

Lawrence Sheila

From: Nikki & Noah Hughes <infocso@doe.k12.de.us>
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 10:45 AM
To: infocso
Subject: First State Montessori Academy Major Modification Application Public Comment

Charter School: First State Montessori Academy

Name: Nikki & Noah Hughes

E-Mail Address: nah3617@aol.com

Public Comment: I have been familiar with the Montessori style of education for quite some time and have been impressed with the way they foster learning and encourage children to both think critically and instill a lifelong love of education. I was thrilled when I heard about the First State Montessori Academy and signed our daughter up for the waiting list. Given the fact that there are limited openings in all but kindergarten and other parents also want the same opportunity as I do, I truly hope the state of Delaware grants this wonderful school a modification and allows them to open up more slots for more students. My wife and I have been disappointed by the learning environment in her current school. It's sad to see children both distracted and discouraged from learning due to overcrowding, bullying, and an atmosphere where some educators seem to be more interested in teaching to take standardized tests rather than sparking our children's interest in the wonderful world of learning. Please allow these families the opportunity to experience the amazing Montessori teaching method. Someday our children will be able to pass along this experience and help build a stronger and better state.

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From: Kevin Ohlandt <infocso@doe.k12.de.us>
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 10:45 AM
To: infocso
Subject: First State Montessori Academy Major Modification Application Public Comment

Charter School: First State Montessori Academy

Name: Kevin Ohlandt

E-Mail Address: kevino3670@yahoo.com

Public Comment: While their suggestion of parents and students understanding of the "Montessori method" seems genuine, I find it very troublesome that the school's demographics do not accurately show the true demographics of the City of Wilmington. I would suggest the school only cater to the students in the city as opposed to the city and the suburbs. It gives a false picture of Wilmington students, and puts the school into a position where they will always be perceived as a "successful school" based on their student population. It's easy to look good when you have the ability to pick and choose who you enroll at the school based on the enrollment preferences, but it is difficult to achieve those same levels when you are enrolling students in the immediate area where the school is located in. If they can have the same results with at-risk students than they do currently, only then can we call this school a success. Instead, we have an illusion of what a success they are.

Lawrence Sheila

From: Anteneh Zewde <infocso@doe.k12.de.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 11:11 AM
To: infocso
Subject: First State Montessori Academy Major Modification Application Public Comment

Charter School: First State Montessori Academy

Name: Anteneh Zewde

E-Mail Address: antenehz@yahoo.com

Public Comment: First State Montessori Academy has been an excellent school since the start. The combination of a strong board, excellent leadership, dedicated teachers along with a solid PTO has made this school flawless. For a school in its second year, it has been an impressive education outlet. Expanding the school to 7 and 8 grade is an excellent proposal and fully supported. With what I have seen inside the leadership and the backing of parents support, the school will not have any problem in adding 2 more grades and managing it well. I believe the school has already proven their leadership and should get the opportunity to modify and add the 2 grades allowing a continuity of the students development.

Lawrence Sheila

From: Nelia Dolan <infocso@doe.k12.de.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 8:11 PM
To: infocso
Subject: First State Montessori Academy Major Modification Application Public Comment

Charter School: First State Montessori Academy

Name: Nelia Dolan

E-Mail Address: neliadolan.rb@gmail.com

Public Comment: First State Montessori %Low Income 10
Bancroft Elementary %Low Income 80.5
Stubbs Elementary %Low Income 86.5

Bancroft Elementary and Stubbs Elementary are the two schools closest to FSM serving the same grades.

Allowing schools that receive public tax dollars but do not serve all children to continue to expand will only encourage exclusivity in certain charter schools. In the past these schools have been allowed expansion with the request to do better. They have not. Please do not continue to make the same mistakes.

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Charter School: First State Montessori Academy

Name: Nelia Dolan

E-Mail Address: neliadolan.rb@gmail.com

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From: Christopher Young <infocso@doe.k12.de.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 8:47 PM
To: infocso
Subject: First State Montessori Academy Major Modification Application Public Comment

Charter School: First State Montessori Academy

Name: Christopher Young

E-Mail Address: chrisyoung33@hotmail.com

Public Comment: Our family would like to offer our support of FSMA expansion. During our time at FSMA we have had the pleasure of being a part of a first class charter school run by dedicated teachers and administrators.

Lawrence Sheila

From: Susan Rissolo <infocso@doe.k12.de.us>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 9:58 AM
To: infocso
Subject: First State Montessori Academy Major Modification Application Public Comment

Charter School: First State Montessori Academy

Name: Susan Rissolo

E-Mail Address: Sutaber@aol.com

Public Comment: We are parents of 2 children (ages 8 & 10), who have been in a Montessori school since they were 2 years old. In comparison to what the public school 2nd and 4th graders are learning, our children are reading and comprehending at least 2 grade levels above their current grade. This type of teaching is essential in creating adults who are thoughtful, creative, leaders and self-starters. We have been familiar with the Montessori philosophy since 1996. It is wonderful to see that this type of teaching is available to all children regardless of their socioeconomic backgrounds. We have spent a lot of money paying for the Montessori teaching method over the years. We are a middle class family and to have this public charter school extend beyond 6th grade, would make our children's lives that much easier. It is our opinion, that every child should have this type of teaching available to them. Thank you for considering the extension of FSMA.