

# REPORT ON WEIGHTED LOTTERY IMPLEMENTATION

SPCSA BOARD MEETING MAY 21, 2021

## PINECREST ACADEMY OF NORTHERN NEVADA



## DORAL ACADEMY OF NORTHERN NEVADA

# ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS



- ▶ Doral Academy of Northern Nevada (“DANN”) opened in 2017 with 163 students in grades K-4 while renting classroom space from South Reno United Methodist Church
- ▶ In 2018, DANN moved to the current facility and expanded enrollment to 636 students in grades K-7.
- ▶ In 2019, Angela Orr became the Principal of DANN and helped lead the school to a second 5 star Elementary School rating and an inaugural 5 star Middle School rating.
- ▶ In 2019, DANN applied for a charter amendment to expand the current facility and grow enrollment to 950 students in grades K-8.
- ▶ As part of the 2019 amendment, DANN requested to be the first Nevada school to implement a weighted lottery, giving 2x weighting to all verified FRL applicants.

# ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS



- ▶ Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada (“PANN”) submitted a charter application in 2019 to open a new charter school in August 2020.
- ▶ PANN recognized the area in which a school facility could be developed had schools with lower than district average populations of FRL students.
- ▶ PANN requested to open with a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club to transport students from more diverse communities, and to be the first Nevada school to implement a weighted lottery from its inception, giving 2x weighting to all verified FRL applicants.
- ▶ PANN opened under the leadership of Principal Jami Curtis in August 2020 with 690 students enrolled in grades K-7.



# WEIGHTED LOTTERY IMPLEMENTATION



## DANN

At the time of Weighted Lottery Implementation, DANN had a Free or Reduced Priced Lunch Eligibility of 6.5% for elementary school and 12.6% for middle school.

The WCSD Schools closest to DANN have the following FRL Eligibility percentages:

- ▶ Hunsberger Elementary School: 4.4%
- ▶ Herz Middle School: 10.9%

## PANN

PANN implemented a weighted lottery from the school 1st year (2020-2021).

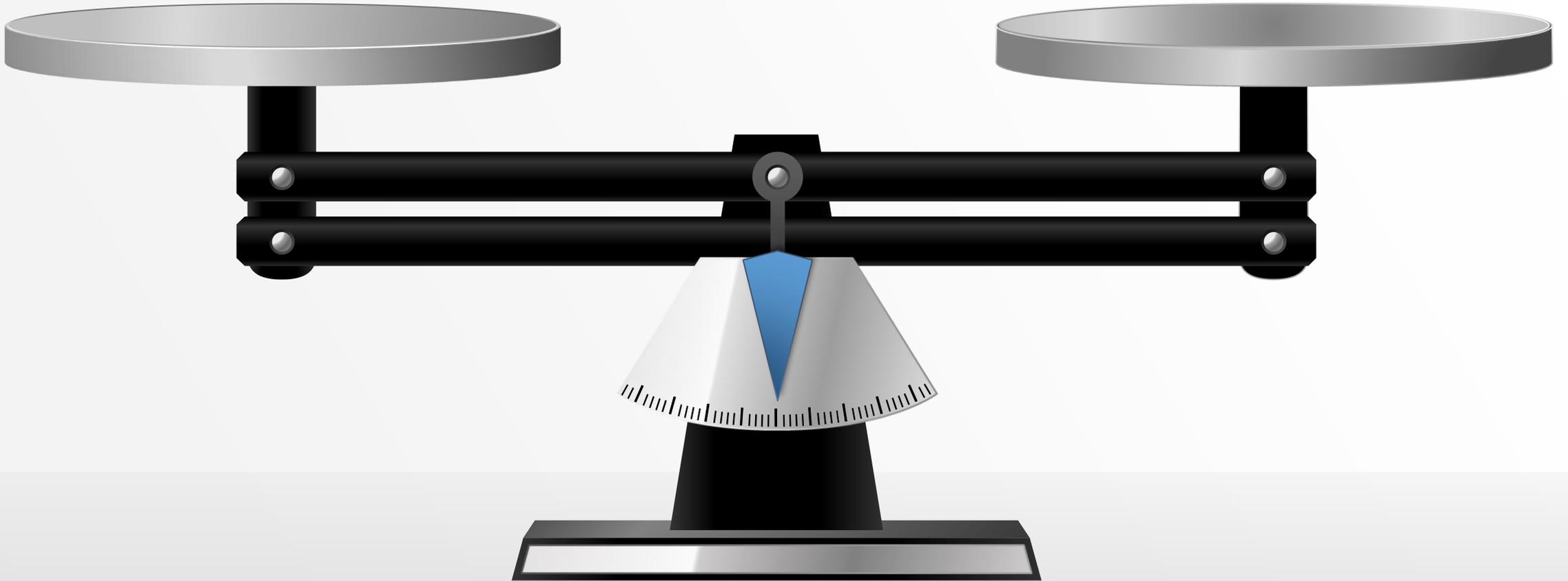
The WCSD Schools closest to PANN have the following FRL Eligibility percentages:

- ▶ Spanish Springs Elementary School: 13.3%
- ▶ Alice Taylor Elementary School: 23.4%
- ▶ Shaw Middle School: 21%

FRL Eligible



Non-FRL Eligible



Lottery Preference of 2 to 1 for FRL Eligible Students

# 2020 LOTTERY RESULTS - DANN



Total Non-Sibling Seats Available in Open Enrollment: 59

Total Non-Sibling Applicants for Open Enrollment: 615

FRL Non-Sibling Verified Applicants for Open Enrollment: 19

**FRL Acceptance Rate: 9/19 (47%)**

**Non-FRL Acceptance Rate: 50/596 (8%)**

**After 2020 Lottery DANN FRL (Oct. 1 verification) was 8.3%.**

## Challenges

### Few Seats Available for Lottery

As a 4<sup>th</sup> year school with re-enrollment at greater than 97%, DANN had only 2-3 seats available at all grade levels other than Kinder, and even kinder filled with 50%+ siblings of existing students.

### Low Percentage Turned in Verification Paperwork

Only 40% of families who indicated they were eligible for FRL turned in the verification paperwork, despite text, email and phone reminders.



# 2020 LOTTERY RESULTS - PANN



Total Non-Sibling Seats Available in Open Enrollment: 688

Total Non-Sibling Applicants for Open Enrollment: 707

FRL Non-Sibling Verified Applicants for Open Enrollment: 43

**FRL Acceptance Rate: 43/43 (100%)** (Note: Only grades K, 1 and 4 went to lottery.)

**Non-FRL Acceptance Rate: 645/664 (97%)**

**After 2020 Lottery PANN FRL (Oct. 1 verification) was 17.2%.**

## Challenges

### In-Person Marketing Restrictions

PANN open enrollment period was during COVID Quarantine Shutdown with lottery running on April 15, 2020.

COVID pandemic restrictions prevented all in-person community outreach (supermarket tables, church events, door-to-door and tribal community presentations) which is typically most successful in reaching socio-economically disadvantaged students.

### Low Percentage Turned in Verification Paperwork

Only 30% of families who indicated they were eligible for FRL turned in the verification paperwork, despite text, email and phone reminders.



# ISSUES AFFECTING 2021 LOTTERY & ADJUSTMENTS

## **In-Person Marketing Restrictions (DANN & PANN)**

COVID pandemic restrictions and spiking COVID cases in early 2021 prevented most in-person community outreach which is typically most successful in reaching socio-economically disadvantaged students.

Schools pivoted to social media, virtual open houses, targeted fliers and mailers for marketing efforts.

## **In-Person Instruction Limitations (DANN & PANN)**

WCSD elementary schools offered all-day, in-person instruction to all elementary school students for the entire 2020-2021 school year, while SPCSA COVID regulations limited capacity to 25-50% of students at PANN & DANN through open enrollment for 2021-2022 school year. Many FRL families chose to remain in schools with full operations, before/after care and daily meal access.

## **Seamless Summer Program (DANN & PANN)**

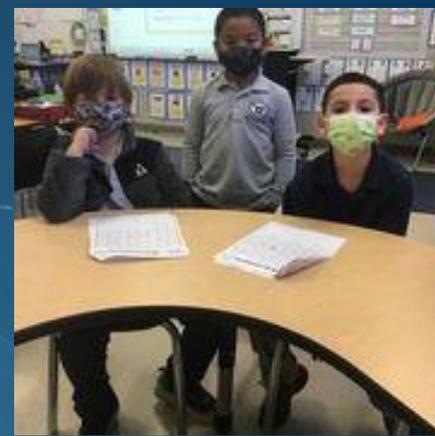
Universal free lunch reduced the incentive for families to apply for FRL benefits in 2020 and submit the paperwork needed for accurate school data. (Schools are prohibited from offering other motivations to parents.)

PANN is serving lunch to 50% of students on average each day.

DANN is serving lunch to 28% of students on average each day.

## **Adjustment to Lottery Weight (PANN)**

Due to lower than forecast FRL numbers and low applicant numbers for the 2020 weighted lottery, the PANN board increased the weighting from 2:1 to 5:1 for the 2021 lottery.



# 2021 DATA RESULTS



## DANN

Total Non-Sibling Seats Available in Open Enrollment: 86

Total Non-Sibling Applicants for Open Enrollment: 740

FRL Non-Sibling Verified Applicants for Open Enrollment: 55

**FRL Acceptance Rate: 17/55 (31%)**

**Non-FRL Acceptance Rate: 69/685 (10%)**

## PANN

Total Non-Sibling Seats Available in Open Enrollment: 80

Total Non-Sibling Applicants for Open Enrollment: 586

FRL Non-Sibling Verified Applicants for Open Enrollment: 27

**FRL Acceptance Rate: 13/27 (48%)**

**Non-FRL Acceptance Rate: 67/559 (12%)**



# MOVING FORWARD



Both weighted lotteries have shown success – looking to build upon this and learn!

Robust marketing efforts in low income areas are proving successful. Looking to further marketing efforts, with more in-person events post-COVID and working with key local partners like the Boys & Girls Club.

More FRL students = more FRL siblings eligible for priority enrollment.

## **Documentation Challenges**

Families self-identify as FRL eligible during the lottery application process and must provide documentation to verify FRL eligibility PRIOR to lottery date.

This can lead to inaccurate identifications by parents and parents missing the deadline. Ex: Currently 62 FRL on PANN waitlist.

## **USDA Concerns**

The USDA requires paperwork to be submitted during the “current” academic year (after July 1). Because lotteries are completed during the spring of the prior academic year, families are requested to submit information twice.

The USDA generally releases updated income eligibility data after the date lotteries are completed, which can change eligibility status between the running of the lottery and the beginning of the school year.

Impact of Seamless Summer

**Improving data system to improve the ability to better understand effectiveness of weighted lotteries.**

**Excited to see other schools implement weighted lotteries and share best practices going forward.**

# QUESTIONS?

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