

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **HISTORY AND FOUNDING INFORMATION**

In the 1970's and 1980's, Mr. Eduardo Gutierrez, founder and CEO of Student Alternatives Program, Inc. (SAPI), recognized a need to provide alternative education programs for students who had the desire to continue their education but faced many obstacles. He envisioned an academically sound program that fulfilled Texas Education Agency requirements yet allowed students to work at their own pace with flexible scheduling. This would allow them to manage responsibilities, such as work or taking care for their families, and still attend school on a full-time basis. He also envisioned that such a program could be effectively and efficiently run by a community-based organization.

In 1990, Mr. Gutierrez realized the program he had envisioned when he founded the Student Alternatives Program, Inc. (SAPI) as a private non-profit, community-based organization to provide alternative education opportunities to "at-risk" and school dropout students. The first SAPI community-based alternative education program became operational during the 1992-1993 school year. Since then, the organization has grown across the state with instructional centers supported through performance-based contracts with school districts. Through collaborative efforts with the school districts and county governments, the organization has served thousands of "at-risk" and dropout students, has graduated hundreds of students with a high school diploma and/or has earned their General Education Development (GED) certificate. During the school year, SAPI employs a large number professional and support staff at its independent alternative education instructional centers.

Changes in state law pertaining to charter schools provided SAPI the opportunity to work with the citizens of the community to develop a strategy for the creation of schools that provide a viable option to the traditional educational system. In the fall of the 1998-1999 school year, SAPI was granted four charters to develop four high schools of choice which would offer an alternative to the regular high school program. In subsequent years, three of the charters were granted additional campuses. All sister schools offer the same instructional program and are governed by the same school board of directors.

Charters with more than one school operate on a district concept with a separate District Director housed at a district office separate from the school campuses. The District Director oversees the day to day operation of the schools through the campus Academy Directors. The charters and their respective schools are:

#### **Triumph Public High Schools**

El Paso  
West  
East

#### **Triumph Public High Schools**

Laredo  
Laredo North  
Laredo South

#### **Triumph Public High Schools**

Lubbock  
Lubbock

#### **Triumph Public High Schools**

Rio Grande Valley  
Brownsville  
McAllen  
Mercedes  
San Benito

**Date Adopted: November 4, 2000**

**Date Amended: March 28, 2009**