



Austin Charter Schools
Chris Busse
Vice President, Quality Services



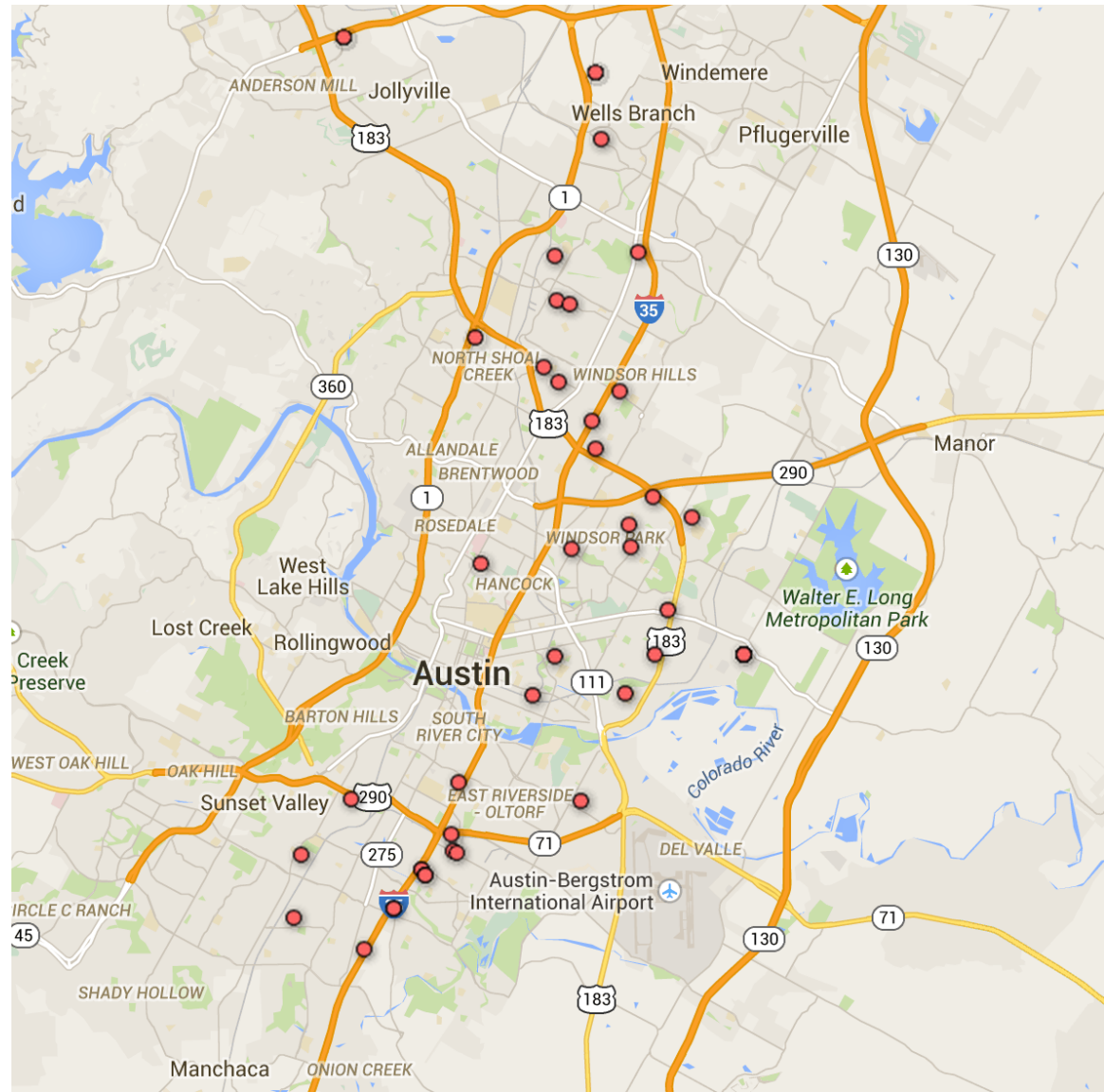
Austin Charter Landscape

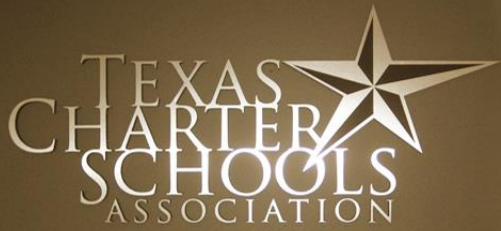
In 2014, over 12,500 students attended 45 public charter schools in Austin with 1900 more on waiting lists.

Many types of charter schools serve the Austin area:

- Dropout Recovery
- College Preparatory
- Specialized Mission
- Residential Treatment
- PreK/Elementary

All are open enrollment, tuition free, and subject to the same accountability as their ISD counterparts.





Challenge – Lack of Facilities Funding and Access

Austin charter schools receive less per pupil funding than ISDs and do not have access to facilities funding programs. This manifests itself in public charter schools that:

- Are located in buildings not designed to be schools (retail, light industrial)
- Are more crowded and have less common space per student
- Are less likely to have science labs, cafeterias, auditoriums, and libraries

What other cities are doing:

Encouraging charter school use of underutilized district schools

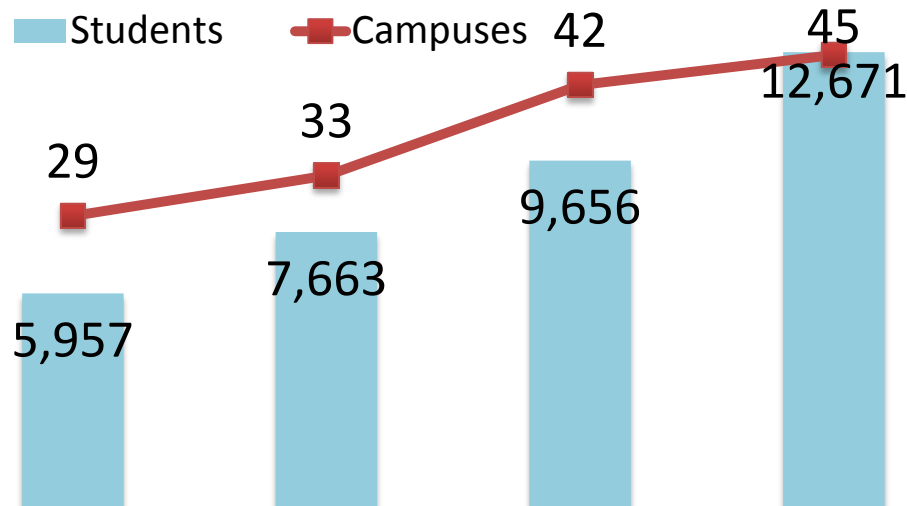
Facilitating charter school student use of public facilities

Streamlining zoning and permitting processes for public charter schools repurposing space

Create public / private partnerships to locate charter schools in desired neighborhoods

Challenge – Rapid Growth of Underserved Populations

Austin charter school enrollment has grown more than 25% for each of the last four years, and is comprised of average or higher percentages of underserved kids.



- 76% Hispanic / African American
- 72% Economically Disadvantaged
- 59% At Risk
- 27% Limited English Proficient

This growth is put at risk by difficulty in recruiting and retaining high caliber specialists, teachers, and principals to drive exceptional student results.

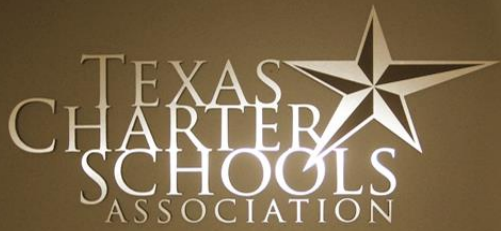
What other cities are doing:

Common talent recruiting efforts

Instituting new teacher and leadership schools and certifications

Partnering with existing educational talent pipelines

Creating joint training and development programs



Challenge – Lack of Economies of Scale

Since most charter schools are not part of a system as large as an urban school district, they lack the purchasing power to be able to obtain favorable pricing – or to be able to afford at all – items such as:

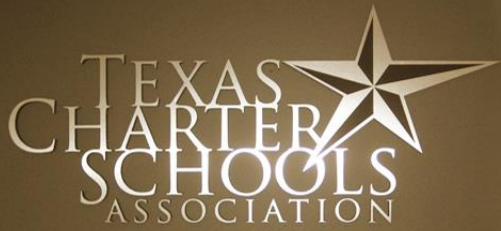
Employee health insurance and related benefits
School breakfast and lunch programs
Student transportation

What other cities are doing:

Expanding existing employee pools to include charter school administrators and staff

Encouraging districts to sell these goods and / or services to charter schools (win/win)

Providing city transportation access to students at subsidized rates



Challenge – Expanding the Spirit of Collaboration

There is not always a desire to find city wide solutions or opportunities in a system often characterized by competition rather than collaboration.

There is a local example of such partnership – Premier at Lanier and Travis – where a charter network and AISD are working together to graduate students who are significantly overage / undercredit or who have already dropped out.

What other cities are doing:

SKY partnership in Spring Branch between SBISD, KIPP, and YES

ISD and charter networks have split the district to provide targeted schools

ISD provides facilities and charters provide talent and educational model

SBISD enrollment has increased as families seek these types of options