

## UNIVERSAL ACADEMY IMPLEMENTS ALL CLEAR BACKPACK POLICY FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR



The safety of our students and staff is our top priority, and the district has taken several steps to ensure schools are safe learning environments. Starting in the 2023-2024 school year, students in grades PK through 12th will be **required to bring CLEAR BACKPACKS ONLY**. Students will **NOT be allowed to bring mesh or other backpacks on campus**. Students will be able to carry in their backpack a non-clear pouch no larger than 5.5 inches by 8.5 inches to hold personal items, such as money and hygiene products.

Our decision stems from safety recommendations made by the district's Safety Task Force and Internal Task Force as well as feedback from students, parents, and the community. We acknowledge that CLEAR Backpacks alone will not eliminate safety concerns. This is merely one of several steps in the district's comprehensive plan to better ensure student and staff safety. **All backpacks not meeting the criteria outlined above will be collected and kept in the school office where the student's parent or guardian may pick them up.** We look forward to a great and safe school year at Universal Academy.