

If needed, Universal Academy open-enrollment charter school may contract with a public or private facility, institution, or agency inside or outside of this State for the provision of services to students with disabilities. Each contract for residential placement must be approved by the Commissioner. The Commissioner may approve a residential placement contract only after at least a programmatic evaluation of personnel qualifications, adequacy of physical plant and equipment, and curriculum content. The Commissioner may approve either the whole or a part of a facility or program. (TEC §29.008(a))

When a student, including one for whom the State is managing conservator, is placed primarily for care or treatment reasons in a private residential facility that operates its own private education program, none of the costs may be paid from public education funds. If a residential placement primarily for care or treatment reasons involves a private residential facility in which the education program is provided by the open-enrollment charter school, the portion of the costs that includes appropriate education services, as determined by the admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee, shall be paid from State and Federal education funds. (TEC §29.008(c))

If Universal Academy contracts for the provision of education services rather than providing the services, Universal Academy shall oversee the implementation of the student's individualized education program (IEP) and shall annually reevaluate the appropriateness of the arrangement. An approved facility, institution, or agency with whom the open-enrollment charter school contracts shall periodically report to the open-enrollment charter school on the services the student has received or will receive in accordance with the contract as well as diagnostic or other evaluative information that the open-enrollment charter school requires in order to fulfill its obligations under Subchapter A (Special Education), Chapter 29, Texas Education Code. (TEC §29.008(d))

For additional information, see the *Least Restrictive Environment* policy.