

**CHARTER ACADEMY OF THE REDWOODS**  
**dba Redwood Academy of Ukiah and Accelerated Achievement Academy**

A non-profit corporation  
1059 North State Street Ukiah, CA 95482  
(707) 467-0500, (fax) 467-4942

March 30, 2020

To: The County Board of Supervisors  
Re: Homeless Shelter on Fairgrounds

Dear Supervisors:

I am the Co-Executive Director of Charter Academy of the Redwoods, and Principal at Accelerated Achievement Academy. There are over 400 students attending school on the fairgrounds between the three charter schools and the private preschool. Charter Academy of the Redwoods rents three fairground buildings containing three classrooms of approximately 70 students. Additionally, one of the buildings is used as a cafeteria to feed approximately 280 students.

Although school is not currently in session, a homeless shelter on the fairgrounds could pose a risk to the safety of the students in the future and impact the educational program even if it closed after the pandemic is over. The area being considered is used by our students for PE and after school activities. It would require existence clean up to ensure that it is sanitary and safe for student use. If the shelter was not closed prior to school opening, it would pose an immediate threat to student safety. Unfortunately, the mental health and substance abuse of some within our homeless population does pose a risk to our students. I would urge the Board of Supervisors to consider another location that would not so directly impact the education of youth in this area.

Sincerely

*Selah Sawyer*

Selah Sawyer  
Co-Executive Director  
Charter Academy of the Redwoods  
707-463-7080  
ssawyer@aaacademy.org