

**TRIUMPH PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS (TPHS) BOARD POLICY  
MANUAL**

**POLICY GROUP 1 – GOVERNANCE  
BOARD AUTHORITY, ROLES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

PG-1.103

**Sec. 1. CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY**

Triumph Public High Schools (TPHS) is governed under the governing structure described by its open-enrollment charter.

**Sec. 2. RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHARTER SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

**(a) *Primary Responsibilities***

The Board of Directors of Student Alternatives Program, Inc. (the “Board”) has the primary responsibility for:

1. Implementing the public-school program authorized by the Student Alternatives Program, Inc. open-enrollment charter; and
2. Ensuring the performance of students enrolled in TPHS in accordance with the Texas Education Code.

*19 Tex. Admin. Code § 100.1113(a).*

**(b) *Alienation of Open-Enrollment Charter***

The Board derives its authority to operate TPHS schools from the Student Alternatives Program, Inc. open-enrollment charter.

3. The Board shall, acting as a body corporate in meetings posted in compliance with Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, oversee the management of all Student Alternatives Program, Inc. charter schools.
4. Except as provided below, the Board’s powers and duties to operate all Student Alternatives Program, Inc. charter schools shall not be delegated, transferred, assigned, encumbered, pledged, subcontracted, or in any way alienated by the Board.
5. Student Alternatives Program, Inc. shall notify the Texas Education Agency in writing prior to initiating bankruptcy proceeding respecting the charter holder.

*19 Tex. Admin. Code § 100.1113(b)(1)-(3).*

**(c) *Exclusive Method for Delegating Charter Powers and Duties***

Any power or duty of the Board delegated to an officer, employee, contractor, management company, creditor, or any other person shall either be specified in the Student Alternatives Program, Inc. open-enrollment charter or a charter delegation amendment approved by the Texas Education Agency division responsible for charter schools.

*19 Tex. Admin. Code § 100.1113(c).*

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***(d) Accountability for Delegated Powers and Duties***

The Board remains responsible for the management, operation, and accountability of all Student Alternatives Program, Inc. charter schools, regardless of whether the Board delegates any of its powers or duties.

*19 Tex. Admin. Code § 100.1113(d).*

***(e) Nondelegable Duties***

Absent specifically approved exceptions granted by the Commissioner of Education, the Board shall not delegate the following duties:

6. Final authority to hear or decide employee grievances, citizen complaints, or parental concerns;
7. Final authority to adopt or amend the Student Alternatives Program, Inc. or TPHS budget, or to authorize the expenditure or obligation of state funds or the use of public property;
8. Final authority to direct the disposition or safekeeping of public records, except that the Board may delegate this function to any person, subject to the Board's superior right of immediate access to, control over, and possession of such records;
9. Final authority to adopt policies governing TPHS operations;
10. Final authority to approve audit reports under Texas Education Code § 44.008(d); and
11. Final authority to select, employ, direct, evaluate, renew, non-renew, terminate, or set compensation for the Superintendent/CEO or, as applicable, the administrator serving as the educational leader and chief executive officer.

*19 Tex. Admin. Code §100.1113(a)(1)(A-F).*

**Sec. 3. IMMUNITY FROM SUIT AND LIABILITY**

***(a) Statutory Immunity for the Charter Holder and Charter School***

In matters related to operation of an open-enrollment charter school, an open-enrollment charter school or charter holder is immune from liability and suit to the same extent as a school district.

12. An open-enrollment charter school is a governmental unit as defined by Section 101.001, Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, and is subject to liability only as provided by Chapter 101, Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, and only in the manner that liability is provided by that chapter for a school district.
13. An open-enrollment charter school is a local government as defined by Section 102.001, Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, and a payment on a tort claim must comply with Chapter 102, Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

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14. An open-enrollment charter school is a local governmental entity as defined by Section 271.151, Texas Local Government Code, and is subject to liability on a contract as provided by Subchapter I, Chapter 271, Texas Local Government Code, and only in the manner that liability is provided by that subchapter for a school district.

*Tex. Educ. Code § 12.1056.*

***(b) Statutory Immunity for Members of the Board of Directors***

A member of the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school or of a charter holder is immune from liability and suit to the same extent as a school district trustee.

*Tex. Educ. Code § 12.1056.*

***(c) Statutory Immunity for Damages Arising from a Pandemic***

An educational institution is not liable for damages or equitable monetary relief arising from a cancellation or modification of a course, program, or activity of the institution if the cancellation or modification arose during a pandemic emergency and was caused, in whole or in part, by the emergency. An “educational institution” means an institution or program that facilitates learning or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs or habits. The term includes, amongst other entities, public primary or secondary schools.

*Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 148.004.*