

From: sharonfullerton@comcast.net
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: Closure of Gateway School
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 11:14:35 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

I am making my voice known because I am unable to attend the public hearing on December 10, 2014.

I am appalled to hear that Gateway is in danger of having its charter revoked. Please reconsider the standards by which you analyze data for a school in which students are unable to thrive in a mainstream learning environment. I know three students who currently attend Gateway Lab School. These three students, and no doubt the rest of the student body, would have the rug yanked out from under them should the safe learning environment of this special needs school disappear. Is this how the State treats its children with special needs?

I question your plans for the future academic needs of these students, and propose you reconsider revoking the charter for Gateway Lab School.

Sharon Fullerton

From: dorotheaormsby@comcast.net
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: Gateway Charter
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 1:32:16 PM

My name is Dorothea Ormsby. I am writing to let you know that I am disheartened to hear of the news for this Charter School. It has been, literally, a Godsend for so many children with special needs. The focus on testing in our State...and in many cases, across the Country, has gotten extremely out of control. The students at this school are dealing with such a diverse grouping of special needs, that traditional testing shouldn't be a measure for Charter renewal. This school has been the answer to many parents prayers...a place that their children can go to receive services that they need to learn, and to successfully get through the day. Success shows itself in many ways.

Thank you.

From: [Francine Hoffman](#)
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: Gateway Lab Charter School
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 12:00:59 PM

To whom it may concern,

My nephews currently attend Gateway Lab Charter School and are both thriving this year compared to last year in a public school. We cannot judge a school dedicated to helping children with learning or behavioral disabilities based upon standardized test scores! Obviously, the test scores of these individual children, if forced back into public schools, will NOT improve!

Francine

From: [Chuck and Jackie Burbank](#)
To: chris_coons@coons.senate.gov; governor.markell@state.de.us; [General Attorney](#); [Peterson Karen](#); [Osienski Edward](#); [Denn Matthew](#); [infocso](#)
Subject: Gateway Lab School Charter renewal
Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2014 11:57:29 PM

I am a Gateway Gladiator parent. I have twin boys attending Gateway Lab School in Wilmington, both in the 4th grade. As you may have heard, Gateway is in danger of having their charter revoked.

My 1 son suffers from an Autism Spectrum disorder called Non Verbal Learning Disorder, compounded by ADHD. Last year, in his public feeder school, he had a TERRIBLE school year! He was disciplined harshly and repeatedly, including numerous suspensions. His teachers couldn't get him to do any work in class. Almost every week we received a phone call from the school asking us to come take him home because the school staff just didn't know how to handle him. He HATED school!

This year, at Gateway, he actually LIKES going to school! We have not received any phone calls asking us to come and get him. He has not been suspended. He is doing his class work. He is THRIVING!!!

We cannot judge a school dedicated to helping children with learning or behavioral disabilities based upon standardized test scores! Obviously, the test scores of these individual children, if forced back into the public schools, will NOT improve.

It is my opinion that putting standardized test scores above the needs of children with learning disabilities amounts to nothing less than DISCRIMINATION against children who desperately need the environment that Gateway provides!

Would you please exercise any influence you may have in the charter renewal process to make sure that Delaware's learning disabled children don't lose this valuable resource.

Thank you,
Charles & Jackie Burbank

From: [Jackie](#)
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: gateway lab school renewal
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 9:39:55 PM

Please find this email my vote to renew Gateway Lab Schools Charter. My daughter started 5th grade there this year, since her previous school failed in providing her appropriate IEP and OT services for her processing disorder. This school is the only school in DE that caters to children who cannot thrive and perform well in a traditional school setting. My daughter has gone from Cs last year to straight As so far. She is excited to go to school and is eager to do her homework assignments because she is no longer struggling to comprehend her lessons. To take my child out of this setting, in which she is excelling to put her back into the system where she was struggling is a grave mistake and disservice to not only my child, but all of the children of Gateway. By closing this school you would be discriminating against special needs children who need this arts based education. In no other school has my daughter flourished as she has done at Gateway. She has become a confident, independent child whose grades and self esteem have sky rocketed at Gateway. Please do not make me, as a parent lose what little faith I have left in the DE school system. This school is much needed in the community and needs to remain an option for our children. It was my choice to send her here and it remains my choice to keep her here.
Jackie Graham, parent
Sent from my iPad

From: [Tim Horgan](#)
To: [infocso](#)
Cc: [Tina Horgan](#)
Subject: Gateway Lab School
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 11:21:11 AM

Good morning,

I am writing this to you because of the disturbing recommendation to not renew Gateway Lab School's charter for next year.

My first thought was this can't be serious to not renew a charter based solely on a standardized test score. As you probably know Gateway was started to help kids who need special help and might not test well so as you can see the test results would not measure what exactly the school is trying to achieve and has accomplished!!

My son just started in 3rd grade this year. He has severe Aspergers and has had a difficult time in school prior to this year. Since starting at Gateway he has learned SO much (socially and educational) and has grown to LOVE to go to school.

His reading and comprehension has greatly improved over the 3-4 months he has been there more than the last 3 years at private school combined!!!

It used to be at teacher conferences Jimmy does not do this, this and this well but since starting at Gateway it turns into he is really good at these subjects and needs work at others but he is getting better.

You do not realize what it is like to see someone who struggled throughout his young life, socially and at school, gain confidence and achieve a certain level of success!!

My wife and I are really afraid of what will happen if the charter is not renewed. We are afraid he will get lost in a bigger school with bigger classes and we cannot stand by and accept this.

Hopefully the board can see that there is more than standardize testing to measure a school's worth. I am sure there all kinds of stories like my son's where "special need" kids are encouraged and can gain confidence and enjoy learning!!

I hope you take this all into consideration before making any snap judgements!!

We look forward to speaking with you at the meeting on December 10th

Thanks,

--

Tim Horgan
All Saints Catholic Athletic Director
C: 302-584-4819
Email: thorganascs@gmail.com

From: [Sue](#)
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: Gateway Lab
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 2:28:54 PM

I would like to address the proposed closing of The Gateway Lab School. After reading the reports and speaking to parents and children, I would like to strongly urge you not to dismiss this Charter School as a means of educating our children. The Gateway Lab has helped so many students by giving them the necessary foundation to complete their educational goals over a long term period. I realize your reports only test current students, many who may have just enrolled mid-year, using standardized testing. Standard is a far cry from what these kids know. I totally understand the testing shows below averages in Math and English, but what would those test scores be like if you only tested these kids in a public school setting? To me it is a very scary question. We all know in a public school setting their test scores would be dramatically lower. These scores are masked by the outstanding students in any one school. So if you place these children back in public school your test scores level out. I would really hate to see these kids get swept under the public school system in this matter. The Gateway School builds confidence in so many. It gives them a sense of belonging to a group just like themselves. How many of these kids, if brought back to the public school system, will actually make it to graduation? There is another scary question. And what will these kids do for the rest of their lives? These are good kids who deserve a chance to be successful in their lives.

Thank you for taking a moment to read my plea,

Sue Bower

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 5:23:02 PM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/20/2014 5:13:51 PM

Response End Time: 11/20/2014 5:22:28 PM

IP Address: 92.36.157.40

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name

Snjezana Derviskadic

2. E-Mail Address

sder93940@gmail.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?

Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:

My concern goes beyond Gateway Lab to all the schools listed. Now, these schools might be closed because their kids do not meet testing standards. Not to say that that should be obvious as they cater to children who have different learning needs - so the fact that they might not fit perfectly with the standardized tests should be obvious to all. My concern goes beyond their school days. Gateway Lab and all other schools actually prepare those children to join the society and become a part of our community rather than be complete "outsiders" all their life. Long term - the ability to function in the society will make their lives 100% better quality, will make them individuals that participate in and contribute to the society to the best of their ability. Isn't that what we should aim for?

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Friday, November 21, 2014 1:06:25 PM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/21/2014 1:01:22 PM

Response End Time: 11/21/2014 1:05:46 PM

IP Address: 180.222.141.33

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name

Robert ventura

2. E-Mail Address

Bobv222@yahoo.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?

Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:

I know a Delaware family who would be devastated by the loss of the Gateway Lab School. I support renewing their charter."

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 12:49:00 PM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/19/2014 12:29:09 PM

Response End Time: 11/19/2014 12:48:50 PM

IP Address: 74.109.120.187

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Linda Sprintz

2. E-Mail Address
flsprintz@gmail.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:

I was devastated to learn that a state panel has recommended to the State of Delaware Board of Education to close the Gateway Lab School. As a grandparent of an eleven year old child who has multiple learning disabilities, I cannot understand how this decision was made. After spending three years in the public school system, and not thriving, our grandson went to a private school that could not meet his needs. Once the Gateway Lab School had been established for two years, my daughter decided to send him there. Not only was he provided with quality teachers and aides, he also qualified for a 1 on 1 aide, who helped him stay on track every day. At an IEP meeting, my daughter was told that there was significant improvement in his scores. I do not see how the panel, or the State, for that matter, can use test scores as the only means of progress for children such as my grandson. These children need to be evaluated differently than so-called "normal" children. Isn't that the whole purpose of this type of school? Please do not close the Gateway Lab School. My family will be forced to move elsewhere to provide our boy with all the services he needs. Thank you.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 8:03:23 PM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/19/2014 8:00:32 PM

Response End Time: 11/19/2014 8:03:12 PM

IP Address: 71.175.102.172

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name

Kathleen Statton

2. E-Mail Address

kathystatton@msn.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?

Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:

My granddaughter was failing miserably in public school. Alyssa has been at Gateway since its inception & she is really doing well in all her courses. Please renew their charter for the children who have problems with public school and are learning at Gateway Lab.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2014 11:06:54 AM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/18/2014 10:51:16 AM

Response End Time: 11/18/2014 11:06:41 AM

IP Address: 173.75.228.252

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Robin Zizmont

2. E-Mail Address
The.zizmonts@verizon.net

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:

I am writing in support of renewing the charter for gateway lab school. My son is in 4th grade and in his second year at gateway. The teachers, faculty and staff are very supportive and accommodating of his needs. He has language-based learning disabilities, ADHD and asperger's. After attending 3 years in public school we pulled him out and put him in a private school for children with learning disabilities. The public school he was in, was our feeder school in Christina school district. He was there for kindergarten and 1st grade twice, as he was retained in 1st grade after the first year. By the end of 1st grade the second time he was still at a beginning 1st grade level. The special education teacher was not flexible in her teaching methods which were, obviously not working for my son. I feel public school failed him. When he moved to private school he was retained to 1st grade for a second time. After 2 years in private school he was no longer making progress and it was written into his IEP that he required a one-on-one aid that private school could not provide. We moved him to gateway last year. The IEP team was extremely accommodating. They provided an excellent aid for him and teachers who never failed to adjust their teaching styles to what worked best for him. I feel that if gateway is closed, students like my son will have no other option but to move out of state to receive public education that accommodates their needs. The ADHD, aspergers and language-based learning disability student population is extremely under served in Delaware. Gateway is our only option to remain in state. Please don't take this

school from us.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 9:41:26 PM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/19/2014 9:27:07 PM

Response End Time: 11/19/2014 9:41:17 PM

IP Address: 73.165.200.82

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Ann R. Wolfer

2. E-Mail Address
ann.wolfer@us.army.mil

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:

My autistic son attends Gateway and LOVES school again. Finally!!! He improved in the Delaware Autism Program, but that caused him to be dropped from services (thanks for that by the way <--sarcasm). There are precious few places for these kids. He rarely passes the state test and that has always been true. All you are going to do is move him to a school with kids who can pass the test thereby masking his poor performance. Good news for DOE, but that leaves my son exactly where he currently is educationally, but where he is miserable, lost in a sea of kids that live in a different world from him. His autism will prevent him from having academic success as easily as his neuro-typical peers; closing Gateway won't change that. What it *WILL* do is rob him of his day-to-day happiness, his ability to take pride in his accomplishments as compared with his differently-abled peers, and friendships that are hard for him to form. For example, he is on the Math League Team. With his "2" DCAS, what other school would include him and allow him to feel like a real teammate? Listen, I had to accept a long time ago that my son was not going to be a scientist, or President of the United States, or even an Army Officer like me, but that doesn't mean that he doesn't deserve to be in the kind of safe, happy, loving environment that Gateway provides. He needs this school.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 9:59:59 PM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/19/2014 9:59:01 PM

Response End Time: 11/19/2014 9:59:51 PM

IP Address: 216.53.138.131

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Jessica Ewen

2. E-Mail Address
jessiewen@aol.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:
I know a child and family who would be devastated by the loss of the Gateway Lab School. I support renewing their charter.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 10:00:45 PM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/19/2014 9:59:53 PM

Response End Time: 11/19/2014 10:00:35 PM

IP Address: 108.2.115.138

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Pam Williams

2. E-Mail Address
plpryor@aol.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:
I know a Delaware family who would be devastated by the loss of the Gateway Lab School. I support renewing their charter

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 10:11:33 PM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/19/2014 10:03:38 PM

Response End Time: 11/19/2014 10:11:26 PM

IP Address: 96.33.35.235

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Karen Dolezal

2. E-Mail Address
karendolezal@yahoo.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:

I personally know somebody who attends this school, and I believe if the application is not renewed it will be detrimental to him academically and socially. I served with his mother in the military, and I know first-hand how difficult it is for a military child to get consistent, quality education- changes to the school system aside. My own son had to attend five different elementary schools because of my military service. Any disruption in a child's education is challenging and should be avoided if at all possible. Renewal of the Gateway Lab School charter application will be one less hurdle my friend's family will have to face, and could be a critical factor for her son's success. Thank you,

Karen Dolezal

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 10:23:02 PM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/19/2014 10:14:50 PM

Response End Time: 11/19/2014 10:22:52 PM

IP Address: 74.80.22.24

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Bobbi Mendez

2. E-Mail Address
bobbijo305@ymail.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:

You need to keep this Charter! My long time friend's autistic child goes to this school and NEEDS everything this school and its environment provides him. His mom has served her country relentlessly and deserves a great blessing such as this for her child and his well being! Do whatever it takes to keep this school, Gateway Lab School open to serve this family and others like them. Please, you are in a position to truly make a difference by doing the right thing. I challenge you to take the steps necessary to keep Gateway Lab School! Thank you for reading, and God bless you!

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 10:23:05 PM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/19/2014 10:19:04 PM

Response End Time: 11/19/2014 10:22:22 PM

IP Address: 75.18.246.221

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Amy Pittel

2. E-Mail Address
amygdalia01@yahoo.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:

This school has made a world of difference for my friend's son. Schools like this exist to support the children who need them. If this school's charter is not renewed, these children will no longer be able to thrive in an environment that suits their needs. Because their needs and the needs of the children they would be funneled into classes with are not remotely the same. Please don't allow these children to lose their best opportunity for future success.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 10:24:46 PM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/19/2014 10:15:56 PM

Response End Time: 11/19/2014 10:24:39 PM

IP Address: 73.165.200.82

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name

Carol A Anderson

2. E-Mail Address

carophant@msn.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?

Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:

Gateway has been a warm and encouraging environment for kids who have not and cannot thrive in standard schools. The smaller classes are just right. The point of the school is not to produce academic stars but to enable kids who fall below standard to still be valued and given hope and skills to reach self-sustaining competences. Delaware benefits as happy learners grow up to be responsible and productive citizens.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 10:40:05 PM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/19/2014 10:37:42 PM

Response End Time: 11/19/2014 10:39:54 PM

IP Address: 75.177.150.110

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Rocky Carr

2. E-Mail Address
rockycarr1@gmail.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:
I hope that you will take into consideration the special needs of the student body before making your decision to close the school. Test scores aren't everything, despite what the politicians would have you believe. They are only one measure of success

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 10:47:19 PM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/19/2014 10:46:48 PM

Response End Time: 11/19/2014 10:47:11 PM

IP Address: 98.218.8.20

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Beth Smith

2. E-Mail Address
bsmith1499@aol.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:
I know a Delaware family who would be devastated by the loss of the Gateway Lab School. I support renewing their charter.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 10:50:36 PM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/19/2014 10:44:04 PM

Response End Time: 11/19/2014 10:50:10 PM

IP Address: 24.32.69.88

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Quijana Byrd

2. E-Mail Address
quijanabyrd@gmail.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:
The Gateway Lab School has been such a positive change for so many students who have struggled in other settings. Please renew the charter for this school. I have a young friend who attends Gateway, and it has been a true joy to see him learn to love his school.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 10:51:49 PM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/19/2014 10:50:08 PM

Response End Time: 11/19/2014 10:51:34 PM

IP Address: 184.89.155.185

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Ivy Fivey

2. E-Mail Address
ivymrosenberg@yahoo.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:
Children with special needs have it difficult enough. Without this school I know a family that would be devastated. Programs such as these are so needed.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 11:22:23 PM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/19/2014 11:01:43 PM

Response End Time: 11/19/2014 11:09:55 PM

IP Address: 173.75.249.58

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Keith Orr

2. E-Mail Address
keith.a.orr@gmail.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:
This is ridiculous - closing a great resource like this where special challenged kids can focus on improving in a supportive environment without the social pressures of being 'wierd' in the eyes of other children.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 11:22:24 PM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/19/2014 11:09:43 PM

Response End Time: 11/19/2014 11:11:25 PM

IP Address: 107.77.87.56

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name

Walid Afifi

2. E-Mail Address

walid-afifi@uiowa.edu

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?

Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:

Gateway attends to special needs kids in a way that no other school is able.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 11:22:29 PM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/19/2014 11:18:21 PM

Response End Time: 11/19/2014 11:21:20 PM

IP Address: 98.171.165.147

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name

Stacy Nummerdor

2. E-Mail Address

nummerdor@gmail.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?

Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:

Please renew this charter. A friend's autistic son is a student and is thriving there (which was not the case in prior academic settings).

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 11:28:55 PM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/19/2014 11:25:43 PM

Response End Time: 11/19/2014 11:28:47 PM

IP Address: 68.55.95.97

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name

Diane Whitford

2. E-Mail Address

bndwhit4d@comcast.net

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?

Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:

I know a Delaware family with a young man in this school. In spite of his many challenges in life, he is thriving in Gateway Lab School. Loss of this school would be devastating to his continued academic and social development. I support their charter renewal.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 1:48:56 AM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/20/2014 1:46:31 AM

Response End Time: 11/20/2014 1:48:43 AM

IP Address: 70.211.78.12

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Robert Koelle

2. E-Mail Address
bobkoelle@gmail.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:
The services provided by the Gateway Lab School for autistic children have been excellent, particularly regarding the staff - to - Student ratio. Please allow this school to remain open.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 8:57:32 AM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/20/2014 8:25:46 AM

Response End Time: 11/20/2014 8:57:21 AM

IP Address: 193.255.78.47

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name

Sean Michael Cox

2. E-Mail Address

seancox@tebconsulting.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?

Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:

In the 11 years I have lived in Delaware, I have known several families who have had children with learning difficulties (situated at various places along the autism spectrum). When the Gateway Lab School opened, those who were able to enroll their children were excited by the prospect of their children having a "normal" education. To now learn that the school is threatened with closure due to low test scores is surprising (to say the least) to me. As a long-time educator (my first job out of college was as a school instructor in a federally-funded program to assist mainstreaming students with learning or behavioral difficulties), I understand and appreciate the opportunity the children at the Gateway Lab School have for a "normalized" educational experience. It is, of course, to be expected that the standardized test scores of these children will be lower than district or state norms. The entire point of this school is to provide an educational opportunity for students with special needs to learn in an environment that doesn't have the pressure to conform to mandated performance requirements. To understand how these students have flourished in this environment is impressive, and to see how they have grown as individuals is admirable. To take away this special school environment, and return these students to the "mainstream" is to relegate them to an educational experience bereft of the joy of learning as they struggle to not feel ostracized by the "normal" children with whom they will be educated. Added to this is the onus placed on the teachers who have to address these students' needs in a normalized environment,

which detracts from their ability to better serve their entire classroom population. It makes absolutely no sense to close the Gateway Lab School for any party concerned.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 8:22:24 AM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/20/2014 8:21:26 AM

Response End Time: 11/20/2014 8:22:14 AM

IP Address: 76.122.104.205

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Suzanne Gilmore

2. E-Mail Address
sayost1@gmail.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:
I support renewing their charter.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 8:01:10 AM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/20/2014 8:00:34 AM

Response End Time: 11/20/2014 8:01:02 AM

IP Address: 173.49.148.96

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Heather Siple

2. E-Mail Address
heather@sipleart.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:
I know a Delaware family who would be devastated by the loss of the Gateway Lab School. I support renewing their charter.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 7:44:37 AM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/20/2014 7:42:40 AM

Response End Time: 11/20/2014 7:44:28 AM

IP Address: 73.49.152.70

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Ingrid Lee

2. E-Mail Address
ingridhb@hotmail.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:
Please renew the charter on Gateway Lab School!!!! My nephew has autism and has truly blossomed and improved at this school. He would be absolutely devastated by being pulled out and sent to a mainstream classroom with double the children in class. Please do RIGHT for our kids!

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 7:27:37 AM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/20/2014 7:26:40 AM

Response End Time: 11/20/2014 7:27:30 AM

IP Address: 137.118.229.130

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name

Timothy Gusukuma

2. E-Mail Address

tim.gusukuma@gmail.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?

Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:

PLease renew for the children. They are, after all, more important than the school or district rating.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 7:18:22 AM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/20/2014 7:16:20 AM

Response End Time: 11/20/2014 7:18:05 AM

IP Address: 70.196.136.0

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Amanda foster

2. E-Mail Address
Alfoster1979@hotmail.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:
I know a family that would be devastated by the closure if gateway lab school.
Please renew the charter and keep it open!!! Thank you!

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 6:59:15 AM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/20/2014 6:58:14 AM

Response End Time: 11/20/2014 6:59:07 AM

IP Address: 69.207.4.209

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Leanne Puccio

2. E-Mail Address
leepuccio@gmail.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:
I know a Delaware family who would be devastated by the loss of the Gateway Lab School. I support renewing their charter.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 6:14:25 AM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/20/2014 6:12:49 AM

Response End Time: 11/20/2014 6:14:15 AM

IP Address: 107.72.164.84

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name

Michelle wilson

2. E-Mail Address

masonmich13@hotmail.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?

Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:

I know a family that will be devastated if this school.closes. please keep it open.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 5:49:44 AM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/20/2014 5:46:04 AM

Response End Time: 11/20/2014 5:48:15 AM

IP Address: 99.189.36.136

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Michael Krogh

2. E-Mail Address
mkrogh@ashmi.org

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:
Autistic children need a place for their own. High stakes testing doesn't work for them (nor anyone), and this school shouldn't be judged on that. Putting these children in a "regular" school will do nothing for them, but a lot for YOU. Politicians always use the rhetoric of saving the children. Let's put our money where our mouth is, and think of these children. Keep Gateway Lab School open!

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 12:16:06 PM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/20/2014 12:12:17 PM

Response End Time: 11/20/2014 12:13:24 PM

IP Address: 166.137.246.93

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Joan Morris

2. E-Mail Address
Jlmorris89@hotmail.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:
I know a Delaware family that would be devastated by the loss of the Gateway Lab School. I support renewing their charter.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 10:52:42 AM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/20/2014 10:48:50 AM

Response End Time: 11/20/2014 10:52:32 AM

IP Address: 143.79.224.242

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name

Matthew S. Mulconrey

2. E-Mail Address

m.mulconrey@gmail.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?

Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:

Please allow this charter school to continue operation. This school allows children to receive increased attention and care they need, and improves their educational and social experience. Allowing this school to continue operation will be better for the state of Delaware and the US as a whole in the long run.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 10:17:06 AM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/20/2014 9:54:18 AM

Response End Time: 11/20/2014 10:15:40 AM

IP Address: 65.241.18.27

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name

Darlene Statton

2. E-Mail Address

d_statton@hotmail.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?

Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:

My niece goes to Gateway and has been there since the first year they opened. I was skeptical when my sister told me about the school and that my niece was going to go there. She was held back in the 2nd grade, in public school, and I was concerned that she would slip further behind in this new, untested school. I was truly concerned that Gateway wasn't the right school for her. I can now say that my opinion has changed 180 degrees! She loves going to school because she is finally learning and progressing. Now when I ask her how school is going she doesn't just say "ok" and change the subject, she actually talks to me about what she is learning and the things that she is doing at school. It made me sad to watch as kids around her, including her cousin who is 10 week older than her, out grow her emotionally. I feared that she would grow up being lonely and not having friends her age. This summer I attended her birthday party with her friends from Gateway and for the first time I wasn't sad, she's not lonely. She has made some amazing friends that accept her for who she is and who are just as goofy, creative and free spirited as she is. I fear that Gateway will close, she will be sent back to public school and go back to that cycle of failing, low self-esteem and isolation. Please give Gateway the chance to make the changes that they need to make, to keep these kids in the only school that has helped them to learn and continue helping them be the amazing kids they are!

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 9:54:54 AM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/20/2014 9:52:57 AM

Response End Time: 11/20/2014 9:54:32 AM

IP Address: 159.14.242.254

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Shelle Houser

2. E-Mail Address
shellefly@gmail.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:

I know a Delaware family who would be devastated by the loss of the Gateway Lab School. I support renewing their charter. Their son is autistic and is thriving in the Gateway Lab school, mainstreaming would set him back emotionally and academically. He deserves to succeed. Please keep the school open for him and his classmates.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Friday, November 21, 2014 7:28:40 AM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/21/2014 7:26:18 AM

Response End Time: 11/21/2014 7:28:30 AM

IP Address: 108.56.238.100

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name

Michael Ginzberg

2. E-Mail Address

mjginzberg@gmail.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?

Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:

The Gateway Lab School serves children who have special learning needs and typically have not done well in traditional school environments. It is important to have this school for Delaware's children.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 9:38:43 PM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/20/2014 9:36:55 PM

Response End Time: 11/20/2014 9:38:08 PM

IP Address: 75.111.53.212

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Melissa Moore

2. E-Mail Address
onethirteenam@yahoo.com

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:
I know a Delaware family who would be devastated by the loss of the Gateway Lab School. I support renewing their charter. As a public educator myself, I think it is very important to give families options and to not limit their children's academic and social success.

From: jennifer.nagourney@doe.k12.de.us
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: New response for survey "Renewal Public Comment"
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 8:45:45 PM

GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/20/2014 8:43:40 PM

Response End Time: 11/20/2014 8:45:37 PM

IP Address: 66.87.82.111

Completed Survey: Yes

Respondent: Anonymous

SURVEY RESPONSES

SCORE: 0

1. Full Name
Carol Brower

2. E-Mail Address
cbrower@udel.edu

3. Which charter school renewal application do you wish to comment upon?
Gateway Lab School

4. Comment:
Please keep this for our autistic children.

From: [Liz Upadhyaya](#)
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: Please keep Gateway Lab School open: A perspective from a parent and nurse.
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 9:46:09 AM

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Elizabeth Upadhyaya and I am the stepmother of a sixth grade boy at Gateway Lab School in Wilmington. It is my stepson's second year at Gateway, and my husband, my stepson's mother, and I have been extremely pleased at the way in which our son has progressed academically, emotionally, and socially during his time there. I am very concerned about the possibility of the school closing and am urging you to keep Gateway's doors open.

My stepson is intellectually disabled and has a motor movement disorder, and like over half of the students at Gateway, he is a special education student. Standardized testing does not reflect the true intellect and talents of these unique students, and it would be short sighted to leave them with no educational options but feeder public schools where their needs would not be adequately addressed.

Moreover, as a Registered Nurse who has volunteered with Gateway's school nurse, I have seen first hand the inclusive and safe environment the school provides. Many of the students have medical needs (e.g., asthma, ADHD, seizure disorders, etc.) that could get lost in the shuffle at a larger public school. My stepson has been the recipient of excellent nursing care and monitoring when his movement disorder was at its worse, and I fear that the educational and health care needs of children like him will be ignored in the traditional public school system.

The societal barriers and accompanying struggles that those with special needs have faced are well-documented in the literature. Schools such as Gateway minimize these barriers by helping to meet its students unique needs, thus contributing to this special population's overall well-being. To that end, I urge you to renew Gateway Lab School's charter. Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information (liz.upadhyaya@gmail.com; [215-888-5324](tel:215-888-5324)).

Sincerely,

Elizabeth (Liz) A. Upadhyaya, BSN

From: [May Alison](#)
To: [CHRISTINA ARNOLD](#)
Cc: [infocso](#)
Subject: Re: The closing of Gateway Lab School
Date: Monday, November 17, 2014 9:26:57 PM

Thank you. I am forwarding to charter office for inclusion in public comment being collected through Dec. 10 for consideration by Secretary and Board in their decisions.

Sent using OWA for iPad

From: CHRISTINA ARNOLD <riv815@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2014 8:53:53 PM
To: May Alison
Subject: The closing of Gateway Lab School

Good Evening,

My daughter had struggled for years in colonial school district, she had an IEP that was not followed at all and was failing every subject. I looked into many schools to send her to and then we toured Gateway . I left with tears in my eyes knowing this is where my Gabby belonged. I looked at there numbers and yes they were low but they were coming up every year. My mind was made up that was where I wanted her to go. My daughter has a form of epilepsy that affects her learning math and comprehension. Colonial would not allow me to hold her back for additional help as they say no child left behind but from February until the end of the year she did not get her math intervention and she just kept falling backwards. But they just keep pushing them through. My daughter is a different child now going to Gateway she has learned more in the 3 months than in 6 years at her former colonial school district school she attended. She loves going to school she was sick and was so upset that she had to miss school. She was not like this ever before. The best part of all of this is that she is actually learning she has done math problems in front of me she could never do before. Her ELA is unbelievable she is constantly reading and telling me all about it. She made friends instead of being bullied like she was at her previous school who did nothing about it even after I reported it several times.

This school is amazing and to hear that they are voting to revoke it is sickening to me. My daughter will be crushed. This is her first year there it is like she has this family and because they don't treat her different for the first time she does not feel different.

Poor academic performance, well more than 60 percent of the students have some type of a disability are they taking that into consideration. Maybe they need to look into there district schools who if the student is not doing well the teacher stands by them and basically gives them the answer that is what they did with my daughter 2 years ago. I guess they got their raises so last year they just let her feel like a failure by not passing any of her DCAS

testing. GET RID OF THIS TESTING it causes nothing but stress on these children and the teachers I am sure. I am sure there is a better way some children especially those who have a learning disability do not test well...Think about that.

If they take away my daughter's confidence that this new school has given her then they should be ashamed of themselves. Just go there one day and you will see what they do there is just amazing for these children. My daughter had no confidence in herself. She is now in the Select chorus, she has joined the guitar club, was involved in the mad science program, and did volleyball which was such a big deal to all of us because she has a fear of sports because of her epilepsy. She does not feel different anymore and feels like she has this new found family which is how I feel as well.

There is nothing worse than seeing your child hurting and not being able to do anything. Well now we feel like we have done something wonderful for her and it shows. She smiles again which as a parent is the best feeling in the world to see the struggle and hurt is gone. Please take my story into consideration. Please do not make us have to have her hurting again she has already hurt enough. Please keep her smile there for us.

With sincere thanks,

Christina Arnold

302-328-3069

riv815@msn.com

Sent from Windows Mail

From: [Michelle Edwards](#)
To: [infocso](#)
Subject: Support for Gateway Lab School
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 4:52:19 PM

Please do not close my son's school. With my son's Autism and learning disabilities, Gateway Lab School is the best place for my son as they give him the best support for his needs.

Concerned Parent,
Michelle Edwards
Wilmington, DE

Sent from my iPad