

Urban Pathways K-5 College Charter School

Board of Trustees Policy

INSTRUCTION IN THE HOME POLICY

The Board of Trustees directs the CEO or designee of Urban Pathways K-5 College Charter School ("Charter School") to implement procedures needed to comply with applicable state and federal requirements, including the following guidelines in the Pennsylvania Department of Education ("PDE") Basic Education Circular:

INSTRUCTION CONDUCTED IN THE HOME

Instruction conducted in the home is included in the definition of special education in the federal regulations and is recognized as a placement option on the continuum of alternative placements for students with disabilities. It is highly restrictive and should only be considered when less restrictive placements are not appropriate in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.

The use of instruction conducted in the home is typically restricted to students whose needs require full-time special education services and programs outside the school setting for the entire day.

Although a student placed by the student's Individualized Education Program ("IEP") team on instruction conducted in the home does not receive the student's program in the school setting, the student remains entitled to a free and appropriate public education equal to the student's non-disabled peers, unless this amount of instruction would jeopardize the child's health or welfare. In such cases, the IEP team can agree on fewer hours of instruction so long as the student still receives a free and appropriate public education pursuant to the student's IEP.

For students placed on Instruction Conducted in the Home, IEP Teams may consider technological options such as web conferencing, distance learning, video conferencing, and virtual classrooms to connect students to the classroom and schools, when appropriate, to provide access to teachers, peers, and to provide additional participation and learning opportunities.

In all circumstances involving the placement of a student on instruction conducted in the home, the Charter School must file any report or other documentation promulgated

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by the PDE within 5 days of the placement or as required by PDE. Charter School must supply the PDE with information about the student that is required (the student's disability, and the anticipated length and reason for the placement). In addition, Charter School must provide information regarding the person in Charter School whom PDE can contact to discuss the placement if necessary. The web-based reporting system, Special Education Students at Home Reporting System (email at SES@Home) must be used for such reporting. (Charter Schools should use their Administrative Unit Number (AUN) as the user name to log into the reporting system. The password is identical to the one used to log into the Cyclical Compliance Monitoring System. For assistance identifying a user name and password, the school districts and charter schools may contact the Bureau of Special Education by phone at 717-783-6134.)

Instruction conducted in the home is not an appropriate option if the IEP team is experiencing difficulty in arranging the program or placement that a student requires. In such cases, the Charter School should continue to serve the student in accordance with the student's IEP while taking steps to promptly arrange for the services that the student requires. These steps may include seeking assistance from the PDE or from other agencies involved with the student. (See Intensive Interagency Support Policy for guidance, in circumstances involving the identification of children who are experiencing placement delays or who are at-risk for placement delays.)

Although instruction conducted in the home is not ordinarily permitted when the student has no condition preventing the student from leaving the home, there are occasional, exceptional cases in which the parents and school agree to instruction conducted in the home as a short-term option. In these cases, the school must immediately file a report with the PDE utilizing the form required by PDE. As indicated on the form, the Charter School is also responsible for informing the PDE when the short-term placement has concluded. (The Charter School must report not less than weekly to PDE utilizing the web-based reporting system. As indicated on the SES@Home website, the charter school is also responsible for informing PDE when the short-term placement has concluded.)

"Instruction conducted in the home," which is listed in the continuum of special education alternative placements in federal regulations, should not be confused with "homebound instruction," which describes the instruction a charter school may provide when a student has been excused from compulsory attendance under 22 Pa. Code §11.25, due to temporary mental or physical illness or other urgent reasons.

Even though homebound instruction is not a special education placement option for students with disabilities, there are occasions when a student with a disability may receive homebound instruction due to a temporary excusal from compulsory attendance in the same manner as the student's non-disabled peers. The Charter School must also report to PDE for students with disabilities for whom homebound instruction

is approved and must also file a follow up report when the temporary placement has concluded and the student has returned to school. In addition, the Charter School must document the physician's recommendation for homebound instruction.

If the temporary condition that precipitated the excusal from attendance for a student with disabilities results in a change in the student's need for specially designed instruction, the Charter School may need to reevaluate the student. The Charter School may also need to reconvene the student's IEP team to determine whether it is necessary to revise the IEP and change the student's placement to instruction conducted in the home.

TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH THE SCHOOL'S CHARTER OR APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS AND/OR CHARTER CONTROL.