



SPECIAL EDUCATION MODEL POLICIES for OPEN-ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOLS

AS REQUIRED BY 20 U.S.C. §1413(A)(1)

Charter School: **Universal Academy**
County School No.: **057808**

To further promote local initiative, the 1995 revision of the Texas Education Code (TEC) established a new type of public school, known as a charter school. Charter schools are subject to fewer state laws than other public schools with the idea of ensuring fiscal and academic accountability without undue regulation of instructional methods or pedagogical innovation. Like traditional school districts, charter schools are monitored and accredited under the statewide testing and accountability system.

According to the TEC, the purposes of charter schools are to (1) improve student learning; (2) increase the choice of learning opportunities within the public school system; (3) create professional opportunities that will attract new teachers to the public school system; (4) establish a new form of accountability for public schools; and (5) encourage different and innovative learning methods.

The Universal Academy Open-Enrollment Charter School, assures that it has (or will have upon opening for initial charter applicants) policies and procedures in place that ensure implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004 (IDEA) and all federal regulations, Texas laws, State Board of Education (SBOE) rules, and Commissioner's rules concerning students with disabilities receiving special education services, and further assures that any future amendments to the regulations, laws, and rules will be incorporated into policies and procedures and implemented by the charter school.

Where “school” or “public school” is used in chapters of the TEC that are applicable to open-enrollment charter schools, the Universal Academy Open-Enrollment Charter School hereby substitutes the term “open-enrollment charter school” to conform to the applicable requirements or prohibitions. An open-enrollment charter school is subject to federal laws governing public schools. (TEC §12.103(a))

Companion Guide to these Policies: (1) *Texas Open-Enrollment Charter School Handbook* (TEA, Division of Charter School Administration, September 2011), available at: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/charter/>; and (2) for paid subscribers, the 2012 Model Policy Series (Texas Charter Schools Association, 2012, available at: http://www.txcharterschools.org/model_policies).