

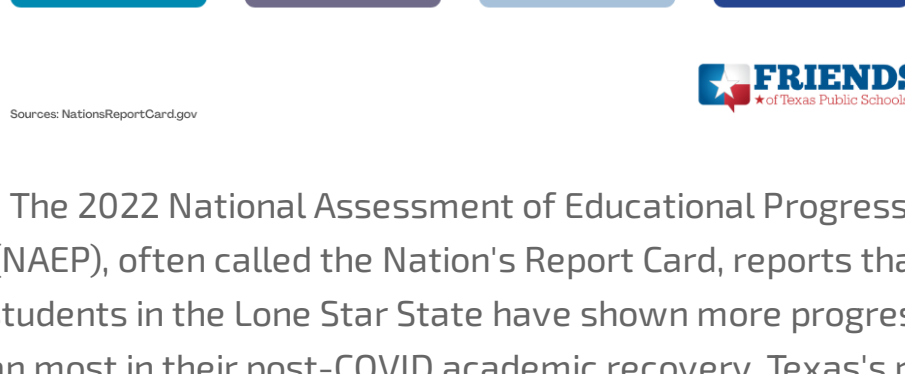


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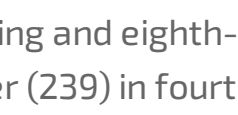
## TEXAS STUDENTS PERFORMED BETTER IN FOURTH-GRADE MATH THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE AND EXCEPTIONALLY WELL COMPARED TO THEIR PEERS

### NATION'S REPORT CARD FOURTH-GRADE MATH

2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress

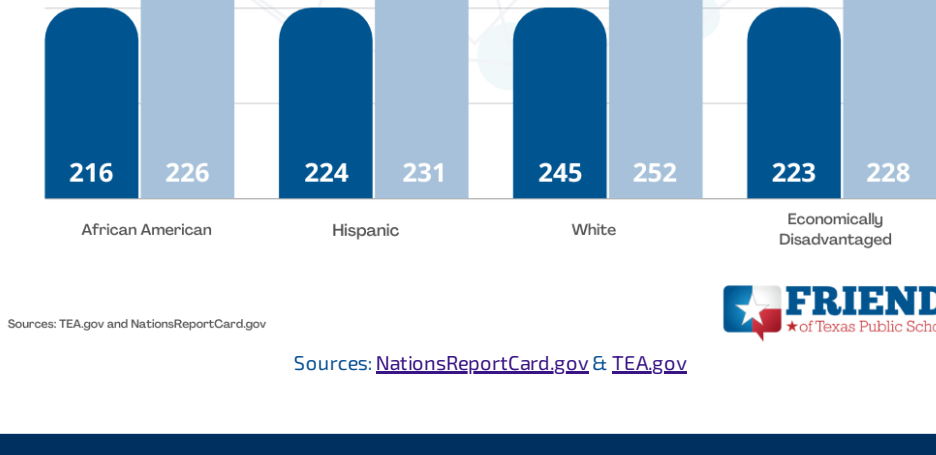


Sources: NationalReportCard.gov



The 2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), often called the Nation's Report Card, reports that students in the Lone Star State have shown more progress than most in their post-COVID academic recovery. Texas's rank improved in fourth- and eighth-grade reading and eighth-grade math. Texas students performed better (239) in fourth-grade math than the national average (235) and exceptionally well compared to their peers. African American, Hispanic, White, and Economically Disadvantaged students ranked 1st, 4th, 2nd, and 6th in the U.S. African American students also rank 1st in math in eighth grade. Improvements in Texas's rank in reading for its students were also notable. In particular, students with disabilities' performance jumped from 34th to 17th in fourth-grade reading and from 48th to 14th in eighth-grade reading.

### Nation's Report Card Texas Comparison to the National Public FOURTH-GRADE MATH



Sources: TEA.gov and NationalReportCard.gov

Sources: [NationsReportCard.gov](https://www.nationsreportcard.gov) & [TEA.gov](https://www.tea.state.tx.us)



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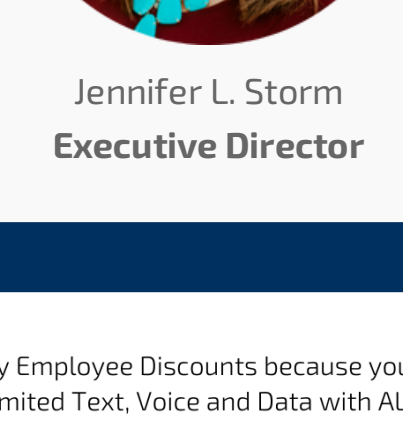


## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Texas educators-

We remain in awe of the great work you are doing in our schools and the countless ways you serve the over 5.5 million public school students statewide. Your efforts go far beyond the TEA accountability ratings and NAEP results - although those accomplishments are certainly worth celebrating! You continue to make a positive impact on your communities as leaders, teachers, and advocates for the future of our great state.

Keep up the great work, and Happy Thanksgiving!



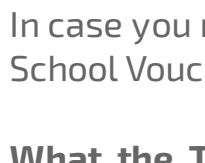
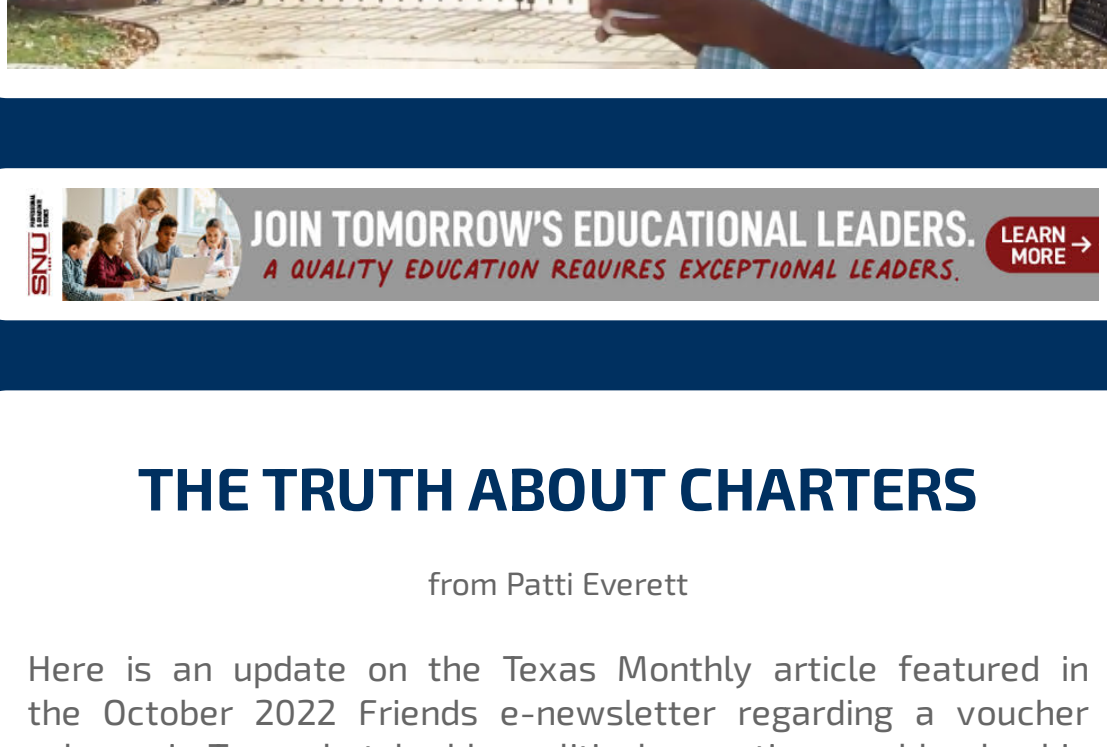
Jennifer L. Storm  
Executive Director



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## THE TRUTH ABOUT CHARTERS

from Patti Everett

Here is an update on the Texas Monthly article featured in the October 2022 Friends e-newsletter regarding a voucher scheme in Texas, hatched by political operatives and leadership of one of the largest charter operators in Texas - **ResponsiveEd**.

In case you missed it, read "Inside the Secret Plan to Bring Private School Vouchers to Texas" [here at Texas Monthly](#).

**What the Texas Public Charter School Association failed to tell you**

The CEO for the Texas Public Charter School Association (TPCSA) issued a statement about the voucher scheme reported in Texas Monthly, stating she knew nothing about it. But TPCSA **failed to mention**:

- The Texas Monthly article names leadership of Responsive Education Solutions (responsiveEd), one of the 10 largest charter operators in Texas, as a key organizer of the voucher scheme to siphon public funds to private schools through vouchers.
- The CEO of ResponsiveEd is also the Chair of the Texas Public Charter School Board of Directors.
- From Texas Monthly: "Their confidential proposal went like this: Wimberley would partner with Harris and Bennett's Texans for Education Rights Institute to create a charter school tentatively dubbed the Texas Achievement Campus. But 'campus' was a misnomer, because there would be none. The school would exist only on paper. Texans for Education Rights would then work with ResponsiveEd, Whitehurst's group, to place K-12 students from around the state into private schools of their choice at 'no cost to their families.'" In a statement from TPCSA, "The Texas Public Charter School Association does not support any attempt to violate the intent behind SB 1882. Texas Monthly reported that this plan was 'spearheaded' by an infamous provocateur...TPCSA has no relationship with this person and had no knowledge of his plan."The statement includes no mention of ResponsiveEd or the role of its CEO in the leadership of TPCSA.

**Education Organizations Speak Out: Response to Voucher Scheme**

Below are a couple of excerpts from the statements.

### **Texas School Alliance**

"The Wimberley example illustrates the lengths to which vouchers privateers will go to get their hands on taxpayer dollars and to skirt the will of the Legislature, which has repeatedly made its opposition to vouchers clear. The article also raises serious questions about the Texas Education Agency's ability to honor legislative intent and protect taxpayers from these types of privatization plans."  
- Dr. Brian Woods, Texas School Alliance President

### **Raise Your Hand Texas**

"We also share the concerns of many Texans that our current education system could be manipulated to ignore the will of the Legislature and people of Texas. The threat of voucher advocates possibly shopping this model to other school districts should give any school leadership pause, and cause concern for our state and local leaders who want more accountability - not less - for their constituents' tax dollars."

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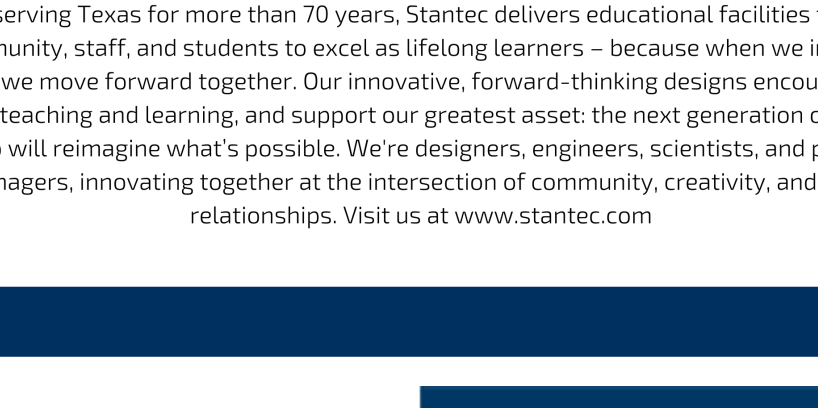
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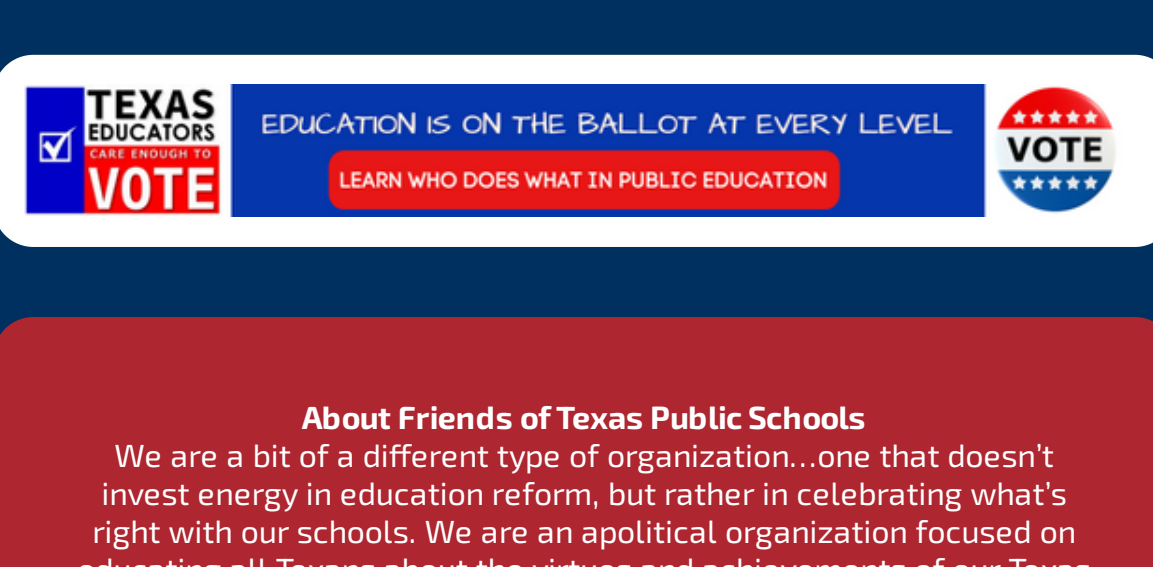
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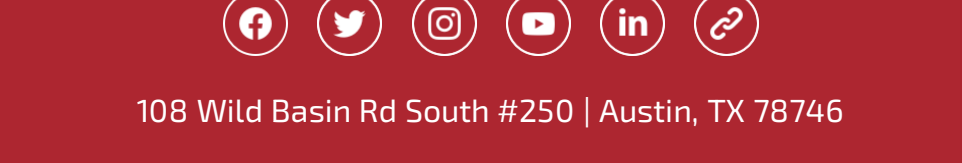
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We are a bit of a different type of organization...one that doesn't invest energy in education reform, but rather in celebrating what's right with our schools. We are an apolitical organization focused on educating all Texans about the virtues and achievements of our Texas public schools.



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