

Submitter: Joline Bassett
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB767

Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School has been an outstanding school experience for both of our children, with both having attending from kindergarten through eighth grade- with our youngest graduating this year. This school is a welcoming inclusive program that offers public access to a Montessori education- something that for most would be impossible in a private setting. Our children have thrived in this school community, growing into conscientious lifelong learners. We've also had the opportunity to see our son and his peers' transition into high school; a transition that is often difficult for children was quite the contrary. Not only was the transition smooth, but the kids excelled in their academics, became supportive team members in their school sports, and became involved in student government and clubs. When enrolling our child into high school the Vice Principal commented "we love getting the Montessori kids!" Ultimately, at Lewis and Clark Montessori School, children learn to be enthusiastic lifelong learners- and carry that with them into their high school and beyond. Unfortunately, this school is now at risk. With the school district pushing the school from their current location, Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School has had limited time to find a suitable new location for 17 classrooms and more than 400 students and staff. Our school community has had renewed hope upon finding a promising new location to create its permanent home- however, this potential new home is just across the school district boundary by mere feet. This legislation would potentially mean the end of a vibrant, growing, community of learners over a matter of a few feet of arbitrary school district boundaries. Please reconsider.