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Dear Parent /Guardian

The purpose of this letter is to address the provisions and requirements of class size waivers as required by Texas Education Code (TEC) §25.112. Currently Kindergarten-4th grade classes are to be kept at a 22:1 student-teacher ratio. When a class exceeds this limit, Universal Academy must complete a waiver with the Texas Education Agency. Along with the waiver, a letter is required to be sent home to each parent in each class/section exceeding the 22:1 ratio, informing them a waiver has been submitted. In many instances, soon after the waiver process is complete, the class size drops below the maximum 22:1 ratio due to students withdrawing from the district and/or school.

While Universal Academy believes small class-size plays a positive role in student learning, this must be balanced with the logistics and timing of adding staff. We do not believe there is a negative impact to student achievement when a few additional students are added to a class.

Most importantly, research demonstrates it is the teacher in the classroom, not absolute class size, which has the greatest impact on student learning. A TEA waiver request will not be necessary when a K-4th grade classroom exceeds the 22:1 ratio.

To best serve the needs of the students and staff of Universal Academy, will attempt to maintain the 22:1 ratio in all K-4th core classrooms. However, if class size exceeds this ratio, the Superintendent will report the circumstance to the Board of Trustees. In the event a K-4th grade classroom exceeds 22:1, the campus will send a letter home to inform the parents of the students in the classroom. When feasible, the District will provide relief by placing an instructional aide in the classroom for the duration of time it remains at or above the 22:1 ratio.

Sincerely

Universal Academy