

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

Dear Senate Committee on Education,

I have been a parent at Lewis and Clark Montessori for eight years. I want to express how vital this school has been to my family and the hundreds of students, parents, and staff who have walked through their halls. We have been forced, more than once, to move locations. Every move has been difficult for the students, parents, and staff, but each move has brought this fantastic community closer together and has continued to keep a stable and caring environment for each student to learn, thrive and succeed. Again, we are forced to relocate due to a lease termination by our sponsoring district, GBSD. It would be ideal for us to remain inside GBSD boundaries but given an extremely limited time frame and lack of existing facilities to accommodate 17 classrooms and more than 400 students and staff, our choices are limited. The proposed new facility is located less than 1000 ft from the GBSD boundary. We would like to turn an unfortunate situation into a positive impact by moving from a rural location that is inaccessible by public transportation to one that opens access for enrollment to underserved, more diverse populations in Rockwood and the surrounding area while also continuing to serve our current families. Please reconsider any plan that would not allow a Charter school to reside outside of the boundaries of the sponsoring district. The almost 400 students are counting on you to help them remain with the school and community that has nurtured them.

Thank you for your time.