



Aspire Central Valley Regional Office
3311 E. Morada Lane, Stockton, CA 95212
Tel 209-647-3047 fax 209-472-7212
www.aspirepublicschools.org

January 23, 2017

Superintendent Debra Hendricks
Members of the Sylvan Union Board of Education
605 Sylvan Ave.
Modesto, CA 95350

Dear Superintendent Hendricks and Members of the Sylvan Board of Education:

We hope this letter finds you well. On behalf of Aspire Public Schools (Aspire), I write to request a revision to the enrollment preferences in the current charter (with term of 2013-2018) of Aspire University Charter School (UCS). The proposed revision consists of adding a lottery preference for students who attend Sherwood Elementary or reside in the Sherwood Elementary attendance area, as permitted under Section 47605.3 of the Education Code.

We request this revision because it is aligned with our mission to serve and increase the academic performance of underserved low-income students. The proposed revision will also help us meet the eligibility requirements for the Charter School Facility Grant Program and increase our school site funding.¹ This revision will not significantly change UCS's student demographics as our current district-approved preferences include students eligible for free or reduced-priced meals. It will, however, help us increase the number of low-income students that we serve.

The proposed revision only affects the enrollment preferences in Element H on page 40 of the current UCS charter petition. Please see below for the exact proposed change in red:

Applications will be accepted during a publicly advertised open application period each year for enrollment in the following school year. Following the open enrollment period each year, applications shall be counted to determine whether any grade level has received more applications than availability. In the event that this happens, the Charter School will hold a public random drawing to determine enrollment for the impacted grade level, with the exception of existing students who are guaranteed enrollment in the following school year. Enrollment preferences in the case of a public random drawing shall be as follows:

- Children of Aspire Regular employees
- Siblings of students already admitted to the Charter School
- All students who seek to continue their preparation and readiness for college from other Aspire schools
- Students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals
- Students currently enrolled in Sherwood Elementary
- Students who reside in the attendance area of Sherwood Elementary
- Children residing within the District
- All other students who reside in the state of California

¹ As you may know, the Charter Facilities Grant Program is a reimbursement program for charter schools that occupy private facilities. It helps charter schools cover certain rent and lease expenditures. It has no impact on other funding sources.



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Thank you for your consideration to support Aspire as we strive to deepen our fulfillment of our mission.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lane Weiss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "W".

Lane Weiss
Aspire Public Schools
Central Valley Area Superintendent