

October 10, 2018

Dear Families,

Please see the attached policy regarding letters of recommendation for private and charter schools. You'll notice that we are among eleven Oakland schools implementing this policy.

Teachers spend a great deal of time writing extensive, detailed report cards that outline each student's strengths and areas for growth, as well as social and emotional information. They also provide meaningful feedback about the extent to which students are meeting academic standards. These report cards are individualized enough to identify many of each child's unique qualities. We have heard from several private school leaders that our report cards and test scores that we send at their request will suffice for all of the information they need for their applications.

Both the high acceptance rates of our students at private schools and conversations I have had with admissions directors at several schools are evidence that this policy does not impact their admissions decisions.

In addition to sending a copy of this policy to you, all of the following schools received it as well. If your child is applying to a school not on the list, please email me right away, and I will personally send it to their admissions office.

- Bentley
- Black Pine Circle □ Crowden School
- Easty Bay School for Boys
- Head Royce School
- Julia Morgan School for Girls
- Oakland School for the Arts
- Park Day School
- Prospect Sierra
- Redwood Day School
- St. Paul's Episcopal School

Best regards,
Joci Kelleher

Private and Charter School Application Policy

Due to the high volume of requests for written recommendations for charter and private school applications and the challenges these requests present for our teachers, the following schools will not participate in writing letters of recommendation or filling out questionnaires for Private and Charter School applications: Redwood Heights, Montclair, Chabot, Kaiser, Sequoia, Joaquin Miller, Thornhill, Glenview, Hillcrest, Peralta and Crocker Highlands.

It is our practice to support our students and families in understanding their child's strengths and areas of growth through extensive, detailed, and data-driven report card comments about student's academic and social and emotional growth and development. Hence, we offer the report cards as the official recommendation document for applications to other schools or programs.

Thank you in advance for your adherence to our school-based policy. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our schools.

