

Proposal: Weighted Lottery Calculations to Support Equitable Enrollment in MVWSD Choice Schools

Project Purpose

In 2022, Mountain View Whisman School District adopted new enrollment policies and processes for the district's Choice Elementary Schools, to ensure the schools serve students across the district equitably. As a result of current enrollment policies, choice school populations are not representative of the district overall, particularly at Stevenson Elementary. The first year of the weighted lottery yielded promising results, in line with the district's equity goals. MVWSD plans to continue the weighted lottery and the lottery specifications must be reviewed annually and updated with more current data. MVWSD will need to use data from applicants to the 2023-2024 school year, as well as 2022-2023 school year enrollment and demographic data, to calculate the appropriate lottery weights. Additionally, it is critical to document and explain how the weights were calculated, to ensure the process is transparent.

Scope of Work & Deliverables

Building on the work completed to support MVWSD's development of a weighted lottery process, KM Education Systems will support MVWSD by producing the calculations needed for the weighted lottery, using the same policies and data from the prior school year, as outlined [here](#), with a brief explanation of the data used, rationale, and how we arrived at the weights.

Deliverable #1: Spreadsheet with calculations and weights to be used for the 2023-2024 lottery (for school year 2024-2025 enrollment) | To be completed by September 20, 2023

KM Education Systems will calculate the weights to be used in this year's lottery, based on school year 2022-2023 demographic data. The weighted lottery will provide a boost for socioeconomically disadvantaged and relatively socioeconomically disadvantaged students by giving these students additional entries into the lottery. The number of additional "lottery tickets" socioeconomically disadvantaged and relatively socioeconomically disadvantaged students will receive is calculated annually based on the applicant pool to support the goal of parity with the district's overall population of socioeconomically disadvantaged students. The calculations will be completed in line with the board policies MVWSD adopted last year.

Deliverable #2: Brief memo explaining the weights | To be completed by September 20, 2023

In addition to the calculations, KM Education systems will develop a short memo (1-2 pages) explaining the calculations and the weighted lottery, using [last year's memo](#) as a guide. Additionally, the consultant will be available for regular meetings as needed to support implementation of the weighted lottery.

Deliverable #3: Analysis and Simulations of Possible Lottery Policy Revisions | To be completed in fall 2023, after MVWSD's September board meeting

The consultant will provide analysis and lottery simulations for at least two possible changes to lottery policies, to assist MVWSD and the board with decision making about possible lottery adjustments for year 2. At a minimum, the consultant will analyze the possible consequences of the following two scenarios, using data from last year's lottery and using PowerSchool to simulate the lottery under different policy conditions. The consultant will work with MVWSD's enrollment team and PowerSchool point of contact as needed in order to

set up the test lotteries under different scenarios. The consultant will provide a memo explaining and describing the results of these tests.

- Providing a lower weight to relatively socioeconomically disadvantaged students
- Eliminating and/or modifying the sibling preference

As needed, based on suggestions from the board or district leaders, the consultant will also test and analyze other possible lottery policy changes.

Proposed Project Fees

The consultant proposes completing deliverables #1 and #2 for \$2,500, to be paid upon completion of these deliverables, after September 20th. The consultant will charge \$4,000 for deliverable #3, to be paid upon completion of these deliverables. Additionally, if MVWSD determines that further analysis or testing additional scenarios is needed, the consultant may bill up to (or less than) an additional \$3,500, upon agreement with MVWSD

Project total: \$6,500 for current deliverables, with possible project add-ons up to \$3,500

Timeline

Deliverables #1 and #2 will be completed by September 20, 2023. Deliverable #3 will be completed in fall 2023, with the exact deliverable dates to be determined by the consultant and MVWSD.

Contractor information

Kate Fletcher, KM Education Systems LLC | 917-747-5015 | fletcher.km@gmail.com

As an education consultant Kate aims to use her knowledge of education policy, research and analysis, and operations to support districts, schools, and education organizations in achieving their goals and expanding opportunities for students. Kate's recent projects include strategic planning for district and school enrollment, building internal analysis and reporting tools for schools, and research on demographic changes in school districts. Kate was previously the Executive Director of Student Enrollment at Newark Public Schools in New Jersey where she oversaw a citywide school enrollment system for the city's district and charter sectors and worked to advance equitable school enrollment. In Newark, Kate also led projects to improve data transparency and research partnerships as well as data management practices. Prior to Newark Public Schools Kate was an analyst at MDRC, a national education and social policy research organization. She has a master's in public policy and a master's in social work from the University of Michigan.