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March 18, 2019

Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School  
 Attention: Lara Zelski  
 688 Grant St SE  
 Atlanta, GA 30316

**Re: Recommendation of Lottery Weight**

Dear Ms. Zelski:

I hope this letter finds you well. Thank you for the 2019 lottery applicant data that you and your team recently provided. I've reviewed this data and am writing to recommend a lottery weight that will move ANCS toward its goal of serving more economically disadvantaged students.

My recommendation is that you **use a weight of 4**, the maximum allowed under your charter. I summarize below the basis for that recommendation.

From our discussions and my review of the ANCS charter, I understand that the organization has established a goal that at least 40% of newly admitted students (excluding students admitted through sibling, employee, or board member preference) be economically disadvantaged. In addition, a goal has been established for overall enrollment of between 30% and 50% economically disadvantaged students.

Because most seats above kindergarten are taken by returning students, I understand that kindergarten is the only grade where a substantial number of slots will be available to new students (60 slots). A small number of slots (4) will be offered to new sixth grade students while the other grades will not have any slots. For those grades, all applicants will be placed on the waitlist, and will be admitted as spots free up. Since kindergarten is the only grade with significant available seats, I've relied on an analysis of kindergarten applicants as the basis for my recommendation. Below you will find a table summarizing those applicants.

Description	Number of Applicants			Percentage of Applicants	
	Economically Disadvantaged	Not Economically Disadvantaged	Total	Economically Disadvantaged	Not Economically Disadvantaged

Kindergarten by Admissions Tier:

Sibling/Board/Employee	4	40	44	9%	91%
Zone 1	4	76	80	5%	95%
Zone 2	3	9	12	25%	75%
Zone 3	27	51	78	35%	65%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>82%</b>

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As you can see, a total of 214 students applied for kindergarten admission and 18% of those students self-reported being economically disadvantaged. Importantly, most of the economically disadvantaged students are from Zone 3 and would only be eligible for admission once all students from the previous tiers have been admitted.

The priority admissions tiers mean that ANCS will admit 44 students as siblings or children of board members/employees. An additional 16 students will be admitted from Zone 1. The remaining 64 Zone 1 students as well as all students in Zone 2 or Zone 3 will go on the waitlist.

Only 4 of the sibling/board/employee applicants are economically disadvantaged while only 4 of the Zone 1 applicants are economically disadvantaged. Even if the school could admit all the economically disadvantaged Zone 1 applicants, its incoming class would have only 8 economically disadvantaged students, or 13%. This remains substantially below the goal that 30% to 50% of enrolled students be economically disadvantaged; therefore, I recommend that you use a weight of 4, the highest weight allowed under your charter. With this weight, the percentage of economically disadvantaged kindergarten students admitted is likely to fall in the range of **8% to 14%**. The percentage of newly admitted students (excluding those admitted through sibling or board member preference) is likely to fall in the **6% to 25%** range.

I hope that this summary has been clear. However, should you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to call or email.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jarod Apperson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Jarod Apperson