

DESIGN ENROLLMENT CERTIFICATION LETTER

SECTION 3.1.8.3

PRELIMINARY DESIGN PROGRAM, MARCH 2021

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Massachusetts School Building Authority

Deborah B. Goldberg
Chairman, State Treasurer

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Chief Executive Officer

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January 2, 2020

Ms. Hillari I. Wennerstrom
Tyngsborough Board of Selectmen
Tyngsborough Town Hall
25 Bryants Lane
Tyngsborough, MA 01879

Re: Town of Tyngsborough, Tyngsborough Middle School

Dear Ms. Wennerstrom:

I would like to thank you and representatives of the Town of Tyngsborough (the “District”) for meeting with Massachusetts School Building Authority (the “MSBA”) staff on November 26, 2019 to review enrollment projections and methodologies for the Tyngsborough Middle School project (the “Proposed Project”). As discussed, the next critical step is for the MSBA and the District to agree on a design enrollment for the Tyngsborough Middle School.

The Tyngsborough Middle School is a middle school that presently serves the District’s entire grade 6-8 enrollment, and accordingly, this analysis will be particularly focused on the enrollment projections for those grades.

With respect to historic enrollments, the table below illustrates the District’s K-12 enrollment during the most recent ten-year period, including enrollment for the current school year (2019-2020) as reported by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (“DESE”) and the District.

The total grade 6-8 enrollment in the Town of Tyngsborough as reported by the District for the current school year is 383 students, which reflects a decrease of 117 students (-23.4%) from the grade 6-8 enrollment reported in 2010, which was the maximum grade 6-8 enrollment reported in the preceding ten years. Additionally, 2019-2020 grade 6-8 enrollment reflects a decrease of approximately 51 students (-11.8%) from the average grade 6-8 enrollment reported during the preceding ten-year period.

Year	K-5	6-8	9-12	Total
2010	870	500	486	1,856
2011	827	483	504	1,814
2012	813	460	519	1,792
2013	775	463	524	1,762
2014	746	432	508	1,686
2015	721	429	501	1,651
2016	720	419	507	1,646
2017	682	409	476	1,567
2018	742	364	478	1,584
2019	745	383	457	1,585

The MSBA understands that the District is proposing a design enrollment to accommodate approximately 475 students in grades 6-8 at the Tyngsborough Middle School. The enrollment in grades 6-8 reported by the District for the 2019-2020 school year was 383 students.

With respect to future enrollments, the MSBA's base enrollment forecast indicates that the District's grade 6-8 enrollment will begin to experience an increasing trend through the 2029-2030 school year. The average grade 6-8 base enrollment forecast for the projected period through the 2029-2030 school year is 420 students.

As a result of a sensitivity analysis performed by the MSBA on this base enrollment projection and further discussion with the District, the following adjustments have been made to the base enrollment projection:

- Sustained Enrollment Growth
 - The MSBA default methodology is based on the average future enrollment projected over a ten-year period. Enrollment projections for the District predict sustained enrollment growth in the elementary grades, all of which are located at the Tyngsborough Elementary School, significantly beyond the ten-year projection period.
 - Based on the anticipated enrollment growth projected for the Tyngsborough Elementary School which is the feeder school to the Tyngsborough Middle School, the MSBA base model has been adjusted to use the average future enrollment projected over a 20-year period for the Tyngsborough Middle School.
 - This adjustment added approximately 50 students to the average grade 6-8 enrollment as compared to the projection without this adjustment.

- Out-of-District Enrollment
 - In order to adjust for fluctuations to the out-of-district enrollment patterns of the District's residents over time, the MSBA has made an additional adjustment to the base enrollment projection.

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- In order to make this adjustment, the MSBA adjusted the grade to grade survival ratios for grades 6-8 by a total of 3.3% throughout a four-year period in the projection.
 - This adjustment added approximately 5 students to the average grade 6-8 enrollment as compared to the projection without this adjustment.
- Development
 - Based on the discussions between the District and the MSBA, and the anticipated development information provided by the District, the MSBA enrollment model has been adjusted to use the five-year 75th percentile cohort survival rate for 2020-2021 rather than the five-year average cohort survival rate which is utilized throughout the base enrollment forecast.
 - This adjustment added approximately 5 students to the average total grade 6-8 enrollment as compared to the projection without this adjustment.

As a result of analysis on the average base enrollment forecast, the adjustments to the base projection described above, and based on the historical enrollment trends of the District, the MSBA recommends a design enrollment of 480 students for the Tyngsborough Middle School.

The MSBA believes that this design enrollment recommendation will position the District to efficiently meet space capacity needs throughout future enrollment variations. Please sign and return the attached certification within 21 calendar days to confirm agreement on this design enrollment. If the District feels that this design enrollment does not meet the needs of the District, please respond to this letter via e-mail to Brian Lynch and propose three meeting/conference call times for which the District can be available to discuss enrollment.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Brian Lynch (Brian.Lynch@massschoolbuildings.org) at 617-720-4466.

Sincerely,



Mary Pichetti
Director of Capital Planning

Cc: Legislative Delegation
Matthew Hanson, Tyngsborough Town Administrator
Ryan McMahon, Chair, Tyngsborough School Committee
Dr. Michael Flanagan, Superintendent, Tyngsborough Public Schools
File: 10.2 Letters (Region 2)

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