TXCVT | Texas Center For Voucher Transparency

Our Schools. Our Democracy. Our Responsibility.

Texas made a promise in its constitution: every child deserves access to an "***efficient system of public free schools***." It's one of the strongest commitments Texans have ever made to one another.

Texas now faces a major challenge.

As Texas opens applications for the Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) voucher program, families and taxpayers deserve clear answers. The voucher program will cost Texas taxpayers **$1 billion in the first two years,** while key details about oversight remain unclear.

The **Texas Center for Voucher Transparency (TXCVT)** will ensure that Texans have timely, credible information about how the voucher program operates, who benefits, and how it affects public schools and communities.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **53%** of approved providers enroll **Pre-K thru Kindergarten only**. (*TEFA map*)
- **61% of Texas counties** have no elementary, junior, or senior high schools accepting vouchers, even though taxpayers in these counties will pay for private school vouchers across the state. (*TEFA map*)
- **1 in 3 providers** charge tuition above the voucher amount. (*Texas Observer*)
- **Over 100 participating religious schools** prioritize admitting students of the same faith (*Texas Observer*)

No matter where you live or who you vote for, most Texans can agree on three principles when it comes to spending taxpayer dollars:

TRANSPARENCY

Transparency means ensuring publicly-funded programs like vouchers are easy to understand and evaluate and are accountable to taxpayers.

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$ FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Strong fiscal responsibility means that the $1 billion publicly-funded voucher program is efficient, effective, aligned with taxpayer intent, and will benefit the public – not private entities.

FAIRNESS

Fairness means understanding the impact of vouchers on rural schools, special education services, and public school resources.

Key Concerns	Unanswered Questions
Invasive Application Questions Private schools can ask questions that public schools legally can't.	*Can public funds be used to support discriminatory practices?*
Required Application Some private schools require **all current students** to apply for vouchers.	*Does this shift taxpayer dollars to families already in private schools, as has happened in other states, rather than expanding opportunity?*
5-Year Reporting Loophole Key state reporting requirements may be delayed for up to 5 years which could extend over several legislative sessions. **Oversight after the fact is not accountability.**	*When will the Comptroller's office issue a comprehensive report on how taxpayer dollars were spent, who was served by the voucher program, and the effectiveness of the program? Will the Legislature expand the voucher program and allocate additional tax dollars without a public report?*
Special Education Private schools are allowed to admit students with special education needs - and accept taxpayer dollars for vouchers - but have no legal obligation to provide special education services or follow the laws that protect students in public schools. At the same time, public school districts are legally required to evaluate and develop individual education plans (IEP) for any private school applicant that makes this demand. The rush to **qualify for vouchers up to $30K** is fueling a spike in these evaluations, taking valuable time from staff to provide services to public school students. The result: **public schools carry the cost and workload, private schools get the benefit,** and students with disabilities face greater risk.	*Can a private school take a $30K voucher and not deliver appropriate IEP services; and when will Texans ever know what services were or were not delivered?*

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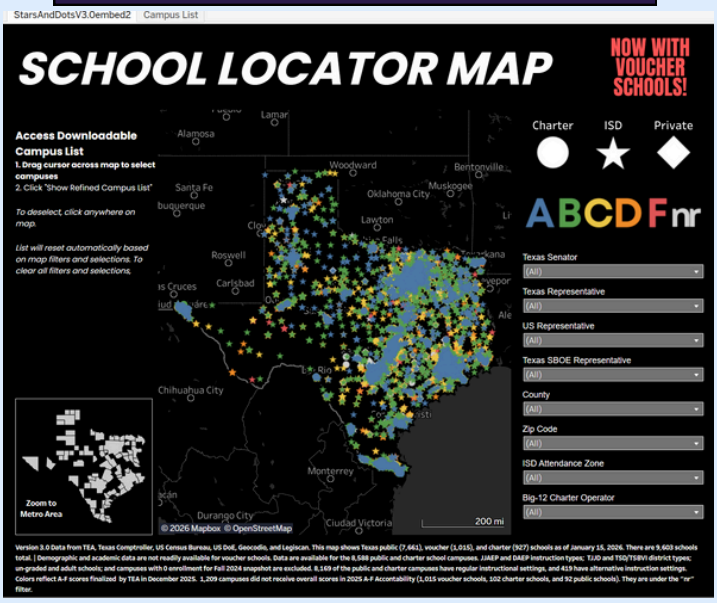
About the Texas Center for Voucher Transparency

The Texas Center for Voucher Transparency (TXCVT) is an independent, nonpartisan public initiative that supports t**ransparency, fiscal responsibility and fairness** in the implementation of the TEFA voucher program. TXCVT is launching two new resources to help Texas parents, policymakers, and the public understand how **$1 billion in taxpayer dollars** is being spent.

School Locator Map



Our map tool lets Texans see the three parallel systems of schools that taxpayer dollars are funding. The map includes public school district campuses, charter schools, and the private schools that have been accepted into the Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) program.

Watchdog Reporting System

Beginning in March 2026, you may file your complaint online

NOTE: We are **not a government agency** and do not investigate complaints, enforce the law or take legal action. **We do not file complaints for you**. Our goal is to make sure your concern is heard and clearly documented to identify statewide trends in order to inform parents, taxpayers and Texans about the use of $1 billion in public funds.

DID YOU KNOW?

$$ Voucher costs projected to spiral.
Texas projections show the program could reach **$7.9 billion** by 2030-31, with most participants already in private schools. (*Houston Public Media*)

Other states struggle.
Arizona underestimated costs by **10x**, contributing to major budget crises, including the need to slash $333 million for water infrastructure projects from the state budget. (*ProPublica*)

Oversight matters.
Florida's state auditor reported losing track of **30,000 students** in its voucher program. (*Washington Post*)

Good policy requires great information

OUR SCHOOLS OUR DEMOCRACY
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