



# Public Statement

## Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.

### SEN. LUCIO FILES A BILL TO ENHANCE CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY

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**Austin, TX** – Today, Senator Eddie Lucio Jr. (D-Brownsville) issued the following statement regarding the filing of a bill that will enhance charter school accountability:

“Charter schools are a major piece of the education system in the Valley – nearly a quarter of the 300,000 students I represent are enrolled in charters funded by the state. However, the headline-grabbing luxury purchases made by a charter school last year – such as a private jet and box seats to NBA games – shed light on some of the ways these schools are not accountable to taxpayers the way public schools are. Charters that are funded by public money should be likewise accountable to the public.

“Last week, I filed SB 1081 to provide a level playing field and establish critical oversight measures for charter schools. The bill increases the transparency and accessibility of charters' boards of directors, allowing the public greater participation in the governance of the schools their children attend. It requires charters to teach all students, regardless of language, special needs, or discipline history - just as our public schools do. And it grants parity to charters in several key instructional measures that guarantee students' learning, safety, and well-being.

“Many of the provisions in SB 1081 are refiled from measures in previous sessions that received bipartisan consensus. This past support shows widespread agreement on the need for transparency and accountability for public dollars that fund charter schools in Texas. I look forward to working with stakeholders to create an environment in which charter schools can operate successfully and accountably in our communities.”

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*Sen. Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D – Harlingen) represents Cameron, Hidalgo, Kenedy, Kleberg, and Willacy Counties. He is the Vice-Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance; Vice-Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education; Member of the Senate Committees on State Affairs; Natural Resources & Economic Development; of the Special Committee on Redistricting; and, of the Select Committee Texas Ports. He is member of the Sunset Advisory Commission, DSHS COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Advisory Panel, and has been an ex-officio member of the DSHS Task Force of Border Public Health Officials since 2017. Elected in 1991, Lucio is third in seniority in the Texas Senate.*