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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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January 30, 2019

Mr. James Santana, Superintendent
Northern Valley Regional Public School District
162 Knickerbocker Road
Demarest, New jersey 07627

**Re: Long-Range Facilities Plan Major Amendment Approval
Northern Valley Regional Public School District (3710), Bergen County**

Dear Mr. Santana:

The Department of Education (Department) has approved the major amendment to the Long-Range Facilities Plan (LRFP or Plan) submitted by the Northern Valley Regional Public School District (District) pursuant to the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, P.L. 2000, c. 72 (N.J.S.A. 18A: 7G-1 *et seq.*), as amended by P.L. 2007, c. 137 (Act), N.J.A.C. 6A:26 -1 *et seq.* (Educational Facilities Code), and the Facilities Efficiency Standards (FES). Findings are summarized in the attached "Summary of the Long-Range Facilities Plan, as Amended January 31, 2019."

The approved amendment fulfills LRFP reporting requirements for a period of five years from the date of this letter pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A: 7G-4 (a) unless the LRFP needs to be further amended to address a proposed school facilities project that is inconsistent with the approved Plan. The approved LRFP amendment supersedes all prior LRFP approvals. Unless and until a new amendment is submitted to and approved by the Department pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-4(c), this approved LRFP shall remain in effect. The approval of the LRFP and any projects and costs listed therein does not imply approval of an individual school facilities project or its corresponding costs and eligibility for State support. Determination of preliminary eligible costs will be made at the time of the approval of a school facilities project pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5. Similarly, approval of the LRFP does not imply approval of portions of the Plan that are inconsistent with the FES or proposed building demolition or replacement.

Please contact Jeanne Dunne, your Educational Facilities Specialist from the Office of School Facilities, at telephone number (609) 376-3675 or email at jeanne.dunn@doe.nj.gov, with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Susan Kutner
Director, Office of School Facilities Planning

c: Bernard E. Piaia, Jr., Department of Education, Office of School Facilities Projects
Jeanne Dunn, Department of Education, Office of School Facilities Projects
Joanette Femia, North Valley Regional Public School District, District Business Administrator
Jeff Schlecht, RSC Architects

**Northern Valley Regional Public School District (3710)
Summary of the Long-Range Facilities Plan, as Amended January 30, 2019**

The Department of Education (Department) has completed its review of the Long-Range Facilities Plan (LRFP or Plan) amendment submitted by the Northern Valley Regional School District (District) pursuant to the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, P.L. 2000, c. 72 (N.J.S.A. 18A: 7G-1 et seq.), as amended by P.L. 2007, c. 137 (Act), N.J.A.C. 6A:26-1 et seq. (Educational Facilities Code), and the Facilities Efficiency Standards (FES).

This is the Department’s summary and understanding of the District’s reported LRFP, as amended to date. The summary is based on the standards set forth in the Act, the Educational Facilities Code, the FES, District-entered data in the Department’s LRFP website, and District-supplied supporting documentation. The named reports in italic text below reference standard LRFP reports available on the Department’s LRFP website.

The District and their agents are obligated to report LRFP information to the Department accurately and to the best of their ability. Inaccurate information may lead to incorrect District planning or Department determinations of adequacy or future eligibility and be punishable by law.

Review this Determination with great care; contact the Department immediately if error(s) found.

1. Inventory Overview

The District provides services for students in grades 9-12. The District is classified as ROD District for funding purposes.

The District identified existing and proposed schools, sites, buildings, playgrounds, playfields, and parking lots in its LRFP. The total number of existing and proposed district-owned or leased schools, sites, and buildings are listed in Table 1. A detailed description of each asset can be found in the LRFP website report titled “Site Asset Inventory Report.”

Table 1: Inventory Summary	Existing	Proposed
Sites:		
Total Number of Sites	2	3
Number of Sites with no Buildings	0	0
Number of Sites with no Instructional Buildings	0	0
Schools and Buildings:		
Total Number of Schools with Enrollments*	2	3
Total Number of Instructional Buildings	2	5
Total Number of Administrative and Utility Buildings	4	4
Total Number of Athletic Facilities	3	3
Total Number of Parking Structures (excl. surface lots)	0	0
Total Number of Temporary Facilities	0	0

**Only includes only schools assigned three-digit Department code numbers*

As directed by the Department, incomplete school facilities projects that have project approval from the Department are represented as “existing” in the Plan. District schools with incomplete approved projects that include new construction or the reconfiguration of existing program space are as follows: **Purchase of school grounds and 2 school buildings on Norwood NVR III Site for NRV School III, and proposed Junction Special Education Building on Demarest site.**

Major conclusions are as follows:

- The District is proposing to increase the existing number of District-owned or leased sites.
- The District is proposing to increase the existing number of District-operated and owned schools.
- The District is proposing to increase the existing number of District-owned or leased instructional buildings. The District is proposing to maintain the existing number of District-owned or leased non-instructional buildings.

FINDINGS: The Department has determined that the proposed inventory is adequate for approval of the District’s LRFP amendment. However, the LRFP determination does not imply or give approval to any individual school facilities project listed within the LRFP. The District must submit individual project applications for project approval. If building demolition or replacement is proposed, the District must submit a feasibility study, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-7b, as part of the application for the specific school facilities project.

2. PK-12 Enrollments

The District determined the number of students, or “proposed enrollments,” to be accommodated in the LRFP on a district-wide basis and in each school in order to evaluate capacity adequacy. *(PK-21 special education tuition students are not counted in official EFCFA enrollments indicated in this report.)*

Proposed enrollments are based on a cohort-survival enrollment projection. Adequate supporting documentation was submitted to the Department to justify the projections. A comparison of existing and projected enrollments, including special education students and excluding tuition students, is provided in Table 2.

Table 2: PK-12 Enrollment Comparison

	Actual Enrollments 2018-2019	District Proposed Enrollments 2023-2024
Grades PK-5	0	0
Grades 6-8	0	0
Grades 9-12	2,232	2,108
District K-12 Totals	2,232	2,108

Major conclusions are as follows:

- Supporting documentation was submitted to the Department as required to justify the proposed enrollments.
- The District is planning for declining enrollments.

FINDINGS: The Department has determined that the District’s proposed enrollments are supportable for approval of the District’s LRFP amendment. The Department will require a current enrollment projection at the time an application for a school facilities project is submitted incorporating the District’s most recent Enrollment Report in order to verify that the LRFP’s planned capacity is appropriate for the updated enrollments.

3. FES and District Practices Capacity

The proposed room inventories for each school were analyzed to determine whether the LRFP provides adequate capacity for the proposed enrollments. Two capacity calculation methods, called “FES Capacity” and “District Practices Capacity,” were used to assess existing and proposed school capacity in accordance with the FES and District program delivery practices. A third capacity calculation, called “Functional Capacity,” determines Unhoused Students and potential State support for school facilities projects. Functional Capacity is analyzed in Section 4 of this Summary.

- FES Capacity only assigns capacity to pre-kindergarten (if district-owned or operated), kindergarten, general, and self-contained special education classrooms. No other room types are considered to be capacity-generating. Class size is based on the FES and is prorated for classrooms that are sized smaller than FES classrooms. FES Capacity is most accurate for elementary schools, or schools with non-departmentalized programs, in which instruction is “homeroom” based. This capacity calculation may also be accurate for middle schools depending upon the program structure. However, this method usually significantly understates available high school capacity since specialized spaces that are typically provided in lieu of general classrooms are not included in the capacity calculations.
- District Practices Capacity allows the District to include specialized room types in the capacity calculations and adjust class size to reflect actual practices. This calculation is used to review capacity and enrollment coordination in middle and high schools.

A capacity utilization factor in accordance with the FES is included in both capacity calculations. A 90% capacity utilization rate is applied to classrooms serving grades K-8. An 85% capacity utilization rate is applied to classrooms serving grades 9-12. No capacity utilization factor is applied to preschool classrooms.

Table 3 provides a summary of proposed enrollments and District-wide capacities. Detailed information can be found in the LRFP website report titled “FES and District Practices Capacity.”

Table 3: FES and District Practices Capacity Summary

	FES Capacity	District Practices Capacity
(A) Proposed Enrollments	2,108	2,108 (excl. tuition students)
(B) Existing Capacity	1,730	2,961
*Existing Capacity Status (B)-(A)	-288	+853
(C) Proposed Capacity	1,903	3,126
*Proposed Capacity Status (C)-(A)	-205	+1,018

** Positive numbers signify surplus capacity; negative numbers signify inadequate capacity. Negative values for District Practices capacity are acceptable if proposed enrollments do not exceed 100% capacity utilization.*

Major conclusions are as follows:

- PK-21 special education tuition students are not included in the proposed enrollments.
- The District has provided adequate justification for the deviation between proposed enrollments and capacity.

FINDINGS: The Department has determined that proposed District capacity, in accordance with the proposed enrollments, is adequate for approval of the District’s LRFP amendment. The Department

will require a current enrollment projection at the time an application for a school facilities project is submitted, incorporating the District’s most recent Enrollment Report, in order to verify that the LRFP’s planned capacity meets the District’s updated enrollments.

4. Functional Capacity and Unhoused Students Prior to Proposed Work

Functional Capacity was calculated and compared to proposed enrollments to provide a preliminary estimate of Unhoused Students and new construction funding eligibility. Functional Capacity is the adjusted gross square feet of a school building (total gross square feet minus excluded space) divided by the minimum area allowance per Full-time Equivalent student for the grade level contained therein. Unhoused Students is the number of students projected to be enrolled in the District that exceeds the Functional Capacity of the District’s schools pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-2.2(c).

“Excluded Square Feet” in the LRFP Functional Capacity calculation includes (1) square footage exceeding the FES for any pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, general education, or self-contained special education classroom; (2) grossing factor square footage (corridors, stairs, mechanical rooms, etc.) that exceeds the FES allowance, and (3) square feet proposed to be demolished or discontinued from use. Excluded square feet may be revised during the review process for individual school facilities projects.

Table 5 provides a preliminary assessment of Functional Capacity, Unhoused Students, and Estimated Maximum Approved Area for the various grade groups in accordance with the FES. Detailed information concerning the calculation and preliminary excluded square feet can be found in the LRFP website reports titled “Functional Capacity and Unhoused Students” and “Functional Capacity Excluded Square Feet.”

Table 4: Functional Capacity and Unhoused Students Prior to Proposed Work

	A Proposed Enrollment	B Estimated Existing Functional Capacity	C = A-B Unhoused Students	D Area Allowance (GSF/student)	E = C x D Estimated Maximum Approved Area for Unhoused Students
Preschool (PK)	0	0	0	125.00	0
Elementary (K-5)	0	0	0	125.00	0
Middle (6-8)	0	0	0	134.00	0
High (9-12)	2,108	2,559	0	151.00	0
District Totals	2,108	---			

Major conclusions are as follows:

- The calculations for “Estimated Existing Functional Capacity” include school facilities projects that have been approved by the Department but were not under construction or complete at the time of the submission of the LRFP amendment.
- The District, based on the preliminary LRFP assessment, has Unhoused Students for the following FES grade groups: N/A.
- The District, based on the preliminary LRFP assessment, does not have Unhoused Students for the following FES grade groups: 9-12.

- The District is not proposing to demolish or discontinue the use of existing District-owned instructional space. The Functional Capacity calculation excludes square feet proposed to be demolished or discontinued for the following FES grade groups: N/A.

FINDINGS: Functional Capacity and Unhoused Students calculated in the LRFP are preliminary estimates. Justification for square footage in excess of the FES and the determination of additional excluded square feet, Preliminary Eligible Costs (PEC), and Final Eligible Costs (FEC) will be included in the review process for specific school facilities projects. A feasibility study undertaken by the District is required if building demolition or replacement is proposed per N.J.A.C. 6A:26-2.3(b)(10).

5. Proposed Work

The District was instructed to review the condition of its facilities and sites and to propose corrective “system” and “inventory” actions in its LRFP. “System” actions upgrade existing conditions without changing spatial configuration or size. Examples of system actions include new windows, finishes, and mechanical systems. “Inventory” actions address space problems by removing, adding, or altering sites, schools, buildings and rooms. Examples of inventory actions include building additions, the reconfiguration of existing walls, or changing room use.

Table 5 summarizes the type of work proposed in the District’s LRFP for instructional buildings. Detailed information can be found in the LRFP website reports titled “Site Asset Inventory,” “LRFP Systems Actions Summary,” and “LRFP Inventory Actions Summary.”

Table 5: Proposed Work for Instructional Building

Type of Work	Work Included in LRFP
System Upgrades	Yes
Inventory Changes	Yes
Room Reassignment or Reconfiguration	Yes
Building Addition	No
New Building	Yes
Partial or Whole Building Demolition or Discontinuation of Use	No
New Site	Yes

Major conclusions are as follows:

- The District has proposed system upgrades in one or more instructional buildings.
- The District has proposed inventory changes, in one or more instructional buildings.
- The District has proposed inventory changes which include new property/buildings, in one or more locations.
- The District has not proposed new construction in lieu of rehabilitation in one or more instructional buildings.

Please note that costs represented in the LRFP are for capital planning purposes only. Estimated costs are not intended to represent preliminary eligible costs or final eligible costs of approved school facilities projects.

The Act (N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-7b) provides that all school facilities shall be deemed suitable for rehabilitation unless a pre-construction evaluation undertaken by the District demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the structure might pose a risk to the safety of the occupants even after rehabilitation or that rehabilitation is not cost-effective. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-2.3(b)(10), the Commissioner may identify school facilities for which new construction is proposed in lieu of rehabilitation for which it appears from the information presented that new construction is justified, provided, however, that for such school facilities so identified, the District must submit a feasibility study as part of the application for the specific school facilities project. The cost of each proposed building replacement is compared to the cost of additions or rehabilitation required to eliminate health and safety deficiencies and to achieve the District’s programmatic model.

Facilities used for non-instructional or non-educational purposes are ineligible for State support under the Act. However, projects for such facilities shall be reviewed by the Department to determine whether they are consistent with the District’s LRFP and whether the facility, if it is to house students (full or part time) conforms to educational adequacy requirements. These projects shall conform to all applicable statutes and regulations.

FINDINGS: The Department has determined that the proposed work is adequate for approval of the District’s LRFP amendment. However, Department approval of proposed work in the LRFP does not imply that the District may proceed with a school facilities project nor does it approve any project application. The District must submit individual project applications with cost estimates and supporting information for Department project approval. Both school facilities project approval and other capital project review require consistency with the District’s approved LRFP.

6. Functional Capacity and Unhoused Students After Completion of Proposed Work

The Functional Capacity of the District’s schools after completion of the scope of work proposed in the LRFP was calculated to highlight any remaining Unhoused Students. Table 6 provides a preliminary assessment. Detailed information concerning the calculation can be found in the website report titled “Functional Capacity and Unhoused Students.”

Table 6: Functional Capacity and Unhoused Students After Completion of Proposed Work

	Estimated Maximum Approved GSF for Unhoused Students	Total New GSF	Proposed Functional Capacity after Construction	Unhoused Students after Construction	Estimated Maximum Area for Unhoused Students Remaining
Pre-Kindergarten	0	0	0	0	0
Elementary (K-5)	0	0	0	0	0
Middle (6-8)	0	0	0	0	0
High (9-12)	0	30,243	2,759	0	0
District Totals	0	30,243	2,759		

Major conclusions are as follows:

- New construction is proposed for the following grade groups: 9-12
- Proposed new construction exceeds the estimated maximum area allowance for Unhoused Students prior to the completion of the proposed work for the following grade groups: 9-12.
- The District, based on the preliminary LRFP assessment, will not have Unhoused Students after completion of the proposed LRFP work for the following grade groups: 9-12.

FINDINGS: The Functional Capacity and Unhoused Students calculated in the LRFP are preliminary estimates. Justification for square footage in excess of the FES and the determination of additional excluded square feet, Preliminary Eligible Costs (PEC), and Final Eligible Costs (FEC) must be included in the review process for specific school facilities projects.

7. Proposed Room Inventories and the Facilities Efficiency Standards

The District's proposed room inventories for instructional buildings, or programmatic models, were evaluated to assess general educational adequacy and compliance with the FES area allowance pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-2.2 and 2.3.

Major conclusions are as follows:

- The District is not proposing school(s) that will provide less square feet per student than the FES allowance. School(s) proposed to provide less area than the FES are as follows: N/A.
- The District is proposing school(s) that exceed the FES square foot per student allowance: Tappan HS, Demarest HS, and the Valley and Summit Programs at NVR III.

FINDINGS: The Department has reviewed the District's proposed room inventories and has determined that each is educationally adequate. If schools are proposed to provide less square feet per student than the FES, the District has provided a written justification indicating that the educational adequacy of the facility will not be adversely affected and has been granted an FES waiver by the Department. This determination does not include an assessment of eligible square feet for State support. State support eligibility will be determined at the time an application for a specific school facilities project is submitted to the Department. The Department will also confirm that a proposed school facilities project conforms with the proposed room inventory represented in the LRFP when an application for a specific school facilities project is submitted to the Department for review and approval.