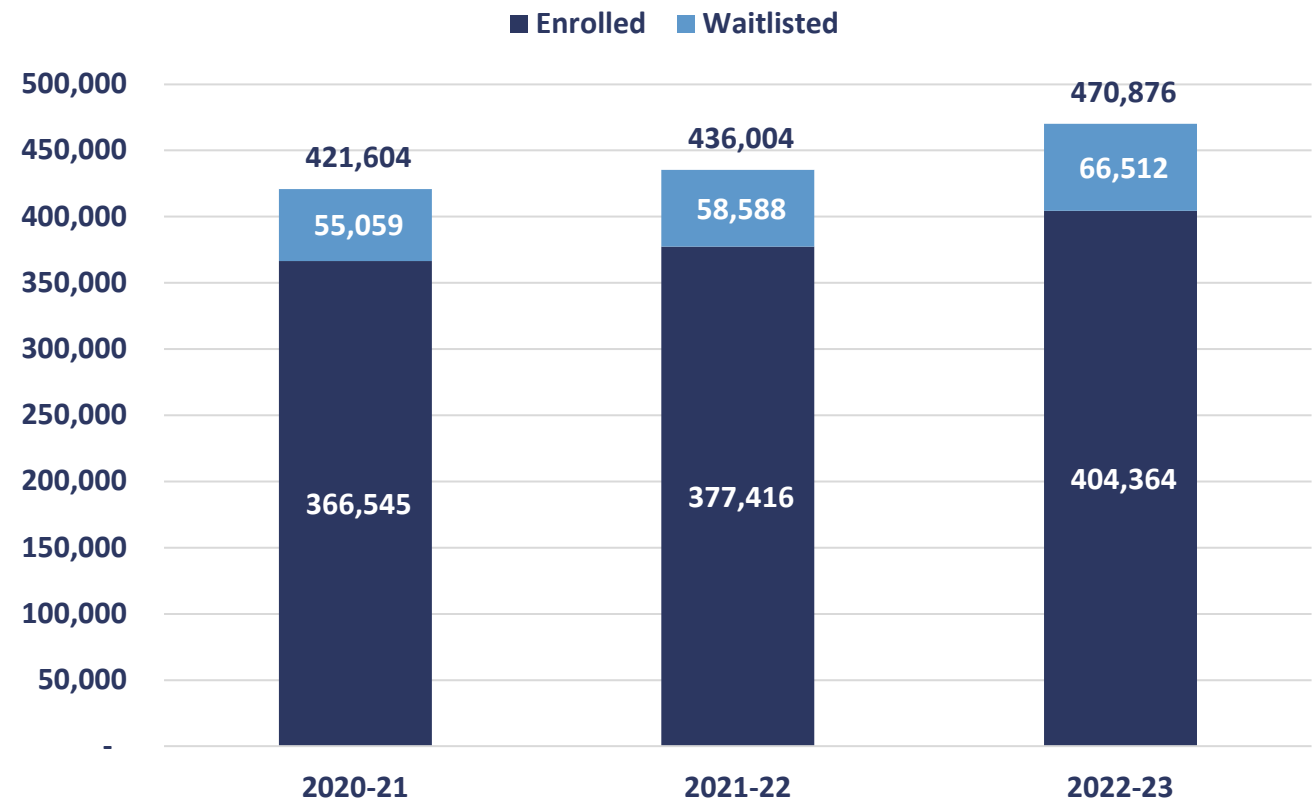
Graph 1: Students Accepted & Not Accepted to Magnet Schools (2021-22 to 2022-23 SYs)



The Need for Options: Charter Schools

- Over 66,000 children were waitlisted.
- The waitlist increased by 20% compared to 2 years ago.

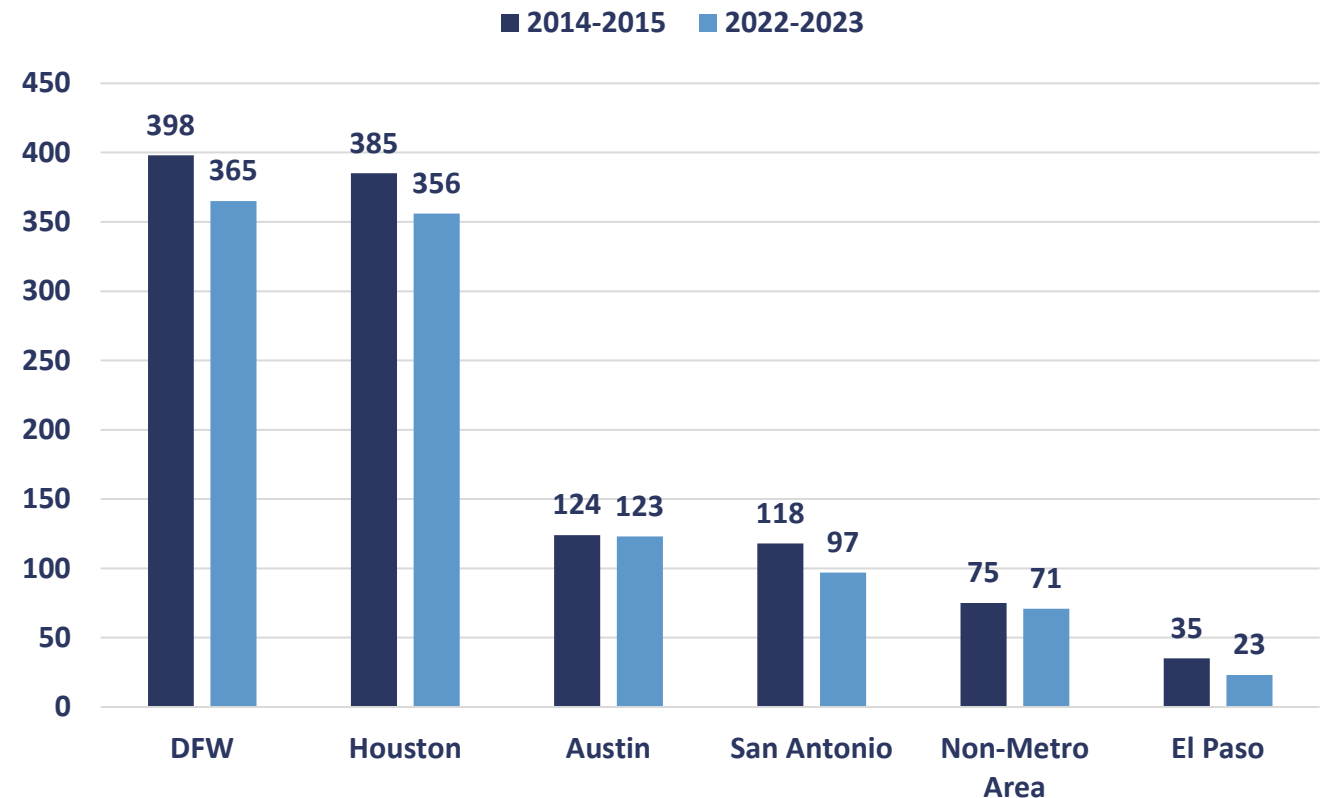
Graph 2: Students Accepted & Waitlisted to Charter Schools
(2021 - 2023 School Years)



The Need for Options: Private Schools

- Private school options are declining.
- Parents have fewer options today than a decade ago.
- See Appendix for all Metro areas.

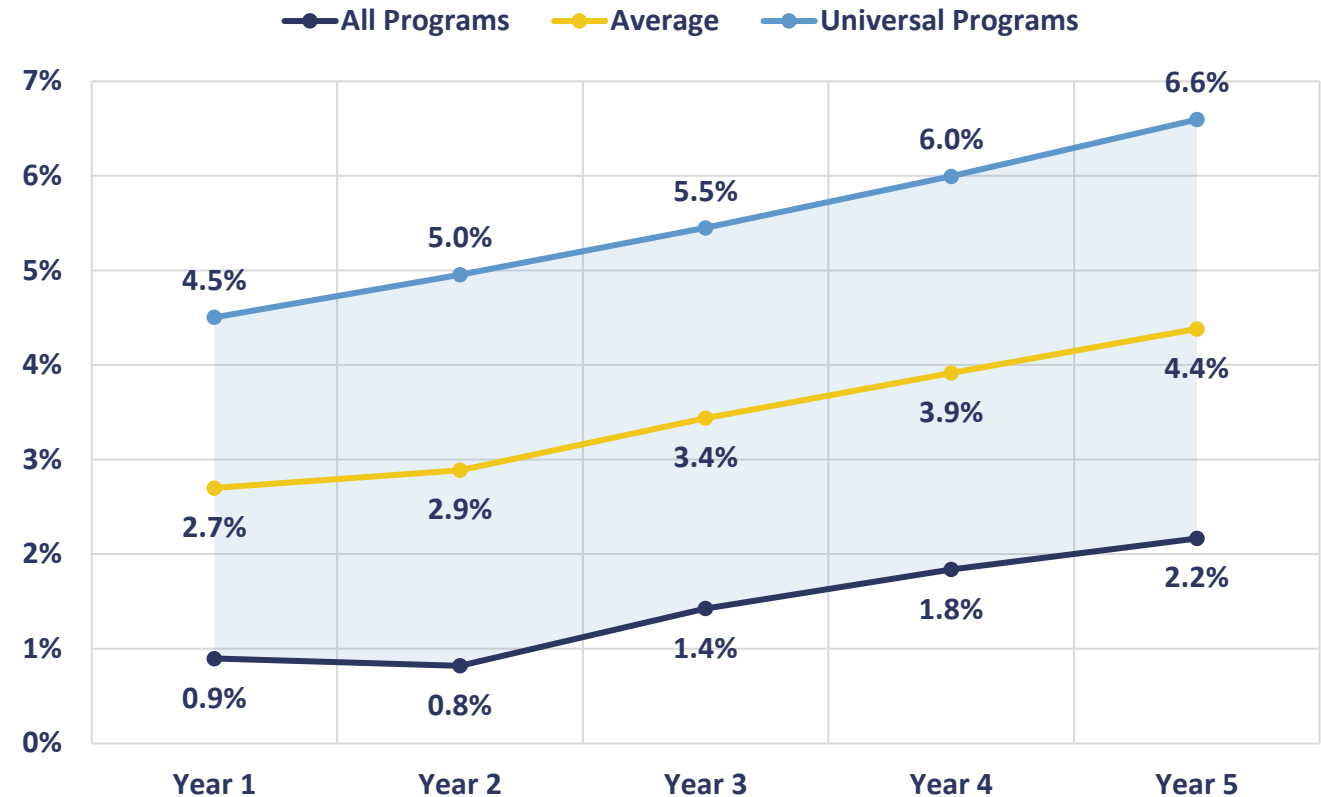
Graph 3: Number of Private Schools, Major Metro Areas (2014-15 to 2022-23 School Years)



ESA Effects: Take-Up Rate

- Graph 4 is based on take-up rates for all 31 choice programs created since 2010.
- With an ESA for all (6.4m) school-age children, 57,000-288,000 students would participate.

Graph 4: Estimated Take-Up Rate for First Five Program Years, Based on All U.S. Choice Programs Created Since 2010



ESA Effects: Student Outcomes



Higher Reading
& Math
Proficiency,
Especially for
Low-Income
Children



Accelerated
Learning



Decreased
Absences,
Suspensions,
Convictions



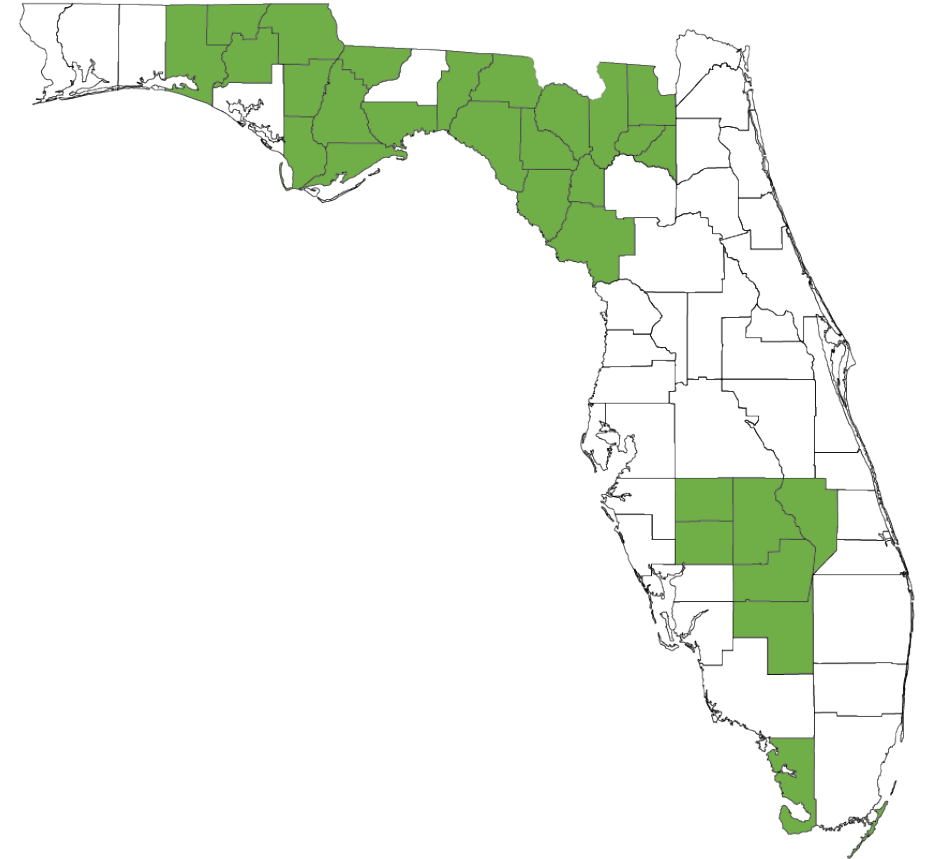
Increased
Graduation
Rates



Increased
College
Attainment

ESA Effects: Rural Communities

- In the 30 rural counties, 596 students participate (20-21 SY).
- The number of private schools in rural Florida doubled over the last 20 years.
- Rural families make more customized purchases, spending less on tuition and more on instructional materials.



Thank you! For questions, contact:



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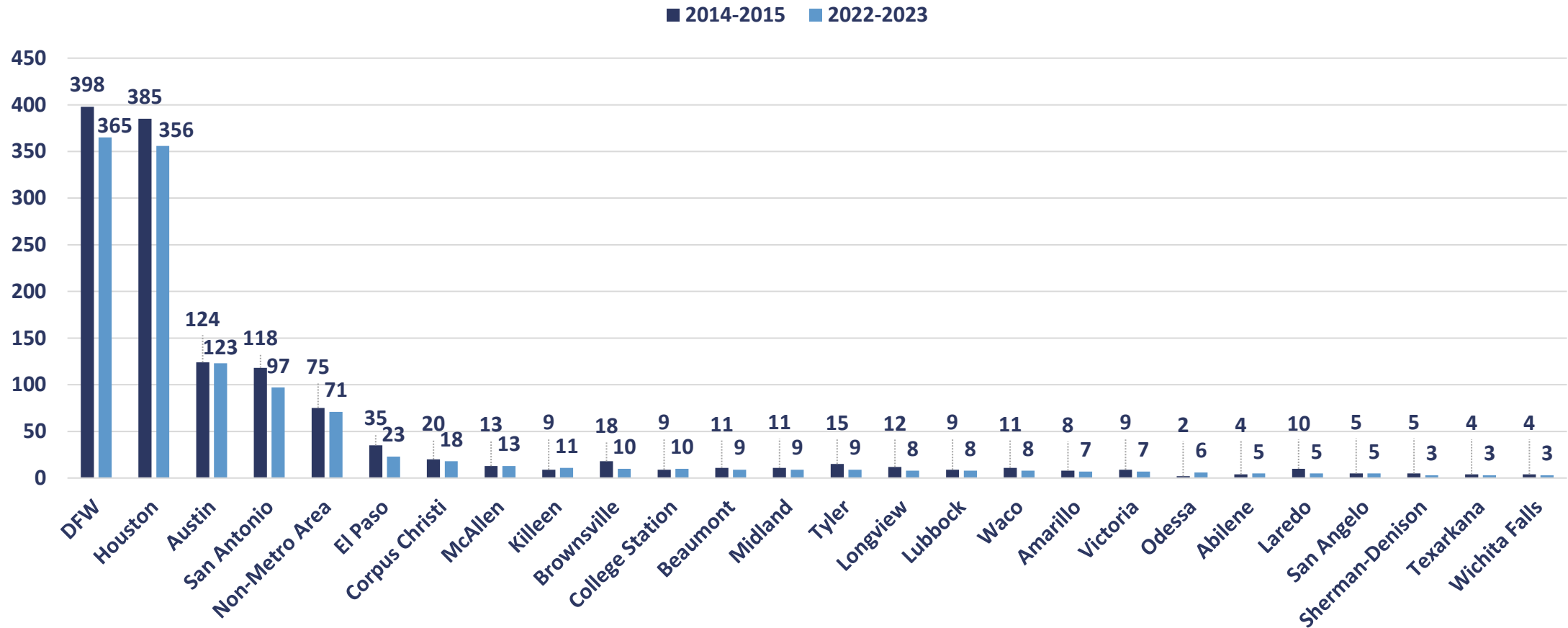
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Appendix:

- 13. Number of private schools, by Metro area
- 14. Quotes From Texas Parents (Part 1)
- 15. Quotes From Texas Parents (Part 2)
- 16. 88R Additional Education Funding
- 17. Sources

The Need for Options: Private Schools

Number of TEPSAC-Accredited Private Schools, by Major Metro Area
(2014-15 to 2022-23 School Years)



From Texas Parents (Part 1):

"It's been 11 years since we started homeschooling our daughter. All these years, we have owned a home and paid school taxes without ever having received any benefit towards our kid's education. I wonder how much different their education would have been or how much more could we have given towards their school."

- Mother of 3

"In the end, these kids belong to the parents and we have been given the task to make the best choices for them until they are able and old enough to make choices of their own."

- Mother of 4

"I never dreamed of a day when I would have to set my career goals aside to educate my children at home. Homeschooling has had its challenges to be sure. One of these challenges is money. Last year my family spent roughly \$2,000 on curriculum, supplies, and class fees to start the academic year... Homeschoolers tend not to speak up from fear of government overreach. To be honest, this was pretty difficult to write. I don't want to draw attention to my family. I chose to speak up for myself and all the others that I know this bill has the potential to help. Please consider all those families that are struggling to teach their children but are sacrificing so much to do it. There are a lot more of them than you might think."

- Mother of 5

From Texas Parents (Part 2):

"The passing of this bill would not only be beneficial for our family to be able to re-direct our tax money to our school of choice, but allow and enable all parents to do the same. We, as parents, have the God-given right to decide where our kids go to school to get the education we are aligned with."

- Father of 4

"Education is a key component for how a person will succeed in life, and how a person will view the world around them. Please care for all children's education, regardless of school system, class, or means. It starts with a proper education. It starts with parents' choice of how our tax money is spent on education. It starts with our elected officials caring for the people they took an oath to serve."

- Mother of 1

"We are our children's parents and we want to have a 100% say in what they are learning and what is happening to our children under other people's care."

- Mother of 4

"We spent over \$40,000 trying to get our school district to provide an appropriate education for our son before we made the decision to remove him. We now homeschool our son.... Our oldest son still attends school in GCISD and is thriving. I still believe in public education, but I also know that public education is not adequate for every student... Please make sure that every child in Texas has access to an appropriate education, even if it's in the best interest of the child to do so outside of public education."

- Mother of 2

88R Additional Education Funding

- \$6.3bn in new funds, fully approved
- \$4.5bn appropriated & contingent
- \$17.6bn for property tax reduction

88th Regular Session Update – New Total Funding (in millions)



New Net Funding for Public Education – Appropriated & Issued

Recurring Funding Increases:

Increase to Instructional Materials & Technology Allotment (IMTA)	\$ 621	GAA III TEA Rider 8
Increase to entitlements & LEA grants for SBOE-Approved Instructional Materials	500	GAA IX 18.78
Increase to FSP payments & technical supports for school safety	300	GAA IX 18.78
Increase in Golden Penny Yield	2,367	GAA IX 18.78
Increase for New Instructional Materials Allotment (NIFA)	60	GAA IX 18.78
Increase subsidy for public school employee retirement payroll taxes	673	GAA III TRS A.1.1

New One-time Funding:

School safety grants	\$ 1,100	SB30 4.02
Subsidy for ActiveCare	589	GAA III TRS A.3.1
K-12 cybersecurity initiative	55	GAA III TEA B.3.5

\$6.3B new funds fully approved

New Net Funding for Education – Appropriated & Contingent

Recurring Funding Increases:

FSP & grant increases for teacher pay, special education, and finance generally	\$ 3,997	GAA IX 18.78
Virtual school grant support	49	GAA IX 18.78
School Choice	500	GAA IX 18.78

New State Share Increases for Public Education

Recurring Funding Increases:

Property tax reductions – Appropriated & issued	\$ 5,305	GAA IX 18.79
Property tax reductions – Appropriated & contingent	12,295	GAA IX 18.79

Sources:

- Slide 3: Moschella, M. (2016). Cambridge University Press. [To Whom Do Children Belong?](#) (pp. 60)
- Slide 4: Abbot, G. (2023). Texas Public Policy Foundation, [Gov. Abbott Speech at Annapolis Christian Academy](#)
- Slide 5: Public Information Request to 36 school districts, (2023).
- Slide 6: Texas Education Agency, (2023). [Enrollment Reports, 2020-21 to 2022-23. Student](#)
- Slides 7, 13: Texas Private School Accreditation Commission, [School Data Archive, 2014-15 and 2022-23 school years.](#)
- Slide 8: 17 publications from the following sources, available upon request: U.S. Dept. of Education National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau, Texas Education Agency, and Texas Private School Accreditation Commission. Calculations by EdChoice & TPPF.
- Slide 9: Texas Public Policy Foundation, (2023). [FAQ: How Would an ESA Help Students?](#)
- Slide 10: Step Up For Students, [Distribution of ESA Usage](#), (2023). Step Up For Students, *Choice Enrollment in Florida's Rural Counties*. 2020-21 SY. page 651, 664.
- Slides 14-15: Texas Public Policy Foundation, (2023). Parent Empowerment Tour; letters from Texas parents.
- Slide 16: TEA, Presentation to SBOE: [What Passed in the 88th Session](#). June 20, 2023 (at 03:12:25)