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Charter schools get the average school district funding per student; Hoping to get more money in any proposal to increase spending on public education

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ditional school districts, and they're continuing to fight the growth of charter schools in every venue they can.

"Folks who normally align against vouchers, charters, other kinds of programs like that or policies like that, don't have anything else to oppose besides charter schools," said Starlee Coleman, CEO of the Texas Charter School Association. "There's nowhere else that they need to train their fire."

Hoping For More Money

In 2017, charter advocates celebrated a historic win: first-time state funding to lease and maintain instructional buildings.

And this year, they appear poised for a windfall. The House has nearly unanimously backed a proposal to put billions of dollars into public schools, and the Senate is pushing for \$5,000 raises for the state's full-time teachers. Since charter schools get the average school district funding per student, they're likely to get more money in any proposal to increase spending on public education. They also have more economically disadvantaged students than the statewide average and would benefit from legislative efforts to direct more money to predominantly low-income schools.

Texas is one of the largest charter authorizers in the country, with 171 charter districts currently in operation. This school year, just under 6% of Texas public school students are enrolled in charters. But that percentage creeps higher in some major cities, which can be home to dozens of charter schools.

And while the number of new charter districts created has slowed to a trickle in the last few years, existing charter districts have been rapidly opening new cam-

pusés around the state.

But any gains charter schools make are sure to generate pushback from superintendents, board members, and teachers unions at independent school districts, many of who see state-spurred growth of the schools as an encroachment on their student enrollment, state funding and freedom from private control. Traditional public schools sometimes lose millions of dollars due to declining enrollment, as students leave for nearby charters.

"We have a small handful of very aggressive chain charters who are building schools, in many cases right across the street from a traditional public school where there is not the need for additional capacity," said Louis Malfaro, who heads the Texas chapter of the American Federation of Teachers, one of the most ferocious charter critics. "They were supposed to be labs of creativity. They've become franchises."

Parsing the differences between the two types of public schools can get tricky. Charter critics will point out that charter schools get more state funding than most urban school districts and contribute to the underfunding of traditional school districts. But charter advocates counter that they are not allowed to levy local taxes in order to raise any additional revenue, and so they need even more state money to match traditional school funding.

A letter signed by dozens of charter districts last month urged lawmakers not to take any money or flexibility away from their schools and students and to "support a level playing field" for both charters and traditional public schools.

Charter critics have the backing of certain lawmakers, including

Rep. Mary Gonzalez, D-Clint, who has filed a bill that would place a moratorium on new charter schools, as well as a bill requiring additional notification for school districts before charters open up a school nearby. The House Public Education Committee will take up her notification bill along with dozens of other charter-related bills Tuesday morning, some of which charter schools oppose.

Gonzalez said she is concerned Texas is building two parallel systems of public education "with different amounts of funding and different levels of transparency and different guidelines around accountability."

It's not clear how much traction the charter regulation bills will have this session, however. Charter advocates say they're not too worried.

"Charters are going to continue to be okay at the Legislature," Coleman said. "Generally speaking, we have a broad enough bipartisan coalition in the House and Senate that largely will prevent anything existential happening to charters."

AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE (ACC) DISTRICT is requesting sealed proposals from interested firms for selecting a respondent to provide Electronic Physical Security Goods and Services.

Request For Competitive Sealed Proposal (CSP) No. 936-19-0101-00-S-SM

All sealed proposals must be submitted to ACC's Procure to Pay (P2P) department by no later than Monday, April 29, 2019 at 2:00 P.M., Central Standard Time (CST).

Solicitation documents are available on ACC's P2P website at <http://www.austincc.edu/offices/purchasing/advertised-solicitations>, or at ACC's P2P department with advance notice at (512)-223-1269 between the hours of 9:00 A.M., and 4:00 P.M., CST, Monday through Friday. All responses must be sealed and returned to ACC's P2P department, located at the ACC Service Center, 9101 Tuscany Way, Austin Texas 78754, by the date and time indicated above. Electronically transmitted responses will NOT be accepted unless otherwise stated in the documents.

An optional Pre-Proposal Conference will be scheduled. Please see solicitation for information and details.

Sidney Burkins hired as Vice President – Collections with Greater Texas Credit Union

(AUSTIN, TX) - Sidney Burkins was recently hired as Vice President – Collections with Greater Texas Credit Union.

Sidney comes to Greater Texas from Resource One Credit Union in Dallas where he served as the Member Solutions Manager. In this role he managed a team of around 10 people in the Collections Department. He also had responsibility for regulatory compliance and business ethics within the credit union. Previous to that, Sidney was the Vice President Member Solutions with Mobility Credit Union for seven years and prior to that he was the AVP of Asset Management with Advancial Federal Credit Union. Overall, he has 18 years of experience in credit unions having served in various roles throughout his career. He brings a wealth of experience in process improvement, technol-



Sidney Burkins

ogy implementation, and operational efficiency enhancement.

With all of his years in credit unions, Sidney understands the relationship with members and brings that understanding into the world of collections with Greater Texas.

Sidney brings with him a Master's of Science in Human Resources Management from Southern New Hampshire University, and a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences from the University of

North Texas. When asked about joining the Greater Texas team, Sidney said, "It is my sincerest pleasure to be a part of the Greater Texas Family, an organization committed to serving the diversity that is Texas, which for me, makes Greater Texas FCU an attractive workplace and community partner."

Greater Texas Credit Union has 19 locations serving Texans since 1952 and is known as Aggieland Credit Union in the Brazos Valley.



Bid Proposal Invitation

COA Austin Community College (ACC) Highland Chilled Water Plant

BID DATE: April 29, 2019

TIME: 2:00 PM CT

DESCRIPTION: Flintco, LLC is requesting proposals for the construction of the COA Austin Energy ACC Highland Chilled Water Plant. This Package 2 work consists of the finish out of the 4,500 ton chiller plant to serve the ACC Highland Campus. This includes furnishing and installing chillers, cooling towers and tower platform, water pumps, air handlers, electrical distribution equipment, fire protection equipment, thermal energy tank, controls system, chemical storage shed, and other ancillary equipment per the design documents. The scope also includes installing architectural finishes for the plant, performing startup and commissioning of the plant, and providing all other requirements.

Proposals will be due on 4/29/2019 at 2:00 PM by email to AUSBids@flintco.com, via SmartBidNet.com, fax at (512) 822-7500, or hand delivery to the Austin office of Flintco, LLC located at 317 Grace Ln., Suite 150, Austin, TX 78746. Please contact Shannon Brunner (Shannon.brunner@flintco.com) for bid invitations via email or (512) 822-7468. Flintco, LLC is an EEO Employer and all HUB, M/WBE, Minority and Small Local Business Subcontractors are encouraged to bid.



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For information on the City of Austin's Minority/Women-Owned Procurement Program please contact the Small & Minority Business Resources at 512-974-7600 or visit www.austintexas.gov/smb.





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