Choice Lottery and Enrollment Update for SY24-25

October 2023

Choice Schools in MVWSD

An Equity Challenge

Address the underrepresentation of our underserved student populations* at our choice schools while considering the legal, social, logistical, and fiscal implications.

(*Particularly with regards to students who are classified as SED)

Goals and Objectives

Today's Objectives:

- ❏ Re-orient ourselves to the purpose and goals of this equitable access project using historical data, current policies, and new insight
- ❏ Examine Year 1 Weighted Lottery key findings
- ❏ Examine proposed calculations based on SY22-23 data and thresholds
- ❏ Consider changes to the weighted lottery policy language in order address new income information for MV residents, and provide protections for SED applicants against potential flooding from RSED lottery tickets
- ❏ Consider implications for moving forward and next steps regarding logistics, policy language, and communication

Year One Weighted Lottery: SY23-24

Race-Neutral Proxy: SED Indicator

Defining Socioeconomic Need:

- **SED Level 1**: Classified as SED by CDE (family income, direct CERT or parent education) OR family income below 185% of federal poverty level OR students with parents who have not graduated high school (students may qualify under any above flag, or all, but do not receive 'extra' weight for meeting more criteria for Level 1)
- **SED Level 2 (Relatively SED)**: Family income half or less of Mountain View's median family income OR students whose parents are not high school or college graduates (students may qualify under either flag, or both, but do not receive 'extra' weight for meeting both criteria for Level 2)

SED Thresholds for 23-24 lottery

- **"SED Students"**: Classified as SED by CDE (family income, direct CERT or parent education) OR family income below 185% of federal poverty level OR students with parents who have not graduated high school*

- **"Relative SED Students"**: Family income half or less of City of Mountain View's median family income ($208,000, less than half would be $104,000 or less) OR students whose parents are not high school or college graduates * (Based on 2021, 1-year ACS data available here: https://data.census.gov/)

* Students may qualify under any above criteria, but do not accumulate 'extra' lottery entries for meeting more than one criteria

Modified Tiered Weighted Lottery

Tiered <u>and</u> weighted lottery *(maintain sibling and staff priorities, but provide a boost for socioeconomically disadvantaged students for all remaining seats by giving these students additional entries into the lottery)*

- All siblings are prioritized for admission, followed by school and district staff, in line with current priorities.
- For all remaining seats students who are socioeconomically disadvantaged receive additional "lottery tickets" to boost their chances of admission.
  - Similar to the tiered system, the district would calculate annually how much weight to provide to socioeconomically disadvantaged applicants based on the applicant pool and goal for enrollment of this group

Weights for Student Groups

- Used the enrollment and applicant data from the prior school year to be able to determine weights with enough time to ensure transparency in communication before start of enrollment for new families
- Determined enrollment target for SED students and determine eligible student populations
  - Target: 27% SED enrollment aligned with district average
    - At Mistral, 50% of applicant pool is SED so no additional weight is awarded for SED applicants at this site for this coming school school

Weights for Student Groups

- Calculated weights for SED students at eligible schools for SY23-24 school year:
  - SED Level 1 students received a weight of 400, meaning 400% of what a 'typical student would receive' (akin to 4x)
  - Calculations determined for SED Level 2 students is 1 (or 100%) less than SED Level 1, which means Level 2 students will be given a weight of 300, meaning 300% of what a 'typical student would receive' (akin to 3x)
  - These figures will change every year based on applicant pool and district enrollment averages of previous year

Key Takeaways

- Overall, applications increased 12% from last year at ST
- At ST, SED students made up 9% of the applicant pool, and 12% of students offered seats, an improvement from last year when 8% of applicants and only 5% of students offered seats were SED
- Amongst K applicants, all SED students who applied were offered seats at ST (8 students, with one applicant removing their application).
- The same was true in 4th grade where 19 seats were available and all three SED students were offered seats. No other grade levels had open seats.

Year Two Weighted Lottery: SY24-25

Step 1: Determine Enrollment Target

- Enrollment target of 30% SED is based on district average from SY22-23 (up from 27% from SY21-22)
  - At Stevenson during SY22-23, **9%** of applicant poll (up from 8% last year) were SED. SED students still underrepresented, so **weights for SED and RSED will be applied.**

Step 2: Determine Appropriate Weights

- Per applicant pool and district target, a weight of 5 would be recommended, adding 4 more entries into the lottery for SED students
  - Brings SED applicants closest to district average of 30% (keeping weight a whole number)
  - **Unchanged**, RSED weight would then be 4, adding 3 more entries into lottery for RSED students.

Considering Changes to the Lottery

Considering Changes

Based on Board feedback pertaining to **speed, magnitude, and specificity** of last year's changes to the population at ST, the following changes to the lottery can be considered:

- Data point(s) used for RSED indicator
  - in order to use the most recent and targeted data
- Weights assigned to RSED indicator assessed using district RSED data
  - in order to amplify weights for SED students, establishing a cap on using RSED indicator

Considering Changes: RSED Indicator

Possible Change: Update census (ACS) data used from 2021 data to 2022 data. Also, use census tract for MV School District as opposed to City of MV to target our community better. 2022 MV School District threshold is **$105,327** as opposed to MV City which is $115,790.

Predicted Effect:

No matter which data point is used (City of MV or MV School District), median income has increased from 2021 to 2022. The predicted effect using last year's applicant pool is that 1-14 fewer families would have qualified as RSED.

Considering Changes: RSED 'Flooding'

As shown in the examples below, if we see an increase in the number and proportion of RSED students applying next year, we will be even further from our SED lottery target of 31%.

Example 1: RSED applications increases from 90 to 125 (with the same total number of applicants)

	Current Apps	Current % of Applicants	Weight	Weighted Apps	Weighted % of Applicants
SED Apps	47	9%	5	235	22%
RSED Apps	125	25%	4	500	47%
Other Apps	334	66%	1	334	31%

Example 2: RSED applications increases from 90 to 200 (with the same total number of applicants)

	Current Apps	Current % of Applicants	Weight	Weighted Apps	Weighted % of Applicants
SED Apps	47	9%	5	235	18%
RSED Apps	200	40%	4	800	62%
Other Apps	259	51%	1	259	20%

Considering Changes: RSED Weights

Possible Change: Calculate a district average RSED % and use it to calculate the appropriate weight for lottery using same process as calculating SED weights

Predicted Effect: In the previous lottery, this change would have reduced chances for RSED applicants, resulting in fewer RSED families receiving priority. It would have not affected SED applicants. **If** more SED applicants were present, it could have resulted in more SED applicants obtaining an advantage. In the event more SED families apply, this RSED weight distribution can act as a cap for the effect of RSED on the lottery.

Step 1: Determine Enrollment Target for RSED

- Enrollment target of 20% RSED is based on district average from SY22-23 (not calculated before SY22-23)
  - At Stevenson during SY22-23, **18%** of applicant poll were RSED. RSED students still underrepresented, so **weights for SED <u>and</u> RSED will be applied.**

Step 2: Determine Appropriate Weights for RSED

- Per applicant pool and district target, a weight of 2 would be recommended, adding 1 more entry into the lottery for SED students
  - Brings RSED applicants closest to district average of 20%
  - **Unchanged**, RSED weight would have been 4, adding 3 more entries into lottery for RSED students.

SED and RSED Weights for SY24-25

SED: Weight of 5, adding 4 more entries into the lottery for every SED student

RSED: Weight of 2, adding 1 more entry into the lottery for every RSED student

Taken together (as whole numbers), these weights would bring us closest to district average of 31% SED and 51% (SED + RSED)

Proposed Changes Pros and Cons

Summary of Potential Changes	Pros	Cons	Recommendation
Change to RSED Definition *Change source of income target to use median family income for MV School District as opposed to City of MV.*	• More accurately reflects family incomes below the median for MVWSD	• Some students who previously qualified would no longer qualify (based on last year's data, a maximum of 14 applicants would no longer qualify)	Adopt revised definition for improved accuracy
Change to RSED Weight and RSED Trigger (1) Calculate RSED weight based on the % of RSED students in the applicant pool compared to RSED students in the district overall. (2) Only Use RSED weight if applicant pool is underrepresented.	• Weights are based on the district population and applicant pool, as with SED weights, so they can vary as the population and applicant pool changes • Ensures RSED students are not overrepresented in the applicant pool • Straightforward change because we already use this process for calculating SED weights	• Adds an additional calculation/layer of complexity	Adopt revised policy to improve the precision of the weights used, and ensure SED students are represented as intended in the lottery.

Recommendations

In order to honor the Board vision of a transparent, flexible, and data-driven process that prioritizes increasing access to choice programs for SED families, we make the following recommendations:

- Data point(s) used for RSED indicator
  - use updated 2022 ACS data
  - use MV School District tract, not City of MV as used previously
- Weights assigned to RSED indicator assessed using district RSED data
  - use process to calculate weight for SED applicants also for RSED applicants to prevent an over-saturation of RSED applicants in the pool
  - establish trigger for use of RSED indicator (only when use SED)

Next Steps

Requested Board Feedback

Considering Changes to the Lottery:

- Data point(s) used for RSED indicator
- RSED weight calculation/threshold
- Establish RSED weight trigger (SED weight being used *and* RSED is underrepresented)

We will come back to BOT to present updated policy language before rolling out lottery for SY24-25 (NOV 2023)