



**OFFICE OF CHARTER SCHOOLS**

December 1, 2020

Mariko Highsmith  
Envision Academy of Arts & Technology  
111 Myrtle Street, Suite 203  
Oakland, CA 94607

Re: Proposition 39 Facilities Request for 2021-22  
Response to Charter School’s Enrollment Projections

Dear Mariko Highsmith:

The Oakland Unified School District (“OUSD” or “District”) responds to the October 30, 2020 Request for Facilities for Envision Academy of Arts & Technology (“Envision” or “Charter School”) for the 2021-22 school year.

The regulations implementing Proposition 39<sup>1</sup> permit a school district to assess the projections upon which a charter school’s facilities request is based, express objections to those projections, and issue a counterprojection. In conducting its evaluation, the District assesses whether the charter school’s Request for Facilities meets the requirements contained in the regulations<sup>2</sup> governing such a request.

The District objects to the charter school’s projections as set forth below.

**REVIEW OF CHARTER SCHOOL’S ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS**

Proposition 39 only obligates a school district to offer facilities commensurate with a charter school’s In-District population. Therefore, the District will only evaluate Envision’s In-District classroom-based Average Daily Attendance (In-District ADA) projections. Envision’s enrollment and enrollment projections are as follows:

**Table 1: Envision’s Enrollment and Projections**

Grade	20-21 In-District Enrollment	21-22 Projected In-District Enrollment	21-22 Projected Attendance Rate	Projected 21-22 In-District ADA
6	17	50	95%	45.49
7	34	31	95%	28.05
8	-	47	95%	42.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>115.99</b>

Source: Charter School’s Proposition 39 Facilities Request Form, Appendix I

**OUSD’S EVALUATION OF CHARTER SCHOOL’S ADA PROJECTIONS**

As shown in Tables 2 and 3 below, Envision is projecting substantial increases for its incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade cohort as well as both of its current grade level cohorts. Envision failed to provide documentation supporting the projected increases in violation of the regulations implementing

<sup>1</sup> Cal. Admin. Code, title 5, §11969.9(d)  
<sup>2</sup> Cal. Admin. Code, title 5, § 11969.9(c)(1)(A)



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Prop 39<sup>3</sup>.

As indicated in the OUSD Proposition 39 Facilities Request Form Instructions, a projected enrollment increase in 6<sup>th</sup> grade of more than 15% between the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years requires the inclusion of Appendix II, Student Application Documentation, in order to provide evidence for the additional projected ADA. Envision projected its 6<sup>th</sup> grade to nearly triple in size (an increase of 194%), but did not include Appendix II in the facilities request, nor did it include any documentation to support the projected increase in enrollment in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Additionally, Envision did not provide documentation to support the substantial projected increases in enrollment for its current 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade cohorts, which were projected to increase by 82% and 38%, respectively.

**Table 2: Charter School’s In-District 2020-21 Enrollment and 2021-22 Enrollment Projection: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Grade Level	20-21 In-District Enrollment	Projected 21-22 In-District Enrollment	Projected % Increase in In-District Enrollment
6 <sup>th</sup>	17	50	194%

Source: Charter School’s Proposition 39 Facilities Request Form, Appendix I

**Table 3: Charter School’s In-District 2020-21 Enrollment and 2021-22 Enrollment Projection: By Cohort**

Cohort Grade Level by Year		20-21 Cohort In-District Enrollment	Projected 21-22 Cohort In-District Enrollment	Projected % Increase in Cohort In-District Enrollment
2020-21	2021-22			
6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	17	31	82%
7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	34	47	38%

Source: Charter School’s Proposition 39 Facilities Request Form, Appendix I

Lastly, as shown in Table 4, we note that Envision has substantially over-projected its middle school enrollment in both of its previous two Prop 39 requests, projecting over double the actual enrollment in all grade levels over the past two years, resulting in the Charter School being charged an over-allocation penalty in 2019-20 (and quite possibly again in 2020-21). Specifically, Envision has projected its incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment by 180% and 196% for 2019-20 and 2020-21, respectively. Additionally, the Charter School over projected its 2020-21 7<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment by 122%. Therefore, it is within the District’s discretion to conclude that any additional projected ADA beyond what can be projected from the current 2019-20 enrollment has not been sufficiently substantiated by relevant documentation.

**Table 4: Envision’s Past Projections vs. Actual In-District Enrollment**

Year	Grade Level	Projected In-District Enrollment*	Actual In-District Enrollment	% Over-projected In-District Enrollment
2019-20	6 <sup>th</sup>	101.2	36.1	180%
2020-21	6 <sup>th</sup>	50.4	17	196%
2020-21	7 <sup>th</sup>	75.6	34	122%

Source: Appendix I of Charter School’s 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22 Proposition 39 Facilities Request Forms

\* Projected in Charter School’s Prior Year Proposition 39 Application

<sup>3</sup> Cal. Admin. Code, title 5, § 11969.9(c)(1)(C)



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**OUSD COUNTERPROJECTIONS:**

The District is exercising its right to provide counterprojections to the Charter School’s projections for the 2021-22 school year. Based on factors discussed above, the District counterprojects a total of **68.88** In-District ADA for the Charter School’s middle school grade levels. The District’s grade-level counterprojections are shown in Table 5 below.

**Table 5: 2021-22 In-District ADA – Charter School Projections and OUSD Counterprojections**

Grade Level	Charter School Projections	OUSD Counterprojections
6 <sup>th</sup>	45.49	24.55
7 <sup>th</sup>	28.05	14.78
8 <sup>th</sup>	42.45	29.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>115.99</b>	<b>68.88</b>

Source: Charter School Projections – Charter School’s Proposition 39 Facilities Request Form, Appendix I; OUSD Counterprojections – calculated in Tables 5 and 6 below

The District’s counterprojection for 6<sup>th</sup> grade, as shown in Table 6, was developed by considering the following factors: (1) the average of the prior and current year 6<sup>th</sup> grade In-District enrollment and (2) its 6<sup>th</sup> grade attendance rate from the last reporting period in 2020-21 prior to the transition to distance learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The District’s counterprojection assumes that next year’s 6<sup>th</sup> grade cohort will be an average of the enrollment of the two previous years’ 6<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment, as documentation to support an increase in meaningfully interested students was not submitted. Although the District acknowledges that the current year 6<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment may have been impacted by COVID-19, this may continue to impact enrollment in 2021-22, and the Charter School’s 6<sup>th</sup> Grade overprojection for 2019-2020 was made before the pandemic forced schools into distance learning. Furthermore, although the charter school suggested its projections were reasonable due to interest cards it has received from families, this is similar to claims made in previous Prop 39 requests, yet, as indicate above, Envision’s middle school enrollment has consistently been far below its projections.

**Table 6: Calculation of 6<sup>th</sup> grade In-District ADA Counterprojection**

Grade Level	(A) Average of 2019-20 and 2020-21 In-District Enrollment	(B) 2021-22 Projected Attendance Rate	In-District ADA Counterprojection (A x B)
6 <sup>th</sup>	26.55	92.46%	24.55

Source: ENROLLMENT – Charter School’s Proposition 39 Facilities Request Form; OUSD Counterprojections – calculated as shown in column header; ATTENDANCE RATE – Alameda County Office of Education, Charter Office staff

The District’s counterprojection for 7<sup>th</sup> grade, as shown in Table 7, was developed by considering the following factors: (1) current 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade In-District enrollment, (2) its schoolwide cohort retention rate between the prior and current school year, and (3) its 6<sup>th</sup> grade attendance rate from the last reporting period in 2020-21 prior to the transition to distance learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Documentation to support an 82% and 38% increase in enrollment for the current 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade cohorts as they articulate to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, respectively, for the 2021-22 school year was not submitted; therefore, the District’s counterprojection assumes a 0% rate of attrition for the current 6<sup>th</sup> grade class between the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years without the addition of new students, as 7<sup>th</sup> grade is not a standard transition year.



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**Table 7: Calculation of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade In-District ADA Counterprojections**

Cohort Grade Level by Year		(A) 2020-21 In-District Enrollment	(B) Cohort Retention Rate Between 2019- 20 and 2020-21 <sup>4</sup>	(C) 2021-22 Projected Attendance Rate	Cohort 2021-22 In-District ADA Counterprojection (A x B x C)
2020-21	2021-22				
6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	17	94%	92.46%	14.78
7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	34	94%	92.46%	29.55

Source: Charter School’s Proposition 39 Facilities Request Form; OUSD Counterprojections – calculated as shown in column header

**CONCLUSION:**

Envision has until January 2, 2021 to deliver a response to this letter to [charteroffice@ousd.org](mailto:charteroffice@ousd.org). Please do not mail or hand deliver a response to this letter.

Pursuant to Cal. Admin. Code tit. 5, § 11969.9, additional information included in the letter (beyond what is permitted under subdivision (e)) will not be considered.

Sincerely,

Kelly Krag-Arnold  
Policy Specialist, Office of Charter Schools

<sup>4</sup> Between 2019-20 and 2020-21, Envision’s retention rate for its 6<sup>th</sup> grade cohort was 94% (34 2020-21 7<sup>th</sup> grade in-District enrollment divided by 36.1 2019-20 6<sup>th</sup> grade in-District enrollment).