

# SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY CHARTER SCHOOL

## •Summary Report•

### FIRST-YEAR SITE VISIT

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The Texas Education Agency, in conjunction with the Charter School Support Network, conducted a site visit at *Sam Houston State University (SHSU) Charter School* on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The purpose of this visit was to ascertain strengths and areas of improvement that will directly benefit the viability of SHSU Charter during their initial year of operation. The following report provides a general accounting of the Agency's findings, including innovative practice and any areas of needed improvement.

#### OBSERVABLE STRENGTHS.

- **Facility Management, Design, Use of Space.** *There is a genuine scholarly aesthetic, thriving cultural artifacts in classrooms, and innovative use of space.*
- **Emotional Safety for Students.** *Site visit members observed a multitude of classroom environments that promote both an emotional and physical state of well-being during school.*
- **Family Engagement and Parent Support.** *Observations and parent feedback suggest a strong commitment among parents to contribute towards the viability and success of the SHSU Charter School.*
- **School Culture.** *Exceptional levels of comradery and support were observed among students. Exceptional levels of support, knowledge, and shared values were observed among staff.*
- **Classroom Climate.** *All classrooms exhibited extensive visual motivators (and supportive technology) that were observably integrated and reinforced in conversation and instruction. Student engagement was high, and was well supported by extensive (and well managed) opportunities for students to engage with one another. Site visit team members observed exceptional classroom management procedures and philosophies.*
- **Staffing.** *Administrative and Board efforts to recruit, hire, and support qualified teachers demonstrated exceptional standards and expectations.*
- **Long Term Vision.** *SHSU Charter leadership articulated a clear understanding of the school's long term vision and strategies that will be implemented to achieve future growth.*
- **Professional Development.** *The Principal/Curriculum Director demonstrated strong foresight (and knowledge) around planning, alignment, resources, and implementation of curricular and professional development activities.*