



Pivot Charter School North Bay

**Response to Santa Rosa City Schools Findings of Fact Regarding
the Pivot Charter School North Bay Charter Renewal Petition**



Attendance Finding #4

- Past 5 years: Pivot's P-2 attendance rate has averaged 82.2%
- Our projected attendance rate of 81.0% listed in the charter petition budget is achievable and slightly conservative

Despite Pivot's high chronic absenteeism, the relevant attendance factor for projecting most revenues is the average attendance rate for the P-2 funding period

Pivot's budgeted attendance rate is therefore well substantiated by historical data

Enrollment Finding #4

- Pivot has seen enrollment over 480 students with a historical peak of 487 in 2019
- Past 2 years: Pivot has maintained large waitlists over 100 students, but has voluntarily and strategically capped enrollment around 440 in recent years

The combined number of enrolled students + waitlisted students for the P-2 funding period was approximately 560

This demonstrates sufficient demand to meet the projected 490 students Pivot expects to enroll with achieved and maintained staffing levels outlined in the petition budget

Reserve for Economic Uncertainties

Finding #4

Why >50%
Fund
Balance ?

A 3% reserve is inadequate for charter schools because:

- often ineligible to access tools and resources utilized by districts for temporary cash flow support
- lack of collateral such as ownership of land and buildings to secure loans
- may be subjected to severe consequences if cash flow issues arise

Common recommendation among charter school business managers is to maintain cash on hand equivalent to at least 3 months of operating expenses (an average of 25% of annual expenses). Therefore, Pivot's Governing Board issued guidance that the Ending Fund Balance should maintain a minimum of 20% of annual expense.

**Additionally Pivot has been planning for the possibility that a large facilities project may be needed in the near future*

Budget Clarifications Finding #4




Several flat line items (utilities, janitorial, etc.) →

- Historical expense data has not shown consistent increases. Instead Pivot deliberately budgeted on the high side of historical range for annual fluctuations, so it was not necessary to apply additional annual increase for these items.

Decrease for code 5869 Special Education Contract Instructors →

- Intentional and determined by analyzing Pivot's student population and special education needs
- Certain high-cost items will be reduced and/or eliminated in 2027-28 based on current placements, services and expected graduation dates

**The single increase for 5812 Business Services from 2029-30 to 2030-31 is an error not caught prior to submission. The projected amount should equal the annual amount listed for each of the first four years of the budget*



Special Education Finding #6

Core Commitment

We enroll and serve EVERY student who enrolls, regardless of disability

Pivot provides the full continuum of placement options required under IDEA and SELPA Policies

All decisions (in-person vs. virtual, transportation, etc.) are made by the IEP team based on individual student need

- Never by blanket policy or distance

- For clarification, the “45-mile” language in petition was intended as a guideline, not policy.

Special Education Finding #6

Program Highlights

Full CALPADS verification upon enrollment so services start immediately
Immediate interim 30-day IEP upon enrollment

Mild-Moderate Support Needs: served in general education with accommodations & supports, push-in support, small group pull-out, specialized instruction

Extensive Support Needs program with TeachTown curriculum, communication and adaptive behavior supports, functional skills instruction, highly individualized instruction, frequent virtual or in-person sessions based on the IEP team's decisions

- All related services contracted with credentialed providers (speech, OT, PT, counseling, DHH, transportation, etc.)

Transportation available through West County Transportation whenever IEP team determines it is required for FAPE — no distance limit

Compliance Finding #6

SEIS compliance report provided

- Out of 133 IEP students, only 10 instances of noncompliance may have been attributable to Pivot
- Many students enroll with Pivot with already out of compliance from prior IEPs

- Eligibility Categories are provided in Pivot's response
- 54 SLD, 41 Other Health Impairment, 12 Autism, 7 ED
- Additional categories are significantly lower and not displayed for student privacy



Staffing & Vendors Finding #6

All Education Specialists provide services both on site and remotely to ensure students receive support in the modality that best meets their needs

Pivot North Bay special education staff includes:
Education Specialists: 4.7 (2 of which are on site in Santa Rosa)
Speech (through vendors): 1
Occupational Therapists (through vendors): .25
Educational Psychologists: 1
Counselors: 2.75 (2 FTE on site)

*Ability to flexibly assign specialists system-wide for virtual services

Vendors & description of services provided in response

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ABOUT
PIVOT**



Jim Lewis
Chairman of the Board





Questions or Comments ?

