

# Education Issues Austin City Council

February 19, 2015

# The Texas Constitution, Article 7, Sect. 1

A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools.

# Discussion Questions

- How do we increase the number of great public schools?
- How do we decrease the number of failing public schools?
- How do we give alternatives to a child who's needs are not being met in a great public school?
- Why doesn't the education system fix itself?

In 2012, just 44.2 percent of Texas public schools met No Child Left Behind adequate yearly progress standards. The state didn't release 2013 results because it was seeking the waiver.\*

\* USA Today, Feds Grant Texas No Child Left Behind Waiver (30 Sept 2013)

No Child Left Behind took effect in 2002 with the goal of making all children proficient in math and reading by 2014. \*

**\* USA Today, Feds Grant Texas No Child Left Behind Waiver (30 Sept 2013)**

The U.S. Education Department excused Texas from the most strenuous requirements of the Bush-era No Child Left Behind law, granting the state a reprieve from some of the standardized testing-based accountability standards it helped pioneer.\*

\* USA Today, Feds Grant Texas No Child Left Behind Waiver (30 Sept 2013)

There are 892 schools that are on the Public Education Grant list, which means either:

- 1) 50% or more of their students did not pass any of the state assessment subjects for two years,
- 2) 2) the school is rated “Improvement Required” or
- 3) 3) the school is rated “Academically Unacceptable.”\*

\*

Texas Education Agency, Public Education Grant (PEG) Frequently Asked Questions (9 Jan. 2014)

In the 2006 semester, 162,597 Texas students were enrolled in remedial classes at public higher education institutions. Such remediation cost \$206 million in General Revenue in the 2006-07 biennium.\*

\* Brooke Dollens Terry, The Cost of Remedial Education, Texas Public Policy Foundation (Sept. 2007)

Over 101,000 Texas students are now on waiting lists for charter schools.\*

\* Sue Owen, "Dan Patrick says 100,000 are on waiting list to attend Texas charter schools," Politifact Texas (11 Mar. 2013)

# The Answer

- Empower low-income families through child-centered funding.
- Changing incentives will create local based solutions.