

# 4-H Fast Facts

## ASSESSING AND WORKING WITH SCHOOLS

### 4-H PARTNERING WITH SCHOOLS

Texas AgriLife Extension Service and 4-H and Youth Development should work to be *partners* with local school systems in the education of youth, as both have the successful development of youth as a priority. Because of Extension's position with the *Land Grant University System*, Extension can provide resources to teachers that no other group can provide.

### EDUCATIONAL DEFINITIONS

PUBLIC SCHOOL	CHARTER SCHOOL	MAGNET SCHOOL	MONTESSORI SCHOOL	PRIVATE SCHOOL	HOME SCHOOL	TITLE ONE- IMPROVING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF THE DISADVANTAGED
Public school education is provided mainly by local governments, with control and funding coming from three levels: federal, state, and local. Curricula, funding, teaching, and other policies are set through locally elected school boards.	A charter school is a public school that is exempted from certain operating procedures required for regular public schools because of the charter. Like all public schools, charter schools must be non-religious and non-discriminatory and are often focused on a particular approach to educating students. A charter school is authorized to function once it has received a charter, a statutorily defined performance contract detailing the school's mission, program, goals, students served, methods of assessment, and ways to measure success. Charters are usually granted for three to five years.  Distinguishing characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operate as autonomous public schools.</li> <li>• Will use innovative teaching strategies</li> </ul>	A magnet school is one that holds a particular academic discipline as its focus (e.g., science, technology, arts) in order to attract students from schools in and out of the traditionally zoned boundaries. Initially, magnet schools were created in order to promote racial integration. Magnet schools are part of the public school system and operate under the public school administration. Additional monies may be available that are not available to a "public school."  Distinguishing characteristics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distinctive curriculum or instructional approach.</li> <li>• Attract students from outside an assigned neighborhood or attendance zone.</li> <li>• Have diversity as an explicit purpose</li> </ul>	A Montessori school is one whose instructional emphasis is on creating a stimulating environment for children that includes an abundance of hands-on materials with which students interact. These schools follow the philosophy of Maria Montessori, an educator who believed that children learn best when they have the opportunity to discover and learn in their own ways.	Private schools are not administered by local, state, or national government and retain the right to select their student body. They are funded in whole or in part by charging their students tuition rather than with public (state) funds. Religiously affiliated or denominational schools form a distinct category of private schools. Private schools often avoid some state regulations.	Homeschooling, also called home education or home school, is the education of children at home, typically by parents or guardians, rather than in a public or private school. Prior to the introduction of compulsory school attendance laws in the 19th Century, most childhood education worldwide occurred within the family or community with only a small portion of the population attending schools or employing tutors. Currently, the majority of children in developed nations receive their formal education at a public institution. Homeschooling is an option for parents who wish to provide a different learning environment for their children than they believe is attainable in public schools. It is also an alternative for those families who are unable, for practical or personal reasons, to comply with the regulations of a public school. Homeschooling may refer to instruction in the home under the supervision of correspondence schools or umbrella schools.	Title I, the cornerstone of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, is the largest federal education program. Students served by Title I funds include migrant children and youth; children and youth with limited English proficiency; children and youth who are homeless; children and youth who have disabilities; children and youth who are neglected, delinquent or at-risk; children in preschool activities; and any child or youth who is in academic need.  More than 90 percent of the school systems in the United States receive some sort of Title I funding.  Through Title I, the federal government disburses money to school districts based on the number of low-income families in each district as determined by census data. Each district uses its Title I money to supplement and improve regular education programs offered to help students meet state standards.


### WEBSITES FOR EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES

Texas Education Agency <a href="http://www.tea.state.tx.us">http://www.tea.state.tx.us</a>	National Education Agency <a href="http://www.nea.org">http://www.nea.org</a>	United States Department of Education <a href="http://www.ed.gov">http://www.ed.gov</a>	Communities in Schools <a href="http://www.cisnet.org">http://www.cisnet.org</a>
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## CLIMATE OF EDUCATION

This is information about Texas and national educational trends. Each of you may want to check with schools, 4-H volunteers who are employed in the schools or serve on the school board, or ask when making school contacts for their strategic plan (may be on website), vision, etc. This will assist you in knowing the trends that are affecting the local school systems.

<i>Age of Accountability</i>	We see this trend in all parts of society. Tax payers and citizens want to know that their money is spent in a way that accomplished the most.
<i>Alternative Assessment</i>	Alternative forms of evaluating student progress are changing testing or assessment in our schools. From the teacher-made to the standardized test, the familiar over-emphasis on multiple-choice items is giving way to expanded generative formats in which students are called upon to demonstrate mastery through applications in which they use complex processes and webs of knowledge and skill.
<i>At-Risk Students</i>	This trend has existed since the 1980's. The broadest definitions would include "youth who are at risk of not reaching their full potential"
<i>Bullying</i>	This trend has surfaced in the last five years. Schools are trying to make youth safe, not just from physical violence, but emotional violence.
<i>Brain Research</i>	Many of the schools are planning and using curriculum which exercises the brain or focuses on the right or left brain.
<i>Character Education</i>	The use of character education in the schools (and in communities) is a ten year trend.
<i>Conflict Resolution/Mediation</i>	Schools have been and still are having a focus in these areas. It has intensified with school violence.
<i>Cooperative Learning</i>	Cooperative learning is a successful teaching strategy in which small teams, each with students of different levels of ability, use a variety of learning activities to improve their understanding of a subject.
<i>Disaster Preparedness</i>	All parts of society (schools, Extension, 4-H) are have a focus on this topic.
<i>Extended School Year</i>	The term "Extended School Year" encompasses a range of options in providing programs in excess of the traditional 180-day school year. The issues of regression and recoupment have been pivotal in the litigation that has advanced the concept of extended school year. Regression has been described as the lack of maintenance or loss of skills over the summer recess. Recoupment is getting back that which was lost
<i>Home Schooling</i>	Parent (or parents) teach their children at home. Sometimes these families are organized in cooperatives where families work together to play on the knowledge or teaching strengths of parents in the group.
<i>Multicultural Education</i>	This has been a focus for twenty or more years
<i>"No Child Left Behind"</i>	This trend and phrase started in Texas with Governor Bush, but continued nationally when he became President
<i>School Choice</i>	The ability for parents to choose where their child attends schools, rather that youth be required to attend the school closest to their home.
<i>School to Work Transition</i>	School-to-Work (STW) Transition is an education initiative that brings educators, students, business, and industry together to help young people progress smoothly from their classrooms to their careers. STW programs are aimed at developing an integrated secondary school curriculum that facilitates students' transition from school to the workplace.
<i>School Violence</i>	No definition or explanation needed.
<i>Standards Movement</i>	We see this trend in Texas with TAKS, TEEKS, etc

<b>PARTNERS IN EDUCATION</b>	<b><u>Communities In Schools (CIS)</u></b>	This mission of Communities in Schools is to champion the connection of needed community resources with schools to help young people successfully learn, stay in school and prepare for life. By bringing caring adults into the schools to address children's unmet needs, CIS provides the link between educators and the community. The result: teachers are free to teach, and students - many in jeopardy of dropping out - have the opportunity to focus on learning.	
	<b>Parent Teacher Association</b>	PTA is a grassroots organization made up of parents, teachers and others around the state who have a special interest in children, families and schools. PTA membership is as diverse as Texas is in cultures, education levels and parenting skills.	<a href="http://www.pta.org/">http://www.pta.org/</a>
	<b>Texas Association of Partners in Education (PIE)</b>	The mission of the Texas Association of Partners in Education is "To provide leadership and expertise for schools, families, businesses and communities to build partnerships that enhance student success".	<a href="http://www.tape.org">http://www.tape.org</a>