What it **IS**
- Common definition of quality
- Continuous improvement process
- Holistic—operational, financial, academic

What it **IS NOT**
- NOT a separate accountability system
- NOT pass / fail
- NOT an evaluation without action

**TCSA Quality Framework**

**What is it?**

Quality Framework: A Simple, 3-step Process

**Step 1. Progress Self-Evaluation**
School leaders begin by engaging in a self-assessment of the current status of their schools within 10 Quality Framework systems. TCSA staff members are available to help support the process, but school leaders themselves choose how to conduct the evaluation.

**Step 2. Review + Data Pack**
TCSA visits with school leadership to review the Results Report and the Data Pack, two comprehensive reports that present both qualitative and quantitative school-level and district-level data to help schools identify and prioritize needs.

**Step 3. Tools + Resources**
TCSA works to match identified priorities with the tools, resources, and technical assistance that will help schools improve.

**STUDENT SUCCESS**

Academic Achievement & Growth • Post-secondary Readiness
Culture of High Expectation • Student Engagement • Social & Emotional Skills

**Mission & Vision**
- Core purpose
- Future State
- Values/Cultural Norms

**Stakeholder**
- Market Focus
- Community Partnerships

**Learning**
- Curriculum
- Assessment

**Leadership**
- Governance
- Planning

**Staff**
- Recruitment & Selection
- Development & Support
- Retention

**Safety & Support Services**
- Safe & Secure Environment
- Facilities
- Operational Services

**Fiscal Management**
- Financial Plan
- Budget
- Financial Oversight & Risk Management

**Public Accountability**
- Compliance
- Transparency

**Data Driven**
- Integrated Performance Management
- Data Analysis & Usage
- Data Security & Accuracy
Helped high-performing school discover need for and formulate succession plan to ensure school’s sustainability.

Perception versus actual data prevented an improving school from dedicating limited resources to an area of low need.
School leaders get real-time data on how their schools perform in order to prioritize needs and access best best best practices.
Aggregated data informs TCSA to provide statewide training, best practices, tools, and resources statewide in areas of highest need.

**Indicator: A succession plan is in place.**

* Note: this is a charter-holder level indicator

Your score: Not Evident  Individual School Score

How others rated themselves (your score category, if available, is denoted by the gold bar):
Across the United States, there are more than 5,500 charter schools, educating more than two million children. Over 500 new public charter schools opened their doors in the 2011-12 school year, an estimated increase of 200,000 students. This year marks the largest single-year increase ever recorded in terms of the number of additional students attending charters.

**CHARTER HISTORY**

**1991**

The first public charter schools in the United States were created in 1991 in Minnesota.

**MINNESOTA**

**1995**

Texas was not far behind when charter schools were authorized by the Texas Legislature in 1995 to provide another option to traditional public schools. In statute, legislators asked charter schools to improve student learning; increase choice and opportunities within the public school system; create professional opportunities to attract new teachers; establish a new form of accountability for public schools; and encourage different, innovative learning methods.

**TENNESSEE**

**2008**

Near the end of 2008, the Texas Charter Schools Association (TCSA) was formed by charter operators, philanthropic foundations, and business and community leaders to accelerate student achievement by improving and promoting a diverse set of effective and quality-driven public charter schools to provide opportunities and innovative education in Texas. Providing one voice for public charter schools in Texas, TCSA has advocated for favorable legislation to advance the charter school movement; created needed member services; established standards to measure academic results, leadership, public accountability and fiscal management at charter schools in Texas; and served as a resource for charter schools across the state.

**FIVE CHARTER SCHOOL TYPES IN TEXAS**

- **PreK/Elementary:** mission to expressly serve pre-K and/or Elementary students
- **Residential Treatment Center / Juvenile Detention Center:** mission to help students in a residential setting or who have been ordered or assigned to attend a school by court of law
- **Dropout Recovery:** mission to help students who have dropped out or are at-risk of dropping out in order to recover educational deficiencies
- **Specialized Mission:** mission to serve students in any grade level with a distinctive focus such as fine arts, languages, or STEM
- **College Preparatory:** mission to prepare students for a 4-year college degree*

*Other charter school types may also have a college preparatory mission in addition to their main mission type.

Data compiled from a 2012 self-reported survey of Texas Charter School Association members (as of February 2012).
Charter schools receive state funds based on the average daily attendance of students (same as traditional public schools).

Charter schools **DO NOT** receive funds from local tax revenue and **DO NOT** receive state facilities funding (less funding than traditional public schools).

Charter schools receive approximately $1,500 LESS in general fund revenue per pupil than traditional public schools, according to a Feb. 2011 Rolle study on funding inequities.

According to the Texas Comptroller’s FAST study, a quarter (25 percent) of the most effective schools in Texas are charter schools which means they improved student achievement while keeping expenditures relatively low. All this while Texas charter schools account for almost 3 percent of the student population, and educate a higher percentage of economically disadvantaged and minority students.

Charter schools are tuition-free, open-enrollment public schools that have the flexibility to adapt to the educational needs of individual students and allow taxpayer education dollars to support student and parent choice.

Charter school leaders are permitted more freedom in managing their schools with the complete autonomy over budget, staffing and curriculum. However, charter schools must still meet the rigorous academic and financial standards dictated by the State of Texas for all public schools.

All charter school students take the same STAAR and TAKS tests as traditional public school students, and receive accountability ratings from the TEA.

In the most recent standard accountability TAKS passing rates (2009-2010), charter school students outperform traditional public school students in Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies for economically disadvantaged, Hispanic and African American students.

The Texas State Board of Education is the sole authorizer for open-enrollment charter schools in Texas.

Charter schools in Texas are arbitrarily capped at 215, which limits the growth of quality charter options for families and students. As of 2012, 205 charters are taken, which leaves ten available. There are at least 56,000 students on a waiting list to get into a charter school in Texas, and many times, charter schools will use a lottery-based admission system to fairly allocate those limited opportunities for a seat.

Charter schools accept any student who applies (including using the lottery system), and many are serving at-risk, delinquent, or special needs students.

Across Texas, there are 482 charter schools with an estimated 135,000 students attending. This represents 3% of the more than 4.9 million students in Texas schools.

Nearly one tenth of charters are based in Texas, placing Texas third in the nation in the number of charter schools.