

Submitter: Charles Brown
On Behalf Of: Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB767

To whom it may concern,

We have been members of Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School for 9 years, our child is graduating from it this year in fact. We have been so delighted to have this remarkable school available to us. Our child has never once not been excited to go to school and comes home bursting with new and wondrous things learned. The fact that it is a public charter school is part of the goodness in this school, there is diversity and reality. The teachers have heart, creative methods of teaching, understanding to the different approaches needed for learning, and they greet the children by name as equals. Both my husband and I have just this year been hired on as maker shop teachers and we are so happy to be a part of this community.

This school is a valuable asset to any school district having graduated students into high schools all over the greater metro area who think on their feet, are creative problem solvers, high achieving academic scholars, and people who behave as if the world community is a good thing.

Because of space need issues our school has been forced to relocate due to a terminated lease by our sponsor district GBSD. The school would love to remain inside GBSD boundaries but because of the limited time frame we were given and the limited (read none) facilities that can accommodate the school's needs the school has had to broaden its search. We found a building 1000 feet beyond the GBSD boundary that is for sale and fits our needs. SENATE BILL 767 would destroy a school that has been growing into a really great school for 14 years.

Our school's planned move to the building just out of bounds of GBSD was not what we had hoped for but the school and community are eager to be more available to underserved and wonderfully a more diverse community than ever before.

Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School is trying to find a home so we can continue to provide students access to a free, high-quality, public Montessori education that they are all entitled to. This bill would take that away from so many deserving kids.

Please vote "NO" on Senate Bill 767.

Thank you for you time,
Zephyr, Charlie, and Ike Brown