

STATEMENT : 2Q 2019

TEXAS BUSINESS LEADER STATEMENT

IN SUPPORT OF CHARTER SCHOOLS



BUSINESSFORWARD
FOUNDATION

**TX BUSINESS LEADERS AND PARENTS TO THEIR GOVERNOR:
TO PRODUCE “FUTURE READY” GRADUATES, WE MUST
SUPPORT CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Business Forward has organized hundreds of briefings across the country on education reform, workforce development, and the future of work. These briefings have included dozens of mayors, governors, Members of Congress, and senior Administration officials. This year, we asked business leaders and parents of students in Texas to sign the following statement in support of charter schools. More than 1,100 Texans responded.



TO THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE:

Today, 3 million students attend charter schools, and 5 million more students would switch to a charter if they could.

With charter schools, families decide what's best for their kids. Teachers have more control over their lessons. Principals have more control over their budgets. Schools can specialize. High-performing charter schools grow; underperforming schools are replaced. Best of all, students come first.

As states weigh new education reforms, business leaders are speaking out to support successful charter schools.

WORK IS CHANGING

BY 2030, WORKPLACE DEMAND FOR SKILLS IN TECHNOLOGY WILL INCREASE BY 60%, FOR CREATIVITY BY 40%, FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP BY 33%, AND FOR ADAPTABILITY BY 24%.

THE AVERAGE YOUNG AMERICAN WILL HAVE AT LEAST 11 DIFFERENT JOBS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 50.

WORKERS MUST CHANGE

2/3 OF JOBS ARE FILLED BY WORKERS WITH SOME COLLEGE EDUCATION

ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE + LIFE SKILLS + CHARACTER

STATES MUST ACT

ENSURE THAT CHARTERS QUALIFY FOR EQUAL FUNDING

REQUIRE BETTER ACCESS TO BUILDINGS FOR CHARTERS

STRONG OVERSIGHT OVER CHARTER SCHOOLS

SIGNATORIES

Over 1,100 Texans signed this statement, including:

Amanda Craig, Richmond
Ana Padilla, Converse
Andrea Huff, Houston
Angel Weers, Daingerfield
Anna Mcie, Bastrop
Annette Gilstrap, Lubbock
April Dykes, Euless
Barbara Benton, Colmesneil
Becky Garza, San Juan
Bernard Marlow, Fort Worth
Billy Simpson, Hallsville
Brandon Reasoner, Grand Prairie
Brendan Kelly, Houston
Brian Warren, Kaufman
Burke Shea III, Nevada
Carl Metzger, Cedar Hill
Carmen Vega, San Antonio
Carol Deaver, Pampa
Carol Wier, Vanderpool
Carol Hoffman, Red Oak
Caroline Taylor, Waxahachie
Carolyn Cox, Kermit
Carolyn Honesty, Killeen
Carrie Martin, Katy
Charles McKelroy, Lake Jackson
Charlie Davis, Abilene
Charma Meek, Rockwall
Cheryl Shine, Houston
Christina Henry, Athens
Christine Lutz, Irving
Cindi Weber, Mcallen
Cindy Cowsert, Kerrville
Claire Coffey, La Coste
Coco Henry, Porter
Colette Hernandez, Atascosa
Cristina Baker, Austin
Cy Speck, Rochelle
Cynthia Konrady, Longview
Cynthia Wilder, Cleveland

“ Too many students are pushed into college that are not college material. Too many students are not groomed and given the opportunity to learn trades. ”

- JULIE MCMURTRY
SPRING, TX

“ Put shops back in schools for free. Metal shop (welding), wood shop (construction), auto shop and cosmetology. These careers used to be free. ”

- SHARON JOHNSON
ONALASKA, TX

“ Schools only prepare students for college not for any trade skills. Not all students should go to college. ”

- FRANK GROENTEMAN
FRISCO, TX

“ Local schools are not preparing kids for the workforce at all. [They are] preparing them to get into debt to go to college. Most are setting up B and C students for failure at the [college] level, instead of training them to do something they might be good at or love to get up and got to work. ”

- JHONNA NIVER
HOUSTON, TX

SIGNATORIES

Cynthia Glennie, Dallas
Cynthia Corbin, San Antonio
Dalila Copeland, Fort Worth
Dana Barrett, Levelland
Dana Painter, Conroe
Dania Rohena, San Antonio
Daniel Teran, Kyle
Darlene Hahn, Odessa
Darlene Miles, Boyd
David Lindsay, Rockwall
David Braun, San Antonio
David Brinsko, Katy
David Chin, Arlington
David Mark Greaves, Houston
Dean Rogers, Dayton
Debbie Duckworth, Woodway
Debbie Seigler, Matador
Deborah OBrien, Kyle
Deborah McGhee, Byers
Deborah Maulding, Hurst
Debra Birkholz, El Paso
Denise Guerrero, Teague
Dennis Doud, Flint
Diana Gonzalez, Houston
Diane McCauley, Waco
Diane Tritico, Fort Worth
Diane Glidewell, Richardson
Diann Read, Bacliff
Dj Siggor, Cedar Park
Donna Campion, Spring
Donna Gray, Ballinger
Donna Ray, Wills Point
Dorinda McLeod, New Braunfels
Dorothy Herrmann, Killeen
Dorothy Smith, Friendswood
Doug Rowen, Burleson
Douglas Rowe, Killeen
Edith Williams, San Antonio
Edward Kubicek, Bryan
Elena Torres, Victoria
Eric Brown, Irving
Eric Walton, Harker Heights

“

**Better school lunches.
More after school care.
Better understanding
of the students.**

”

- SHARON LYONS
DALLAS, TX

“

**I think children need to learn
at their own pace and be able
to receive the advanced
education that would
benefit them and give them
the chance to benefit the
workforce.**

”

- DEBRA KENNEDY
TEMPLE, TX

“

**Provide more
individualized attention
to the students and a
smaller class.**

”

- ANITA ORTIZ
SAN ANTONIO, TX

“

**I have always opted
to put my kids in charter
schools instead of [traditional]
public schools. The classrooms
are smaller, and kids get one-
on-one learning from the
teachers.**

”

- MARIA DAVALOS
DALLAS, TX

SIGNATORIES

Erin Sink, San Antonio
Francis Walker, Houston
Frank Rosati, Corpus Christi
Fred Hinkle, Blue Ridge
Garrett Seeley, Mount Calm
George Pease, Madisonville
Gerard Pare, El Paso
Gilford Lord, Fort Worth
Glynis Wentzel, Austin
Graland Rogers, Burleson
Greg Tallant, Denton
Hal Egger, Spring
Heather Handley, Houston
Hien Cao, San Antonio
Hollie Cooksey, Omaha
Imole Adeyemi, Arlington
Ivy Cameron, Killeen
Jan Dickerson, Happy
Janice Patterson, Bryan
Javier Rodarte, South Houston
Jean Izuora, Richmond
Jeanette Vanbeek, Castroville
Jenee Rossum, Ore City
Jesus Castaneda, San Antonio
Jhonna Niver, Houston
Jimmy Plantilla, Mission
JoAnn Toler, Katy
jose felix, Houston
Jose Sotello, Harlingen
Jose Martinez, Kingwood
Julie Morgan, Bertram
Karen James, Forney
Katherine Okulewicz, Spring
Kathryn Celestine, Houston
Keith Dale, Fort Worth
Kelly Sorken, San Antonio
Ken Moon, Arlington
Kendra Adkins, Fort Worth
Kenneth Weber, Irving
Kenneth Campbell, Dallas
Kimberly Navarrete, El Paso
Krista Jilek, Bedford

“
Local and state businesses should be actively involved in [deciding] curriculum and assuring more than adequate funding.”

- CHERYLANN CAMPBELL
OWNER AND CONSULTANT,
C2 HRSOLUTIONS LLC
AUSTIN, TX

“
Not enough technical coverage... Should be more fields covered. Students need to be taught by real craftsmen.”

- DALE WINDHAM
CENTER, TX

“
In high school, they learn nothing beneficial for their lives, learning how to have a banking account...look for a rental house or learn about doing bills.”

- JENNIFER ESCAMILLA
PLAINVIEW, TX

“
I think they need to bring back home economics, and electives they don't teach anymore. Kids are coming out of schools not knowing how to perform basic math skills like balancing a check book and such.”

- CHERYL BECERRA
WICHITA FALLS, TX

SIGNATORIES

Kristyn Underwood, Garland
Larry Bohannon, Houston
Laurence Griffin, Bowie
Leslie Laws, San Antonio
Leslie Duck, Nocona
Lisa Richard, Austin
Lisa Johnson, Kemah
Lori Reidy, Waxahachie
Loru Cooper, Cedar Hill
Louetta Powell, Spring
Louis Miranda, San Antonio
Lyndsey Sandoval, Houston
Mandy Hernandez, Texas City
Margaret Buehler, Houston
Margaret Bache, Montgomery
Margarita Granados, Dallas
Maria Casarez, Corpus Christi
Maria Gutierrez, Sachse
Marian Hays, Frisco
Marilyn Wayte, Wichita Falls
Mark Wentzel, Austin
Marsha Moorehead, Texas City
Martha Hedricks, Navasota
Martha watson, San Antonio
Martin Bellone, Palestine
Martin Frohlich, Carrollton
Mary Hughes, Fort Worth
Mary McMahan, Manvel
Mary DeHoyos, Schertz
Mary Rodriguez, Del Rio
Mary McCreery, Joshua
MaryAnne B. Phillips, Houston
Matthew Nguyen, Royse City
Megan Eggleston, San Antonio
Meghan Frazier, Longview
Melinda Mason, Kemp
Meredith Millspaugh, Spring
Michael Hayes, Plano
Michael Hewitt, San Antonio
Minh Vu, Houston
Monica Moore, Springtown
Nancy Smith, Bryan

“

Schools are too focused on the stupid STAAR test. They only teach them to pass the test, which stresses the poor kids out.

”

- APRIL CARDENAS
SAN ANTONIO, TX

“

They are not preparing kids adequately...I see a lack of critical thinking skills, which is what happens when you teach to pass common core testing.

”

- NANCY SMITH
BRYAN, TX

“

Our schools are teaching a test and not life skills.

”

- KAREN KINSEY
KATY, TX

“

We switched to Innovation Academy because the local school (Longview ISD) is more concerned with the STAAR test than her needs...IA is focused on learning, not tests.

”

- DAVID WILCOX
LONGVIEW, TX

SIGNATORIES

Nelson Piedra, North Richland Hills
Norman Berls, Katy
Pam Domingue, League City
Pamela Schmidt, Wichita Falls
Patricia Knox, Austin
Patricia Riley, Amarillo
Patricia Benegas, Grand Prairie
Patty Mines, Converse
Paul Barker, Houston
Pennie Lowetz, Weatherford
Penny Michalko, Orange
Peter Dougherty, Dallas
Quay Alexander, Granbury
Ralph Frazier, Sour Lake
Raymen Halkyard, Canyon Lake
Raymond Martinez Jr, Castroville
Raynaldo Vasquez Jr, Harlingen
Rebecca Syma, San Antonio
Ricardo Lopez, El Paso
Richard Thompson, Round Rock
Richard Smith, Amarillo
Richard Crampton, Galveston
Rinda Davis, Hico
Roberta Kinsey, Arlington
Roberta Bigge, Grand Prairie
Roberto Rodriguez, San Antonio
Rodney Strnadel, Bastrop
Rosemary Horvath, Joshua
Roxanne McGatha, Tyler
Roy Norwood, Karnack
Sabine Wiegand, Portland
Sage Rylind, San Antonio
Sandra Lee, Magnolia
Sandra Noles, Prosper
Sandra Ang, Missouri City
Sandra Hanford, Wills Point
Sarah Kangas, La Porte
Selma Nombrana, Austin
Sharon Mladenka, Seguin
Shelly Swick, San Antonio
Sherrie Harvey, San Antonio
Sherry Snooks, San Antonio

“

I believe Texas is making some positive strides in preparing our students, but there are gaps. There are specific trade schools that prepare students in specific skills if they choose not to go to a traditional school.

”

- DANA FINLEY
SAN ANTONIO, TX

“

The schools are teaching tests. They are not teaching morals, values, and integrity.

”

- JULIE MCMURTRY
SPRING, TX

“

Regular local schools do not provide enough preparation for students for the workforce or college. Whereas, charter schools offer not only skills and some technical training, but preparation for the workforce or further education.

”

- VANESSA GRIFFITHS
HOUSTON, TX

SIGNATORIES

Sherry Meyer, Cibolo
Sheryl Lipschitz, Mesquite
Silvia Vandenberg, Austin
Sonja Wiles, Irving
Stephanie Haberman, Texarkana
Susan Sandquist, Wolfe City
Susi Williams, Killeen
Susy Kennedy, San Antonio
Sydney TerMorshuizen, Helotes
Ta Ling, Harker Heights
Tammi Dufresne, Pflugerville
Tammy Edwards, El Paso
Tammy Hammock, Nederland
Taylor Sparks, Waco
Ted Howard, Huntington
Teena Welch, Taylor
Teresa Stoker, Austin
Terri Texcell, Allen
Theresa Capps, Wichita Falls
Thomas Jankowski, Devine
Tim Rowzee, Nederland
Tracy Clark, Arlington
Trung Le, Fort Worth
Valetta Watts, Boerne
Virginia Irizarry, Sugar Land
Virginia Swenson, Devine
Vita Kushel, Cleburne
Walter Woodliff, Woodway
Wanda Hall, Irving
Wanda Ferguson, Dallas
Wanda Cowand, Tomball
Whitney Vasquez, Spring
Yvonne Schuerman, Carrollton
Zelma Gragg, College Station

“

Students need to be immersed in a well-rounded environment, to include home economics, business courses, consideration of others, training, woodshop, etc.

”

- SHERRIE HARVEY
SAN ANTONIO, TX

“

We need more opportunities to partner with school systems... apprenticeship or internship programs for meaningful on-site learning.

”

- JESSICA ATTAS
VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLIC POLICY,
GREATER WACO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
WACO, TX

“

No vocational training at all.

”

- CATHY CARROLL
CLYDE, TX

“

Our local schools are not preparing students well; are not pushing trades as viable career paths; and there is a disconnect between career counselors and business leaders.

”

- JENNIFER PEREZ,
EL PASO, TX

SIGNATORIES

“

Our son needed what the local charter school specializes in: smaller classes lead by passionate people who are well compensated and who are allowed to take time for students like our child.”

- LAURA LEA BLANKS
KILGORE, TX

“

In most public schools, there is no help for kids to decide what they want to do with their lives, or how to continue their lives in a responsible manner.”

- SHERYL LIPSCHITZ
MESQUITE, TX

“

So many parents are run out of the public school system because of extreme bullying of their kids...”

- MARY MCCREERY
JOSHUA, TX

“

The public education system and their unions push liberal ideas, open sex, aggressive behavior, 'if you want it just take it' instead of working hard for it.”

- JULIE MCMURTRY
SPRING, TX

SIGNATORIES

“ My first grader and kindergartner attend ILT charter schools. They are receiving a wonderful, multi-cultural experience learning Spanish and Chinese – and being taught the value of service, integrity, hard work, and honesty. ”

- JULIANA CHAMPLIN
FORT WORTH, TX

“ My parents ran a charter school and the kids had a higher rate of going to college than [traditional] public schools. Better education = successful citizens. ”

- TWILA HENDERSON
DENTON, TX

“ Only in charter schools are they coming out prepared... A child's individual efforts are rewarded. ”

- WILLIAM GARRISON
HOUSTON, TX

“ I think that any taxpayer money should follow the student to the school picked by the parents. This should include Christian charter schools. ”

- LARRY BOHANNON
HOUSTON, TX

ABOUT BUSINESS FORWARD

The Business Forward Foundation is an independent research organization that takes a business-minded look at policy issues affecting America's economic competitiveness. The Foundation combines insights and advice from more than 100,000 local business leaders across the country with rigorous policy analysis to educate the general public on some of the most important issues of our time.

INFO@BUSINESSFWD.ORG

BUSINESSFWD.ORG

1155 CONNECTICUT AVENUE NW
SUITE 1000
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

202.861.1270



BUSINESSFORWARD
FOUNDATION