

Submitter: Megan Egner
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB767

Please do not pass SB 767. The restrictions and timing would significantly disrupt the good work being done at Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School. While I am sure it affects many schools in a variety of ways, I can mainly speak to how it will affect the school and school community we have been a part of for the last 4 years. The rigidity of this bill and its timeframes means that Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School would not be able to acquire and move into a property, as planned. Our community only found out last week that a property had been located that could actually meet the needs of our 400+ student body. This was great news as we knew that the school had a very limited time to find a location and orchestrate a move, due to the lease for our current location being discontinued at the end of this school year. Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School has been a wonderful educational home for our family. Each of our 3 children is thriving there, despite their very different needs, learning styles, and behaviors. They are learning to approach problems creatively, be kind and thoughtful citizens, and take ownership of their learning. The school is well established, has a rich history of educational wisdom, drawing on Maria Montessori's observations and guidance, and does their utmost to conduct business fairly and with transparency. The prospective site is 0.4 miles from the sponsoring school district's boundary and less than 2 miles from the school district's central office. Our school is prepared to go through many hoops to get the property ready for students before the fall, yet because the work would be within 12 months of the bill taking effect, all of that work would be forfeited. There must be a better way to look out for the best interests of public school districts and ensure responsibility from charter schools. This bill leaves no room for nuance and the unique needs of each school district. Thank you for considering this testimony.