

Submitter: Elin McIlhattan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB767

I am a parent of a child attending Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School, which is sponsored by the Gresham Barlow School District (GBSD). I also live within the GBSD boundaries. This public charter school has operated for 14 years, and it is an incredibly caring and nurturing environment for my son. Unfortunately, the school is being forced to relocate this summer due to lease termination by the GBSD. While it would be ideal for the Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School to relocate within the GBSD boundary, there are simply not buildings available that could accommodate the 17 classrooms needed. A new facility has been located that could work for our needs, however it is located less than 1000ft outside of the GBSD boundary. In our case, this location would actually better be able to serve many GBSD students since it would be accessible by public transportation, unlike our current, rural location.

I do agree with the principle that public charter schools should primarily serve the students of their sponsor district. However, this bill as it is written will have serious negative impacts on our school (and other established charter schools with similar facility issues) and I urge you to vote no on this bill.