

1. What is the Marin School of Arts & Technology's (MSAT) record of performance?
 - 68% of MSAT's first senior class was accepted to a 4-year college. The average MSAT senior garnered over **\$12,000 in financial aid**. 55% of our graduates *who will be the first in their family to graduate from a 4-year college* were accepted to a 4-year college.
 - **100% of MSAT graduates met the course requirements for entrance into the University of California system**. Statewide, 25% of graduates meet those requirements.
 - MSAT's senior class boasts a **National Merit Scholar**.
 - MSAT students were **accepted to Stanford, UCLA, UC Davis, University of Michigan, Wake Forest, Northeastern**, and other prestigious colleges.
 - The California Department of Education **awarded MSAT \$250,000 to disseminate MSAT's award winning project-based curriculum** as an exemplary best practice for all California high schools; MSAT is only one of two California high schools to receive this award in 2006.
 - The Western Association of Schools and Colleges, California's school accreditation agency, **awarded MSAT its highest accreditation status, an extraordinary achievement for a school less than four years old**.
 - The George Lucas Educational Foundation selected MSAT's Watershed Project as a national example of a "best practice."

2. Why is the school closing?

After years of tumultuous relations with the Novato Unified School District (NUSD) school board, the community of MSAT is joining with two other Envision Schools: Metropolitan Arts & Technology High School (Metro) and City Arts and Technology High School (CAT).

This decision was not an easy one to make, but sadly it was a long time coming. Since the original charter application process, Novato Unified School District (NUSD) has continuously put roadblocks in the way of the Marin School of Arts & Technology's success. During recent negotiations with the district, the school board had ample opportunity to provide MSAT with adequate space. Instead the NUSD board chose to stick MSAT's Novato students in crowded trailers in a parking lot — a sub-par solution at best. NUSD's offer to house MSAT's non-Novato students, about half the school, required MSAT to pay over \$1,000,000 to NUSD for a one-year facilities solution.

Because the NUSD board repeatedly demonstrated a bias against Envision Schools, which it derided as "an outside force," the community and Envision, in a last ditch effort, proposed what they believed was a workable solution. Envision agreed to step aside, and a new non-profit led by local parents and school faculty would take over the responsibility of running MSAT. When they first proposed the idea to NUSD, the District requested a list of items for community members to provide in order to discuss the proposal at the next school board meeting. The school leaders of the MSAT provided all of the information that had been requested on time and more than 100 members of the school community enthusiastically turned out for this

NUSD meeting to demonstrate their commitment to the school and the proposed solution.

At that point, the NUSD board pulled a bait and switch. The NUSD board told the crowd of parents and teachers that because MSAT's leadership had not provided one document — notably a document that the district had failed to request — it was impossible to even consider the solution. This latest roadblock was the final straw for parents and staff. It demonstrated once and for all that the community did not and would not have a good-faith partner in the school board, something that would be essential to the success of any school.

3. Who made the decision to close the school?

The staff, parents and leadership of MSAT, and the governing Board of Envision Schools, felt that joining with other Envision Schools was the best remaining option and in the best interest of the students. With both students and teachers needing to know their plans for the fall, transitioning willing families and teachers to other existing Envision schools made the most sense. This community is now focusing on the future and can rely on continued educational excellence at Envision Schools' two San Francisco campuses.

Envision Schools will continue to do what has made it such a widely successful organization: provide dynamic, project-based learning to children throughout the state. The organization's two San Francisco schools look forward to opening their doors to the MSAT community in the fall.

4. What is the financial situation of Envision Schools?

Envision Schools is financially sound. It receives funding from such prestigious organizations as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, the Oracle Education Foundation, Charles and Helen Schwab Foundation, and the Stuart Foundation.

In each of Envision Schools' three annual audits, performed by outside independent auditors, the auditors gave Envision Schools a clean bill of health with no audit exceptions. Envision has always been financially solvent.