



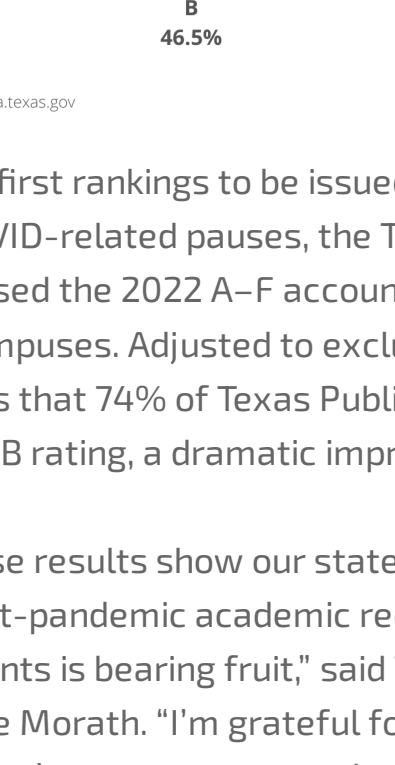
FRIENDS
of Texas Public Schools

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74% OF TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL CAMPUSES ACHIEVE A OR B RATING DESPITE COVID-19 CHALLENGES

2022 TEA Accountability Ratings

Adjusted to exclude open-enrollment charter school campuses



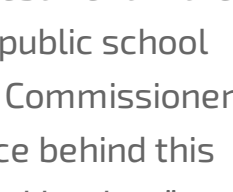
A Rating
212 Public School Campuses

B Rating
527 Public School Campuses

C Rating
153 Public School Campuses

Not Rated* - Senate Bill 1365
480 Public School Campuses

Source: tea.texas.gov




In the first rankings to be issued since 2019 due to two years of COVID-related pauses, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) released the 2022 A–F accountability ratings for districts and campuses. Adjusted to exclude charter schools, the data shows that 74% of Texas Public School campuses received an A or B rating, a dramatic improvement from 60.6% in 2019.

“These results show our state’s significant investment in the post-pandemic academic recovery of Texas public school students is bearing fruit,” said Texas Education Commissioner, Mike Morath. “I’m grateful for the driving force behind this year’s success: *our teachers and local school leaders.*”

Sources: [TEATexas.gov](#) & [TEATexas.gov](#)

62% of users received student loan forgiveness with Chipper

[See if You Qualify](#)

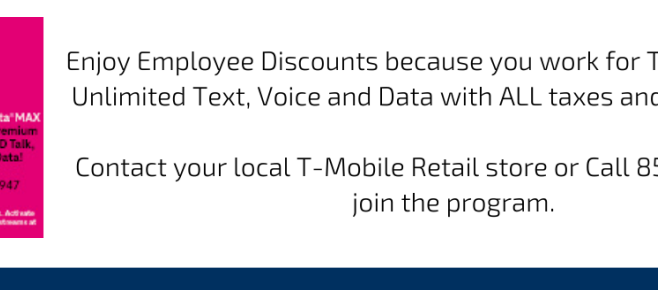



A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDERS

Each year we mail more than 20,000 posters to every public school principal and superintendent in Texas to hang with pride for all to see! Your staff and community should know how well their schools are performing.

Be positive. Be loyal. Be proud...and God bless all of you doing His work in our public schools!

–Leslie & Scott Milder



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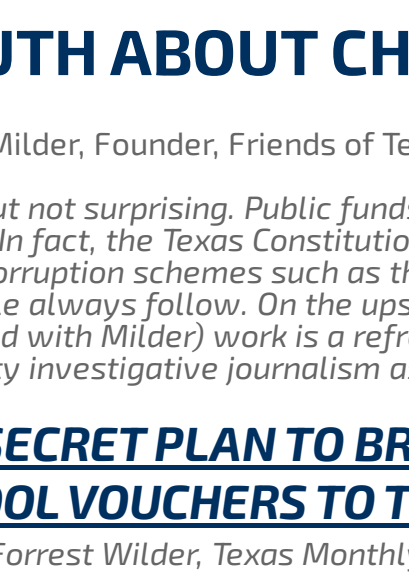
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

By now, your school campuses and administrative offices have received our annual inspirational posters. We hope educators, students, and parents will enjoy seeing the positive news posted upon entering their local school buildings.

Friends is honoring Laura Yeager of Texas Educators Vote and Just Fund It; Dr. Shannon Allen, Superintendent at Beaumont ISD; and Dr. Bob Thompson of the Thompson Executive Leadership Program at our 18th annual Friend of the Year Awards Dinner. We would love for you to join us! Tables and tickets are available for purchase [here](#).

PS – new this year, come for dinner and stay for the Age of Learning after-party!

We'd love to see you on November 9 in Waco!



Jennifer L. Storm
Executive Director

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHARTERS

A note from Scott Milder, Founder, Friends of Texas Public Schools

This is outrageous, but not surprising. Public funds should not be gifted to private entities. In fact, the Texas Constitution prohibits it (Art.3, Sect.52). Greed and corruption schemes such as the one featured in this Texas Monthly article always follow. On the upside, Forrest Wilder's (not to be confused with Milder) work is a refreshingly excellent example of quality investigative journalism as it's meant to be.

INSIDE THE SECRET PLAN TO BRING PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHERS TO TEXAS

Forrest Wilder, Texas Monthly

The proposal landed on Greg Bonewald's desk like a pipe bomb. Bonewald, a soft-spoken career educator, had served as a teacher, coach, and principal in the fast-growing Hill Country town of Wimberley for fifteen years. In 2014, he took a bigger job as an assistant superintendent in Victoria, about two hours to the southeast. But he maintained an affection for Wimberley, and when its school board sought to bring him back as superintendent this year, he was thrilled. His honeymoon would be short.

In a document obtained by [Texas Monthly](#), stamped "Confidential" and dated May 3—the day after Bonewald was named the sole finalist for the job—a Republican political operative and a politically connected charter-school executive laid out an explosive proposal for "Wimberly [sic] ISD." (Out-of-townners frequently misspell "Wimberley," much to the annoyance of locals.) Apparently, the plan had been in the works for months and had been vetted by the outgoing superintendent. But Bonewald said no one had bothered to mention it to him.

One of the authors of the plan was Aaron Harris, a Fort Worth-based GOP consultant who has made a name for himself by stoking—with scant evidence—fears of widespread voter fraud. In June, he cofounded a nonprofit called Texans for Education Rights Institute, along with Monty Bennett, a wealthy Dallas hotelier who dabbles in what he regards as education reform. The other author was Kalesse Whitehurst, an executive with the charter school chain Responsive Education Solutions, based in Lewisville, a half hour north of Dallas.

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."

The scheme was complex but it pursued a simple goal: turning taxpayer dollars intended for public education into funds for private schools. The kids would be counted as Wimberley ISD students enrolled at the Achievement Campus, thus drawing significant money to the district. (In Texas, public schools receive funding based in large part on how many students attend school each day.) But the tax dollars their "attendance" brought to the district would be redirected to private institutions across the state.

The plan was backed not only by an out-of-town Republican operative and a charter-school chain with links to Governor Greg Abbott, but by a Wimberley-based right-wing provocateur who bills himself as a "systemic disruption consultant." Texas education commissioner Mike Morath—an Abbott appointee—also seemed to support the deal.


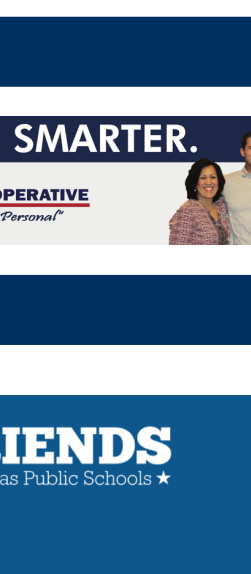
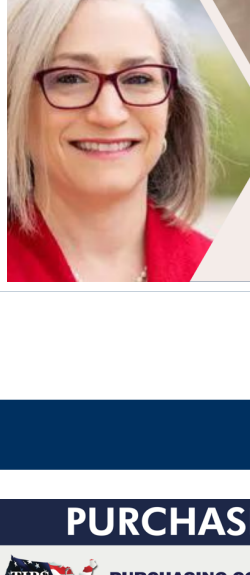
Its proponents have called the scheme pioneering and innovative. Though the effort ultimately failed in Wimberley, one of its backers says he is shopping the plan around to other districts. Critics have raised all manner of alarms.

Read the rest of the story [here at Texas Monthly](#).

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18th Annual Friend of the Year Dinner

Wednesday, Nov. 9th
Baylor Club, Waco

Founders Distinguished Service | Dr. Bob Thompson
Ambassador of the Year | Dr. Shannon Allen
Friend of the Year | Mrs. Laura Yeager

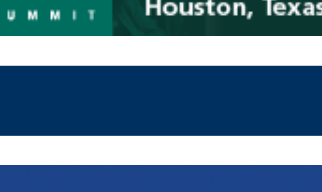
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You Are Cordially Invited

Please join Age of Learning for a reception immediately following the Friend of the Year Awards Dinner

The Baylor Club
Presidential Suite | 5th Floor, Room 500
November 9, 2022
8:45 p.m.

[Save your seat!](#)

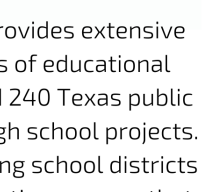
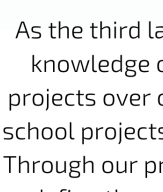



2nd Annual
Public Education
ADVOCACY SUMMIT

Thursday, Nov. 10th
Truett Seminary, Waco

Postponed

Stay tuned for details on on upcoming events.




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DIAMOND PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

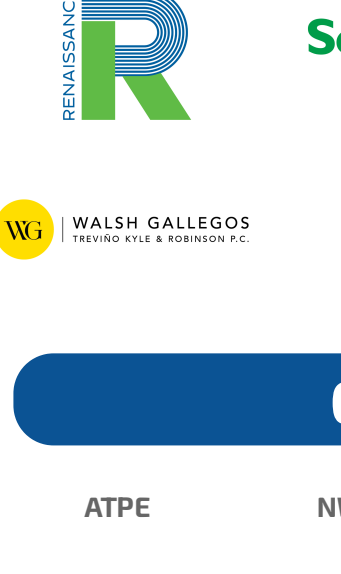


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As the third largest educational architecture firm in the U.S., VLK Architects provides extensive knowledge of school design. We have produced more than ten billion dollars of educational projects over our 37-year history; during the past five years, VLK has designed 240 Texas public school projects, of which 180 were new ground-up elementary, middle, and high school projects. Through our processes, like VLK | CURATION® and VLK | LAUNCH®, we are helping school districts redefine the educational architecture design process by facilitating a collaborative process that engages communities, students, parents, and staff to deliver buildings that exceed expectations and enhance teaching and learning. Many of our clients are fast-growth school districts, so we are well adapted to handling complex, fast-paced project schedules that require intense coordination with the client to ensure their protocols and systems are properly implemented. Our clients' schools consistently win awards from TASA and TASB for value, educational appropriateness, sustainability, and design.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!


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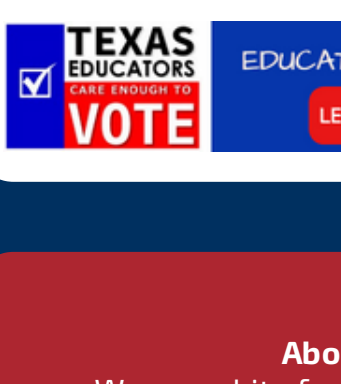
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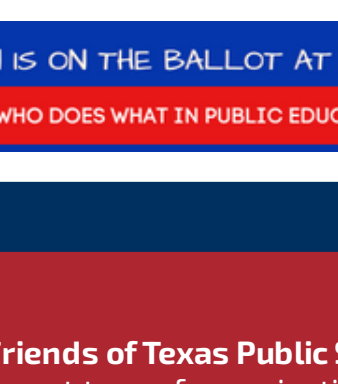
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About Friends of Texas Public Schools

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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