



March 1, 2021

VIA EMAIL (charteroffice@ousd.org)

Kelly Krag-Arnold
Policy Specialist, Office of Charter Schools
Oakland Unified School District
1000 Broadway, Suite 300
Oakland, CA 94607

Re: Response to Proposition 39 Preliminary Proposal (2021-22)

Dear Ms. Krag-Arnold:

Aspire ERES Academy received the Oakland Unified School District's ("District") February 1, 2021 preliminary proposal of Proposition 39 facilities for the 2021-22 school year. As you know, Aspire agreed to cooperate with the District by seeking a material revision to the ERES charter before we expanded to serve additional families in the Fruitvale area, even though our charter already allows ERES to serve 300-600 students. Despite our cooperation and continued efforts to take every step possible to work as a partner with the District, the District denied our material revision as the District's latest effort to force ERES to close.

It is well-documented that the District has not only violated and abused the Proposition 39 process for a decade, but the District also actively interfered to stop Aspire from building a permanent site for ERES after Aspire had already secured the Proposition 1D funds, the site, and the developer to do so. Meanwhile, the District recently demanded that ERES waive its Proposition 39 rights or else the District would choose to make an offer of space at an unsafe, inadequate facility. The District has now offered ERES classrooms for the 2021-22 school year that are non-contiguous and did not offer any administrative space in violation of the Proposition 39.

The District's denial of the material revision, refusal to fairly share its facilities, and interference with Aspire's plans to construct facilities for ERES, all of which will force ERES to close, is an injustice to the families in the Fruitvale area and the entire community. We now respond to the District's preliminary proposal, pursuant to Section 11969.9(g) of the Proposition 39 regulations, to decline the space offered to ERES for all of the reasons above.

Sincerely,

Mary Cha-Caswell
Chief Operating Officer
Aspire Public Schools