



# EMERGENCY ITEM: SCHOOL CHOICE

**Under Governor Greg Abbott's leadership, Texas is a national leader in education:**

- #1 for National Blue Ribbon Schools
- #1 for Tier One Research Universities
- One of the best high school graduation rates in the country
- Home to 10 of the top 100 public high schools in the U.S.

**An overwhelming majority of Texans support expanding school choice to all Texas families—including Republicans, Democrats, Independents, and people across rural, urban, and suburban Texas. And over 30 states already have school choice programs. When it comes to education, parents matter, and families deserve to choose the best education opportunities for their children.**

**Working with the Texas Legislature, Governor Abbott:**

- Provided more funding for public education than any other Governor of Texas with an all-time high of \$70.53 billion in FY 2023, a 45% increase since 2014
- Increased per-student funding to an all-time high with more than a 55% increase since 2014
- Launched the Parent-Directed Special Education Services in 2020, an education savings account pilot program for special education students, and passed into law by a bipartisan supermajority in 2021
- More than doubled the funding for the Parent-Directed Special Education Services program to \$93 million to provide \$1,500 grants for tutors and other support services to meet the needs of special education students

*One success of the Parent-Directed Special Education Services program is Jeremiah Kimmel, a student with Autism from Bell County. Thanks to the Governor's school choice pilot program, Jeremiah's grandmother got a say in the education that was best for him. Jeremiah is now receiving the education he needs to excel in school and in life.*

**To provide every Texas family with the opportunity to choose the best education path for their child, Governor Abbott will work with the Texas Legislature this session to:**

- Establish an Education Savings Account program with universal eligibility for all Texas schoolchildren and appropriate \$1 billion for the program to parents to choose the best education for their child
- Ensure participation is entirely voluntary for families and schools
- Increase public school choice opportunities by increasing funding for open-enrollment charter school facilities, expanding virtual education options, and improving access to inter- and intra-district transfer

**BUILDING A STRONGER TEXAS**