

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

Hello,

My name is Noemi Vega. I have a daughter and two nieces who attend and love Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School. This school has made a major impact in the life of my daughter's and of my family. We want to provide all the support possible so Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School can continue to provide the education needed, not only to our family but to our friends and neighboring citizens of our growing community.

We are forced to relocate due to lease termination by our sponsoring district, Gresham Barlow School District. 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 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. Greater access and diversity is a key component of Lewis & Clark's current Strategic Plan.

Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School has been in existence for over 14 years. Although my daughter and nieces have not gone to this school for that long, the time they have spent there has helped them grow tremendously. My daughter who once feared going to school now loves it and benefits so much from the hands on learning experience. She has come a long way academically and continues to strive from all the support she has received since going to Lewis & Clark. She has gained so much confidence since being at Lewis and Clark and her personality has flourished to show her true leadership skills. My family and I honestly feel that our kids can truly be kids here and benefit from different teaching techniques. None of this would be possible without access to a free, high-quality, public Montessori education that Lewis & Clark has strived so hard to provide.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Noemi Vega