

***Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)***

It is the policy of Universal Academy open-enrollment charter school to ensure that all students with disabilities within its jurisdiction, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, and who are in need of special education and related services, are identified, located, and evaluated and a practical method is developed and implemented to determine which students with disabilities are currently receiving needed special education and related services in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

It is the policy of the Universal Academy open-enrollment charter school to ensure that a free appropriate public education (FAPE) is available to all students with disabilities beginning no later than when the student turns three through the school year in which the student reaches 21 years of age, including students who have been suspended or expelled from school in accordance with the IDEA. (34 CFR §300.18)

Eligible students with disabilities shall enjoy the right to a FAPE, which may include instruction in the regular classroom, instruction through special teaching, or instruction through approved contracts. Instruction shall be supplemented by the provision of related services when appropriate. (TEC §29.003(a))

FAPE means special education and related services that are provided at public expense, meet standards set out by TEA, include appropriate preschool, elementary school and secondary school, and the services are provided in accordance to the student's IEP. (20 U.S.C. 1401(9); 34 C.F.R. §§300.13, 300.17, and 300.36)

A free appropriate public education requires Universal Academy open-enrollment charter school to provide each student who qualifies for special education and related services, an education that confers some educational

## **UNIVERSAL ACADEMY**

County School No.: **057808**

benefit to the student. (34 CFR §300.17; *Bd. of Edu. Hendrick Hudson Cent. Sch. Dist. v. Rowley*, 458 U. S. 176, (1982))

Each student who receives special education and related services, will receive an individual education program, be educated in the least restrictive environment, and services will be provided in a coordinated manor to ensure students make progress. (*Cypress-Fairbanks ISD v. Michael F.*, 118 F.3d 245 (5th Cir. 1997)).