

October 16, 2020

Dear Families,

Please see the attached policy regarding letters of recommendation for private and charter schools. Our ten OUSD schools have adhered to this this policy for the past seven years.

Teachers spend a great deal of time creating 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 with admissions directors 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 your school's administrative assistant right away, and they will send it to their admissions office.

- Bentley
- Black Pine Circle
- East 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,

The Principals of Chabot, Crocker Highlands, Glenview, Hillcrest, Joaquin Miller, Montclair, Peralta, Redwood Heights, Sequoia, and Thornhill Elementary Schools

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 ten schools will not participate in writing letters of recommendation or filling out questionnaires for Private and Charter School applications: Redwood Heights, Montclair, Chabot, 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.



Head Royce School
4315 Lincoln Ave.
Oakland, CA 94602

Redwood Day School
3245 Sheffield Avenue
Oakland, CA 94602

Oakland School for the Arts 530
18th St.
Oakland, CA 94612

Park Day School
360 42nd Street
Oakland, CA 94609

Prospect Sierra Elementary School
2060 Tapscott Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Julia Morgan School for Girls 5000
MacArthur Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94613

East Bay School for Boys 2340 Durant
Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94704

St. Paul's Episcopal School
116 Montecito Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610

Bentley Lower and Middle School
1 Hiller Drive
Oakland, CA 94618

Black Pine Circle Day School
913 Addison Street
Berkeley, CA 94710