

APRIL 20, 2020

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION NOW:
OPPOSE THE NEW BASIS CHARTER SCHOOL IN AUSTIN'S CRESTVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD**

Basis Charter Schools (Texas) is an Arizona-based charter chain that currently runs 3 campuses in San Antonio. Basis has asked the Texas Education Agency for approval to open two new campuses in Austin. The first is a K-4 campus to open in August 2020 in the Crestview neighborhood, with plans to open a 5-12 grade campus in 2021. The chosen location for the K – 4 campus is at the site of Crestview Baptist Church (1501 Dartmouth) in Austin.

Please send an email to Mike Morath, the Commissioner of Education, expressing your concern about the approval of Basis charter schools in Austin, and post this information on social media to inform other parents and community members (mike.morath@tea.texas.gov). The decision is expected soon, so please act now.

Here are critical concerns about Basis Charter Schools:

- **There is no need for a new charter school in the Crestview neighborhood. There are already high performing AISD elementary schools near the proposed Basis location.**
Two AISD schools are less than 1 mile from the Basis location: Wooten Elementary is rated **B** on state accountability; and Brentwood Elementary is rated **A**. Five additional AISD elementary schools are less than 2.5 miles away: Reilly Elementary is rated **A**; TA Brown Elementary is rated **C**; Gullett Elementary is rated **B**; Pillow Elementary is rated **C**; and Padron Elementary is rated **B**.

- **Basis does not serve students who are representative of students in this Austin neighborhood.**

Basis serves a significantly disproportionate percentage of certain student populations compared to the percentage served by Austin elementary schools that are near the proposed Basis campus:

Students	Basis Charter Schools in San Antonio	Nearby Austin ISD Schools
Special Education	1.8%	Up to 17.0%
Economically Disadvantaged	5.5%	Up to 97.1%
English Language Learners	14.2%	Up to 82.9%
At-Risk	22.3%	Up to 88.6%

- **Basis charter schools will drain funding from Austin ISD schools and harm all Austin students.**
AISD estimates that the district will lose an estimated \$21.4 million in revenue over ten years if the Basis schools open, and recapture payments will increase by \$2.7 million in year 6 after Basis opens. This loss of revenue to the district will have an impact on all Austin students.
- **Keep taxpayer dollars in Texas.**
Basis is managed by an Arizona-based for-profit charter management organization affiliated with the school's founders which has been paid an estimated \$17.5 million of Texas taxpayer dollars over the last seven years from the 3 schools that Basis currently operates in San Antonio.
- **Texas faces a dire budget situation: All available state funds should be used to support existing public schools meet current challenges and ensure that Texas can keep the promises made in HB 3.**
Rather than paying for a new charter school that isn't needed and hasn't been requested by Austin parents, Texas should focus state dollars where they are needed the most.

For more information on Basis Charter Schools: See Washington Post (March 30, 2017) at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2017/03/30/what-the-public-doesnt-know-about-high-performing-charter-schools-in-arizona/> and Basis Austin at <http://enrollbasis.com/basis-austin-primary/>