

# Urban Pathways K-5 College Charter School

## Board of Trustees Policy

### LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT POLICY

The Board of Trustees of the Urban Pathways K-5 College Charter School ("Charter School") directs the CEO or designee to ensure that, in accordance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations, to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities are educated with children who are nondisabled and that special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular education environment occurs only if the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

Least Restrictive Environment ("LRE") means that, to the maximum extent appropriate, a Charter School must educate students with disabilities in the regular classroom with appropriate aids and supports, referred to as "supplementary aids and services," along with their nondisabled peers in the school they would attend if not disabled, unless a student's IEP requires some other arrangement. This requires an individualized inquiry into the unique educational needs of each disabled student in determining the possible range of aids and supports that are needed to facilitate the student's placement in the regular educational environment before a more restrictive placement is considered.

The CEO or designee is directed to ensure that a continuum of alternative placements is available to meet the needs of children with disabilities for special education and related services. The continuum of alternative placements may include but is not limited to: instruction in regular classes with or without supplementary aids and services, special classes, special schools, approved private schools, home instruction and instruction in hospitals and institutions to the extent the IEP team determines such placements are appropriate.

These options must be available to the extent necessary to implement the IEP of each disabled student. The placement team must select the option on the continuum in which it determines that the student's IEP can be implemented. Any alternative placement selected for the student outside of the regular educational environment must maximize opportunities for the student to interact with nondisabled peers, to the extent appropriate to the needs of the student. Pursuant to IDEA, parents must be given written prior notice by the Charter School that meets the requirements of the IDEA federal regulations at 34 C.F.R. §300.505, as to a reasonable time before a public agency

August 2023

Page 1

Least Restrictive Environment Policy

implements a proposal or refusal to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the child, or the provision of FAPE to the child. Consistent with this notice requirement, parents of disabled students must be informed that the public agency is required to have a full continuum of placement options, as well as about the placement options that were actually considered and the reasons why those options were rejected. 34 CFR §§300.504-300.505.

The CEO or designee is directed to provide training opportunities for school personnel regarding inclusion.

The CEO or designee is directed to make opportunities available for students to interact with nondisabled peers when they need to be removed for any amount of time from the regular education environment.

The CEO or designee is directed to support participation of students with disabilities in nonacademic and extracurricular activities where appropriate (including transportation).

**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.**