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March 1, 2022

Wesley International Academy
 Attention: Jason Marshall
 211 Memorial Drive
 Atlanta, GA 30312

Re: Review of 2021 Lottery/Enrollment and 2022 Weight Recommendation

Dear Mr. Marshall:

I hope this letter finds you well. Thank you for the 2021 lottery and enrollment data that you and your team recently provided as well as the 2022 lottery applicants to date. I've reviewed this data and am writing to summarize the results of the 2021 lottery and recommend a weight for this year as Wesley International Academy works toward its goal of serving more economically disadvantaged students.

REVIEW OF 2021 KINDERGARTEN LOTTERY RESULTS

During the 2021 lottery cycle, Wesley admitted 80 kindergarten students. Using the data provided, I analyzed the rate at which those admits converted to enrolled students. The table below shows that a total of 35 of the 80 students admitted at the time of the lottery ended up enrolling. This reflects a yield rate of 44%. That rate is down from the 2019 and 2020 yield rates which were 61% and 56%, respectively. The data also shows that, consistent with previous years, economically disadvantaged students were slightly less likely to ultimately enroll. Only 40% of admitted economically-disadvantaged students ended up enrolling while 52% of not economically-disadvantaged students ended up enrolling. In 2021, these rates were 43% and 76%, respectively. While both were down, the biggest reduction came among the applicants who are not economically disadvantaged.

Effects of the Covid-19 pandemic may have impacted yields.

Description	Number			Percentage	
	Economically Disadvantaged	Not Economically Disadvantaged	Total	Economically Disadvantaged	Not Economically Disadvantaged
Number of Students Enrolled	21	14	35	60%	40%
Divided by: Number of Students Admitted	53	27	80	66%	34%
Yield Rate	40%	52%	44%		

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To fill available seats, Wesley also admitted several students from its waitlist who ended up enrolling. A total of 48 students not admitted at the time of the lottery ended up enrolling as of the October 2021 FTE count.¹

When the students admitted at the time of the lottery are combined with the 48 students later admitted, there were a total of 83 students enrolled as of the October 2020 FTE count. Below is a summary of those enrolled students by economically disadvantaged status.

Description	Number of Enrolled Students			Percentage of Enrolled Students	
	Economically Disadvantaged	Not Economically Disadvantaged	Total	Economically Disadvantaged	Not Economically Disadvantaged
Admitted on Lottery Date	21	14	35	60%	40%
Admitted Subsequently	11	37	48	23%	77%
Total	32	51	83	39%	61%

From our discussions, I understand that the organization has established a goal that at least 60% of students be economically disadvantaged. Based on this criterion, the evidence from 2021 suggests that the weighted lottery was successful at helping the school create an original pool of admitted students consistent with its goals. Of the students admitted on the lottery date who ultimately enrolled, exactly 60% were economically disadvantaged. However, the need to ultimately extended offers to students ranked further down the waitlist and those who applied after the lottery date (thus not affected by the weight) pulled the share of economically disadvantaged students down to 39%.

This result was nonetheless an improvement over the prior year when 33% of the enrolled kindergarteners self-identified as economically disadvantaged.

Both the admit pool and the final cohort were relatively close to the expectations shared in my recommendation letter last year. The admit pool was 66% economically disadvantaged, very close to the estimate of 67%. The ultimate cohort was 39% economically disadvantaged, on the high end of the range from 28% to 39% that I estimated. The result ended up on the high end because once the waitlist was exhausted, the school admitted some additional economically disadvantaged students who had not applied at the time I analyzed last year's data.

REVIEW OF 2021 ADMITS FOR GRADES 1 THROUGH 8

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a substantial number of students were admitted to the school from all grades. Below you will find a table summarizing newly enrolled students in grades 1 through 8.

¹ Twenty-one of these students were on the waitlist from the time of the lottery. Additionally, 27 enrolled students were not part of the original applicant pool at all but applied later. Four of the 27 students added later were either a sibling of an enrolled student or the child of an employee/board member. The remaining 23 did not fall in these categories but were offered admission once the original waitlist had been fully exhausted.

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Description	Number of Enrolled Students			Percentage of Enrolled Students	
	Economically Disadvantaged	Not Economically Disadvantaged	Total	Economically Disadvantaged	Not Economically Disadvantaged
Admitted on Lottery Date	-	-	-		
Admitted Subsequently	22	17	39	56%	44%
Total	22	17	39	56%	44%

As you can see, a total of 39 students were admitted. All of these students were admitted through the waitlist as there were no seats available on the lottery date.

TREND OF DIRECTLY CERTIFIED STUDENTS

Direct certification is one measure of economic disadvantage based on whether a student’s family receives assistance through government programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Data collected by the Atlanta Public Schools indicates Wesley shifted toward serving more directly certified students from October 2018 to October 2020. In October 2018, 35% of the school was directly certified. By October 2020, that percentage rose to 50. This trend is consistent with the organization making significant progress toward achieving its goals.

Grade	Percentage of Directly Certified Students		
	October 2018 Count	October 2019 Count	October 2020 Count
Kindergarten	45%	60%	47%
1st Grade	29%	47%	61%
2nd Grade	45%	41%	56%
3rd Grade	40%	48%	46%
4th Grade	27%	53%	48%
5th Grade	36%	27%	57%
6th Grade	30%	49%	41%
7th Grade	46%	40%	51%
8th Grade	21%	57%	43%
Total	35%	47%	50%

We requested and received data from October 2021 from the district; however, it does not appear to accurately reflect data for newly-enrolled students. A final version of the data will be requested next year once direct-certification has been verified for all students.

REVIEW OF 2022 KINDERGARTEN LOTTERY APPLICANTS

My recommendation is that you **use a weight of 20**, the maximum allowed under your charter. I summarize below the basis for that recommendation.

Below you will find a table summarizing kindergarten applicants from the 2022 cycle.

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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	9	17	26	35%	65%
Other Applicants	29	120	149	19%	81%
Total	38	137	175	22%	78%

As you can see, a total of 175 students applied for kindergarten admission through February 25, 2022. At this point last year, a total of 191 students had applied. This continues a downward trend from the 251 students who had applied at this point in 2020.² The decrease occurred among economically disadvantaged students while the number of applicants who are not economically disadvantaged increased slightly. As a result, the share of the applicant pool who self-reported being economically disadvantaged fell to 22% from 31% last year. This placed the share closer in line with the 2020 applicant pool which was 23% economically disadvantaged.

Because the school will admit 88 kindergarten students, all students who have a sibling already attending Wesley and those who are the child of a board or employee member will be admitted. Therefore, the weight will play a factor for the other students.

For Wesley to reach its goal of having 60% of the 2021 kindergarten cohort be economically disadvantaged, the school needs at least 53 economically disadvantaged students to enroll.

Historically, between 40% and 57% of admitted students who were economically disadvantaged ended up enrolling. If the school were to admit all the economically-disadvantaged students who applied, and a similar yield rate occurred, the resulting cohort would only have between 15 and 21 economically disadvantaged students, substantially fewer than the goal of 53.

I am recommending that the school use a weight of 20, the highest weight available under Wesley’s charter. This will result in an **admit pool that is approximately 43%** economically disadvantaged. However, the profile of enrolled students in October 2022 will likely fall further short of the school’s goal as not all admitted students will enroll and very few of the students on the waitlist will be economically disadvantaged. If the yield rate mirrors past cohorts, **the October 2021 FTE count will have between 17% and 24% economically disadvantaged students.**³

It is unknown how many applicants who have not yet applied may ultimately enroll. Last year, because the school went through the full waitlist, 27 students who were not in the data at this time of year ended up being part of the cohort. This represented a significant proportion (33%) of the overall cohort. Since the number of kindergarten applicants to date is lower than last year, the school may again exhaust its waitlist and extend offers to students who are not in the

² Of the 175 kindergarten applicants, 20 were out-of-district. Historically, very few out-of-district students have ultimately presented the necessary documentation to confirm residence in the district and enroll. In 2021, three of the 19 out-of-district students offered seats ended up enrolling.

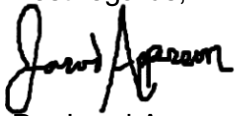
³ The estimates are based upon applicant data through February 25, 2022. Should substantial numbers of economically disadvantaged students apply at the last moment, higher rates of economically disadvantaged students are possible. However, this was not observed during the 2020 or 2021 cycle.

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current applicant pool. Because late applicants are not part of the weighted lottery, they receive admission offers based on the order in which they apply. The late applicants last year who ended up as part of the cohort were 37% economically disadvantaged. This dynamic could result in a cohort with more economically disadvantaged students than 17% to 24% the current applicant pool would suggest; however, it is very unlikely these late applicants would lead the school to reach or surpass its goal of 60%.

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, somewhat stylized font.

Dr. Jarod Apperson