

**BROKEN PROMISES II:**  
**THE TEXAS CHARTER SCHOOL SYSTEM AT FIVE YEARS**

**MAY 2001**



- The state has irrevocably lost over \$4.4 million dollars due to charter school closures and revocations. Additionally, the state has made overpayments of at least \$3.3 million to charter schools inflating their enrollment figures.
- Of the 98 charter schools rated by the Texas Education Agency in the 1999-2000 school year, only 5 received the highest possible rating, while more than *half* received the lowest possible rating.
- The charter school “franchise” movement is gaining momentum, as TFNEF has compiled evidence that at least 10 for-profit management companies are operating charter schools in Texas. Evidence shows that these for-profit companies produce large revenues but provide a less than acceptable education.
- Charter school teachers, on average, have *half* as much experience, are *half* as likely to be certified, are ten times *more* likely to have no college degree at all, and get paid less than their counterparts at other public schools. Charter schools have a higher average student-to-teacher ratio than traditional public schools and a teacher turnover rate that is more than *three times* that of public schools.
- Most charter schools have not established a Limited English Proficient (LEP) program or Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC), as required by state and federal law. This is particularly disturbing given that fully one-third (38.8%) of charter school students are Hispanic.
- Religion pervades many charter school boards and classrooms, with these public schools failing to maintain the constitutionally-mandated separation between church and state.
- The un-elected charter school boards are wrought with nepotism and conflicts of interest, and are unaccountable to the students, teachers and communities they are meant to serve.

Contrary to the promises of better academic performance, improved efficiency and more educational choices, the overloaded and unregulated charter school system has actually *eroded* the quality of public education in Texas.

**Charter schools promised academic excellence, but instead delivered less qualified, less experienced teachers, larger class sizes, lower performing schools, and abysmal TAAS scores. Charter school advocates promised that with relaxed regulations would come increased efficiency and innovation, but the result has been only a lack of financial and procedural accountability. Charter schools also held out the promise of more educational choices for Texas students and teachers, but have in fact failed to provide innovative curriculum, actually restricted religious choice by allowing the influx of organized religion into these public schools, and produced a trend of “cookie-cutter” charter schools that are spreading across the state. This is not the picture painted by charter school advocates when the system was created five years ago.**

























































































































































