

House Education Committee,

My name is Calvin Liggins. I am a Program Manager for Albertina Kerr. It is my understanding that talks are happening regarding the funding for Oak Grove Academy. I would like to explain the impact the loss of funding would have on our Albertina Kerr Clients.

Oak Grove Academy is a school that helps in so many ways. Students begin to excel in their schools. The structure and supports provided by Oak Grove Academy improve our client's education and life skills. I have worked with Oak Grove for many years and have never seen a school program so committed to the success of each and every student. Our clients need this school and to cut funding would be a step in the wrong direction for the growth of these students.

For many students, Oak Grove is a home away from home. Students are able to express themselves while working through mental roadblocks. The teachers and staff at Oak Grove Academy personally get to know each student, this helps build trust and respect. The main thing I see with Oak Grove, is that it is **SAFE**. The students feel protected in many ways:

- Being able to express themselves (No Judgements)
- Learning at the correct pace of their learning style/skill level.
- Meeting & seeing other students with similar disabilities be successful.
- Being made to feel like a normal student.

So, to make a long story short, the students who attend Oak Grove Academy need this school and to cut funds to such a positive program would negatively affect so many students, teachers and support staff. This would be detrimental.

Sincerely,  
Calvin L.