

Material Revision - Enrollment Narrative

Provide a clear explanation of the reason for the enrollment revision.

Our current enrollment projections were last affirmed by the Alameda County Board of Education (“ACBOE”) with our June 2020 material revision approval which was specific to our campus address change at that time. Since then, as California did overall, we experienced an enrollment drop for the 2021-2022 school year that goes beyond the 10% threshold in our Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with the ACBOE, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. That enrollment drop from our prior forecast requires us to seek this material revision with updated enrollment projections for this current school year, and the remaining years of our current charter, which was extended through June 2024 by operation of law. We did not previously have enrollment projections for the final two school years of the extended charter term (2022-23 and 2023-24) in our charter, as the charter term was extended pursuant to Education Code Section 47607.4 in 2021. The revised enrollment projections provided with this material revision include the additional projections for the additional two years of our extended charter term.

Our enrollment was most impacted in our Primary classrooms, which serve Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten students (TK & K). These are the school-aged children who lacked access to vaccines the longest. Had we had a normal enrollment into our Primary classrooms, we expect that we likely would not have fallen outside our 10% enrollment threshold described in our MOU.

This enrollment revision seeks to update our charter with accurate enrollment for the current 2021-2022 school year, and provide enrollment forecasts for the final two years of the extended charter term—2022-23 and 2023-24. We do not seek to grow the school beyond what was approved in the past—in fact, we now aim to enroll fewer students than what has been approved in the past and be more balanced across grade levels as we also respond to California’s expansion of TK eligibility.

Our currently approved and actual enrollments are:

School Year	Current Charter Approved	Actual
2017-2018	408	448
2018-2019	441	432
2019-2020	456	393

2020-2021	456	395
2021-2022	456	351

Our material revision proposal is:

School Year	Current Charter Approved	Material Revision Proposal	# & % lower from prior approval
2021-2022	456	351	105 / 23%
2022-2023	456*	406	50 / 11%
2023-2024	456*	445	11 / 2%

**The charter term was extended to add school years 2022-23 and 2023-24 by operation of law. There was no current enrollment approved in the current charter; we are assuming prior enrollment projections for these two years for purposes of describing the new proposed enrollment projections for these additional years.*

As reflected in the table above, we propose serving 351 students in the 2021-22 school year, which is 105 less than projected for this year. We thereafter forecast a steady increase each school year of the remaining extended charter term through 2023-24 to reach a total of 445 students by 2023-24. Based on the uncertainty brought about by the pandemic, combined with the statewide expansion of transitional kindergarten eligibility, we are taking a conservative approach to projecting student enrollment in the next few years. We have already secured enough applications for TK & K for school year 2022-2023 to reasonably forecast our start of returning to our expected numbers in our Primary level.

Each year, we plan five school years out into the future. At this time, five years out is beyond the scope of this Material Revision proposal. What we share below beyond the 2023-24 school year is simply to provide more information about our future planning, and does not reflect a commitment of any projected enrollment numbers beyond the years impacted by this material revision.

Ultimately, we plan for balanced enrollment numbers across our grade levels and project to balance out at approximately 424 students by 2026-27. The following chart shows planned enrollment projections for each grade level from 2021-22 through 2026-27. As stated above, only the projected enrollment for the remainder of this charter term (2021-22 through 2023-24) is formally being submitted to ACBOE for review and approval as part of this material revision. The future projections for 2024-25 through 2026-27 are included to show our planning for future years, which may be adjusted as needed, and will be ultimately reflected in our next charter renewal petition.

School Year	Enrollment	TK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2021-2022	351	18	42	33	56	52	41	35	38	17	19
2022-2023	406	37	45	45	39	56	49	40	39	39	17
2023-2024	445	45	45	43	43	43	55	49	44	39	39
2024-2025	443	45	45	42	41	41	42	53	48	43	43
2025-2026	424	45	45	42	41	41	42	41	41	43	43
2026-2027	424	45	45	42	41	41	42	41	41	43	43
change from current year	73	27	3	9	-15	-11	1	6	3	26	24
change from prior approval of 456	-32										
2023-2024 change from prior approval of 456	-11										

Explain any staffing and programmatic changes that will take place as a result of the proposed enrollment revisions.

During the remainder of this charter term there will be no staffing changes as a result of the proposed enrollment revisions. Programmatically, in school year 2023-2024, one Lower Elementary classroom will transition to being an Upper Elementary classroom as current 2nd graders become future 4th graders.

Explain changes to student recruitment that will take place as a result of the proposed enrollment revisions.

Urban Montessori does not expect any changes to student recruitment as a result of the proposed enrollment revisions. We will continue to accept applications for students each year in all ten grades we serve—Transitional Kindergarten through 8th Grade. We partner with Oakland Enrolls for our application process, which includes recruitment efforts. Because of the pandemic, we have hosted virtual-only enrollment events and campus tours at a variety of days and times and in more than one language.

Provide a detailed description of any changes to your facility due to the enrollment decline.

There will be no facility changes due to enrollment decline.

Provide an overall description of how the proposed enrollment change will impact the budget for the remainder of the petition period.

The proposed enrollment already impacts our budget this year, as there is currently no “Hold Harmless” provisions for California’s public charter schools for the 2021-2022 school year related to enrollment and attendance. Our current forecasted one-time deficit this current school year is mostly from a decision to invest in maintaining all three of our Primary classrooms. We made that decision early this school year to support physical distancing for our students who at the time lacked access to vaccines and to support our teachers. We also want to position ourselves to return as much as possible and as soon as possible to near our prior school size plans. The Charter School will be able to cover the shortfall for this school year because of our fund balance.

When we look to the future and assume zero dollars in fundraising and grants, for each of the remaining two fiscal years in our Material Revision proposal, we conservatively forecast modest operating incomes.

School Year	Public Revenue	Operating Income	Percent
2022-2023	\$4,630,987	\$40,257	0.9%
2023-2024	\$4,825,879	\$91,176	1.8%

Our return towards – but not all the way to – prior-approved enrollment is supported by California’s expansion of Transitional Kindergarten, and our current application numbers for the 2022-2023 school year.