Jackie Graham, Parent

children, it was my choice to send her here and it remains my choice to keep her here.

school system. This school is much needed in the community and needs to remain an option for our

child whose grades and self-esteem have sky rocketed in this unique atmosphere, the only

independent school has my daughter flourishing as she has done at Gateway. She has become a confident,

school has not only my child, but all of the children at Gateway. By closing this school, you

would be discriminating against special needs children who need this arts based education. In no other

setting, in which she is excelling, to put her back into the system where she was struggling, is a grave

assumptions because she is no longer struggling to comprehend her lessons. To take my child out of this

perform well in a traditional school setting. My daughter has gone from C's last year, which she struggled

processes. This school is the only school in DE that caters to children who cannot thrive and

there this year, since her previous school failed in providing her appropriate IEP and OT services for her

Subject: Gateway Lab School Renewal

Jackie Graham, Gateway Parent
Mrs. Lorenda Clemons

Thank you,

Please do not close this school.

close down. I can't send him to another public school.

for him in his learning and understanding in school. I don't know what I would do if this school

am finally found a place that works

with his progress. He is doing very good in school. We

helped him feel more confident to answer question in school and participate in class a lot. I am

was coming from another school last year and felt very lost in the classroom. This school has

lab this fall. I have seen a big improvement in his learning and he understands his work. He

My name is Lorenda Clemons. My son is Ty Clemons, he just started attending Gateway

To Whom it May Concern:

Lorenda Clemons, Gateway Parent
David DeJoseph

Sincerely,

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Children behind.

Please reconsider the committee's recommendation and extend accountability to sponsors, parents who choose them, and the public that funds them.

The Gateway Lab School is a viable asset that serves its students, parents and community well and produces positive understanding of the lessons that are taught and her grades have improved.

Overcoming their disabilities, My Granddaughter has blossomed since she has been there. She has a better understanding of her disabilities.

Teachers at Gateway are extremely dedicated to their students and understand their individual needs and work to meet them.

Gateway her teachers have been providing the attention and mentorship that she has not received anywhere else.

My Granddaughter was fortunate enough to be enrolled in the Gateway Lab School this school year. She has a minor based solely upon test results reflected in an Excel spreadsheet.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

David DeJoseph, Gateway Grandparent
prevalent andGateway can continue to help many more children.
different from their peers in traditional schools. I pray that common sense and compassion
test scores don't reflect these kids hardwork every day and the struggles they face in learning
the right message to our kids and families that the Delaware Public School System values everyone,
you don't care about us. I ask that you please reconsider the renewal of the schools charter and send
school sends the message to the children and parents of special children in Delaware that the state
expected to meet the same testing standards as kids without learning differences. Closing this
test scores? Really? These special children don't fit the traditional learning mode and can not be
leaving patient environment. This is what Gateway has provided her and many others. I am distressed
learning differences, like my daughter, need specialized strategies, one on one instruction and an
Gateway Lab School has been the catalyst to reaching her full potential. She is now reading at grade

Mary Essick, Gateway Parent
Thankfully yours,

Christina Arnold

and socially and not made to feel different. Please do not let her get lost in our education system again. I hope you are able to do this for my daughter and all the other children who need that extra support to help them thrive educationally.

Getting from Gateway.

Please keep our school open. Please do not let the education and confidence my daughter has gained and all of the other children are

confidence in herself now knowing she can learn and can ask for help without feeling like she is bothering anyone.

teachers there are amazing they love our children and love educating them and what I see is progress. My daughter has so much

scores a reason for revolving this charter? Especially since they are not even going to be using this testing system anymore. All the

academically and socially. This is a school has students with more than half fifty percent to be exact, that have IEP's. Is it fair to base test

her fear of being left behind and having a seizure... the fear no longer exists. They have given her the one tool she needed to thrive

not think possible like tying out for the select clubs and making it. She played volleyball which she has struggled away from sports due to

last year without crying. She is reading at least 2-3 books per week and understanding what she is reading. She even wrote a short story

This school is where she needed and the proof is in her grades. My daughter can sit and do math problems that she could not even look at

need to do these. Academically I just received her first report card from Gateway and one proud parent she received 4's, 3's, 2's, and 1's.

impressed and then the devastating news that she had one of the worst forms of epilepsy and that all her math and reading

want to share a bit about my daughter Gabriella. She struggled academically was bullied and made to feel different in her previous school

My name is Christina Arnold and I am the parent of a child that is in her first year at Gateway Lab Charter.

Christina Arnold, Gateway Parent
meeting the needs of all these special children who need this type of schooling to become responsible citizens.

I strongly implore you to consider reinstituting the charter to keep Gate-Way lab school open and

If you close down Gate-Way lab school you will be throwing back all these children like our grandson

reading not only reading on his own but also able to read in the class rooms and not be embarrassed.

They did’nt have the time, resources or know how to help him. Gate Way lab school open up starting with

we are just pushing him on to the next Grade. He continue to fall all his subjects. Although we met with

marked him that he needs improvement. They said we are not promoting him to the next Grade, but

the standards for class room learning. During his First and Second Grade the teachers continually

a reader school from Kindergarten up to Second Grade. During these years he could not read and meet

We are raising a grandson since he was two years old. He has Dyslexia and A.D.A problems. He attended

Anthony Santucci, Gateway Grandparent
presenting it in a different way so that children who learn differently can learn.

Gateway comes along with their new programs, methods and ways of teaching. A school geared to teaching the required curriculum but

child left behind." By being the child behind, left out.

We found the answer was that teachers could not spend their valuable time on him and what he needed. He became the opposite of "No

students, how could a teacher spend the extra time to help a student who learns differently than the rest of the class? in a class of +25

pattern schools" his IEPs was not followed completely, and he could not get the attention that he needed to succeed. In the "teacher

different, the normal teacher pattern, school could not accommodate him in the real gateway is capable of doing. In the "teacher

Joshua also came to GSL in 2011 into the 4th grade. He has Asperger's Syndrome. Asperger kids learn differently, because he learns

Our youngest son is Joshua.

night's per week. Amazing progress that we attribute to Gateway Lab School for building Math's foundation for high school.

only a handful of students that made the honor roll for the first marking period all while being on the school's swim team and practicing six

"normal student. Today, Matt is a freshman in high school. He is succeeding in his school work and his grades reflect it. Matt was one of a

However, Matt tested very poorly initially on his DRA scores. Yes they improved over the next couple of years, but not to the level of a

guish, etc. etc. were all very good. He was on the honor roll just about every marking period. He even joined the basketball team.

Our older son, Matthew came into Gateway in the opening school year of 2011 entering 6th grade. His IEP has been in place since he was a

WEY OUR SONS ARE NOT NORMAL.

"normal kids." We applied to the school for both of our sons. Thankfully, both were accepted.

mission to help teach children with learning differences was that.......

Finally..........someone gets it that our sons learn differently than

We were excited to learn of Gateway after hearing about it through one of the therapists at our "normal feeder pattern school". It was suggested that

with special needs, Joshua is thriving academically, socially and behaviorally. Joshua loves it there.

we are speaking on behalf of our son Joshua Watt and the Gateway Lab School. Joshua is a 7th grade student at Gateway. As a student

Jeff and Marveled Watt, Gateway Parents
Gateway lab school is NOT a charter school that cherry picks the "best of the best of the cream of the crop", "like Wilmington Charter..."

Furthermore speaking, you are freely choosing to allow the weakest of the flock to "......be lost." Do you justify that with the national test results? "As long as the minority and range % are correlated and standardized..." That the loss of the weakest 1% is acceptable? The option to attend Gateway from the parents? Are you really believing that is acceptable rather than educational success at Gateway? How do you justify taking the majority of the children at Gateway have special needs. Do you realize what you would be doing? You would be freely choosing the measured "agains", DCAS; is of interest; now obsolete and not being used.

Been a god send for our children. You would learn that Gateway has spent any time with any of the parents or guardians, you would find that we all believe in Gateway. You would learn that Gateway has been a god send for our children. How do you spend time with the students? How about the parents? Have you asked any of us what we think of Gateway? If you had get the feeling that "I want to be here" and that "YES, I know my child will succeed here." Have any of you stepped into our school? If you had, you would feel the positive and caring energy that is present there. You would be the same success is treating academically, socially and behaviorally thanks to the Gateway lab school.

said earlier, Joshua is thriving academically, socially and behaviorally thanks to the Gateway lab school. The morality to know what is right and what is wrong when he sees it: whether he is involved or obsessed it happening to others. As Joshua understands he has neurological issues and that he is different than "normal students". As Gateway he is among

Jeff and Marjellen Watt, Gateway Parents (cont'd)
Jeffrey and Maryellen Watt

Respectfully submitted,

need it?

wont you and your children. Why would you take the Gateway option away from the children who

So when the dust settles and you make your decision, remember that "there by the Grace of God"

Gateway does. It is what they do and it is what they do well.

allowing them to get an education in a school that is designed for children such as ours? That is what

Isn't it easier to accept that you HELPED these children to become productive members of society by

pattern school."

needs children to be a burden on society because they could not get an education in the "reeder

failing. You are really choosing and accepting that you accept that you will be helping these special

If you elect to close Gateway, you are accepting the premise that it is OK to set these children up for
Joseph & Barbara Carucci
Sincerely,

Children already failed him would be a down right injustice, in fact a down right injustice for all those
the routing school environment, to have done no return to the public school system in which has
schooling. And as it we believe it would be difficult for him to learn and compete effectively in
the majority of homework with him) in 10 weeks then in this previous 3 years of public

do have seen more education progress in my Brandon (I do pick him up everyday from school and
system other than how the children with learning disabilities fare in that student population. I
forcing the children back into the school feeder system. There is nothing wrong with school feeder
However for the students of Gateway all of the above is predicated on not closing this school and

truly believe it will make it on to a higher education.

places. And some.

education to move into multiple and become productive individuals in many different work
I don't believe these students will be engineers and scientists but individuals with enough
change, Gateway will be turning our students into engineers, teachers and the DOE will be proud of.

There has been significant progress at Gateway and my belief is that within a few years, given the

conclusion.

In comparison this school with others, I believe is very unfair and thus leads the DOE to a wrongfull
majority of the students at Gateway have some type of liquid disabilities I believe many a population of other public schools thus the denial by DOE to renew their charter. I believe the
since I have a Brandon there in 4th grade. My understanding is the school underperformed versus

Gateway Lab School.

decided to renew the charter for Reach and Gateway Lab schools. I can only speak for the

I am sure many of you are aware that the Delaware Department of Education (DOE) has recently

Joseph & Barbara Carucci, Gateway Parents
Rebecca Zedan, Gateway Parent

pick them up early! With my kids every morning to get them to go to school. Now that they are at Gateway, we get in trouble with the kids if we have to
and guess what they can get them into Gateway? Honestly, never thought that day would come when I would have to fight
hub stop and now have 5 families that get on off at our stop. We have families that can't wait for their children to graduate
way in never would have been in her other school. Her self esteem has blossomed in Gateway in a
saw many thing, Gateway is well. She is learning and actually understanding not just memorizing. Like she was at
being challenged enough. Those were their words, not mine. Some one else saw her potential and knew she needed more.
got a phone call from Sierra's teachers. They wanted to start working on 4th through 6th grade work with her because she wasn't
Gateway, something I never thought possible before Gateway. I think we were about a month into school in Sierra's first year when
Sierra has been at Gateway since the doors opened and saw many thing in the second year. Both of my girls are thriving in
about it. We quickly filled out the application and set up an interview.
and my husband and checked out the school. I'm pretty sure I was in tears by the time I was done reading everything I could find
in public school. She did me proud in Charter School that had a whole different concept for teaching children. She knew me the info,
went with the same or similar issues.
children. It suggested to figure what was do. Homeschooling was a definite and very real option for us. It was for many of our friends in the
minutes. How does this change anything? We put her in the enrichment class hoping that they would help even a little while we
was to put her in an enrichment class. Enrichment class were for the average students. They meet once a week for 30
other kids would then want to do that as well. The problem was that they had not learned everything that they needed to learn for
because the support to know. So Thursday thru Friday she would pull all a work out and read all of math lessons. She would get in trouble because the
This community cannot afford to lose Gateway Lab Charter School. Neither can these children and their families.

Please take this into consideration before you turn off the light at the end of the tunnel.

We are thankful beyond words for Gateway, we would be a homeschooling without them. The classroom, we are thankful beyond words for Gateway, we would be a homeschooling without them. Please learn disabled children when you walk through it. The kids are all engaged in learning in every learning disabled child is to be the best that they can be. You would never know that our school is 63% with our kids' pushing them to be the best that they can be. They are always striving for excellence - based learning which makes it fun as well as educational for them. They make sure each child is working to the best of their ability and bring challenged. Gateway teaches our kids with the teachers take the time to talk to the parents, email the parents, and work with the parents to

Rebecca Zedan, Gateway Parent (cont'd)
Dear Simmons,

Re: Simons

I'm writing this letter in support of Gateway Lab School & my nephew, Nickolas Simons-Webster. Nickolas was diagnosed with ADHD in kindergarten while attending Bader Elementary School & was enrolled in the IPD program. He enrolls into third grade next year. Currently, Nickolas is receiving therapy weekly from a therapy school & has been receiving therapy weekly from a behavior specialist in South Carolina where he resides full time. His grades are average, & he is very involved in his extracurricular activities. He is a very intelligent child, & he is very productive in his studies.

During his summer months, Nickolas spends 4-6 weeks with his grandparents in South Carolina where he receives tutoring. His behavior still is still being monitored in his classroom. The school district is still looking into his IEP, & they are working on getting him an 504 plan. His teachers have noticed a noticeable improvement in his classroom behavior, but the decision was made to transfer him to a mainstream public school with the tools that are learned at Gateway. He is able to adapt his learning style with their teaching.

I hope that this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time & consideration.

Sincerely,

302-323-3833
North America Infrastructure & Global Testing

P.S. I am writing this letter in support of Gateway Lab School & my nephew, Nickolas Simons-Webster.
productive and results in measurable outcomes.

are essential to teaching and sustaining an environment that enables parents, teachers and students to engage in a way that is extremely

support, mutual respect, accountability, and team collaboration. These core values and behaviors that are exhibited by the Gateway team

belief this ability to fully participate and thrive in his current academic program would not be possible. This is a testament to the level of

progress. Without the level of emotional, social and academic support and collaboration provided to Jonathan by the Gateway team, I truly

Although his scores are below standard (based on the statewide standardized testing program), Jonathan has shown significant and steady

Year standards, this is evidenced by his DCAS scores. Please see table below.

The Gateway team has demonstrated the ability to consistently provide the level of support that Jonathan needs and his progress this past

year substantially achieved.

In this prior academic setting, despite their best efforts, the level of support that Jonathan consistently receives from the Gateway team was

maximized’s ability to reach is fullest potential on a daily basis.

small settings (such as T:Z: dual student teams) to support Grade Level Curriculum. This level of support and accommodations

Given the circumstances, Jonathan functions best when special education services, accommodations and modifications are provided in

and physical well-being and that may impact his ability to independently complete some tasks in and outside of the classroom setting.

Due to his intellectual and physical limitations, Jonathan requires a level of support that takes into consideration the variability in his health,

Teaching Jonathan for the past 10 years for is neuropsychological impairment (seizure disorder) and is extremely vested in his academic progress.

Gateway Charter School came highly recommended to me by my son’s neuropsychologist of whom I have the utmost respect. He has been

Gateway, Woodson, Second Academic Year at this school.

I am writing this letter of support as a parent of a student who currently attends Gateway Lab School. This is the beginning of my son’s,

Annette A. Woodson, Gateway Parents
Parents of Jonathan Woodson, Jr.
Annette and Jonathan Woodson

Sincerely,

Support the Charter Renewal for the Gateway Lab School.

My husband and I truly believe that this level of support cannot be achieved in the traditional school setting. Therefore, we strongly accomplish success as well as contribute to the development of a well-rounded person.

accomplishment; everything the actual event. Things like this have definitely increased his confidence and sense of

making jump shots in basketball. He refers to all the accolades that he received throughout the day by many members of the

home from school and is able to articulate something that he did that he was very proud of, such as scoring a touchdown in 8th grade.

In addition to measurable academic outcomes, Jonathan is thriving socially and emotionally. Each and every day, Jonathan comes

(cont'd)
Donna Schwartz, Gateway Parent
Brother and older sisters
Tessa (far left) with her little

Donna Schwartz proud parent of a 5th grader at Gateway Lab School

Thank you for considering this matter.

Potential.

Donna Schwartz, Gateway, Parent
Mission Statement:

Expectations of all families with children attending today:

Below is the Gateway Lab School’s Mission Statement. It is very clear in its goals and objectives and, in many ways, it is exceeding expectations of all families with children attending today.

hearing at the Carvel State Office Building on December 10th and via email submission of Public Comment.

The school environment will provide a student-centered, arts-based, learning environment that

To provide an extracurricular educational opportunity for children who are struggling to achieve academic success in a traditional

School environment: utilizing research-based instruction strategies and a highly qualified, arts-based learning environment that

seeks to identify and capitalize on a student’s strengths and interests.

I urge you to join us in supporting and working towards a strong, vibrant community for the children and families of Gateway Lab School. We are confident that Gateway Lab School will be a catalyst for educational change and improvement for all students and families.

Nate Schwartz, Gateway Parent

(Chart Office, DOE)

Dear DOE Secretary of Education Murphy, Executive Director Johnson (State Board of Education), and Executive Director Nagourney:
Students and non-SWD students:

As presented at the AESSD Board Meeting on Wednesday, November 19th, it is very evident that there is an underserved gap in SWD's reading scores. According to the SWD data, SWD students struggle to achieve proficiency levels comparable to their non-SWD peers. The disparity in academic performance is evident across all subject areas, including mathematics, reading, and writing. The SWD students' performance in reading is significantly lower compared to their non-SWD counterparts, highlighting a persistent gap in educational achievement.

Representative Williams on November 23rd, the following points were made:

In an email sent to state representatives Williams on Monday, November 24th, Mrs. Nagourney in response to Mr. Johnson’s email to state (cont’d)
The school is only 4 years in existence. This is the first time its charter has gone up for renewal. Catherine Dolan took over as Head of School 1 year 3 months ago and has cleaned up many of the early start-up issues the school went through. Gateway reached out to the PTA to find a simple solution for their children like my daughter.

There is no simple solution for pulling children like my daughter out of the blackachievement. One thing I have learned over the past year from my experience on the whole RACSD inclusion process is "looking at the big picture." I have learned to look at the big picture of over-emphasizing the importance of standardized testing to rate schools. More emphasis should be placed on individual student performance, especially parents, and assessing individual skills, not just the right setting to assess their individual success. I am not a firm participant, especially parents; I am not firm participant, especially parents, to deliver on my daughter the best opportunity to succeed in an educational setting. However, it takes all stakeholders further breaking it down for SWD children:

Nate Schwartz, Gateway Parent (cont'd)
Concerned Parent of a 5th Grader at Gateway Lab School

Nate Schwartz

Sincerely,

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration in this matter.

and staff.

Prior to making such a pivotal decision for our children’s future, come see the great workings of our school’s leadership. If you have not personally had the opportunity to visit our school, I would highly encourage you to do so.

Special Needs. If it is on the right track and working hard for the betterment of our children with

Nate Schwartz, Gateway Parent (cont'd)
Concerned Grandparents

Sincerely,

That's a good thing!

He is learning and the teacher is teaching. When we hear him say look what I made today and I learned this in history, we know what the teachers were there for. He has advanced so much and is so happy to go to school now. We thought that's what public schools were so hard for him to learn or get the help he needed. We thought that's his special needs, we knew this was the right place for him. The struggle he went through is tremendous. Knowing our grandson's comfortable, answering questions, showing us the classroom. We all feel comfortable. Knowing about the open house we attended with the whole family. The staff and teachers were we are grandparent's writing about our Grandson's Gateway Lab School possibly closing. We can't

Kathy Moran and husband, Gateway Grandparents
Carolyn Clark

Thanks.

My husband will attend the meeting this week with Steve. I already sent the letter to the state, but if you can use it in your binder, please feel free. I believe Gateway with alternative learning is so critical to educate young people. We have worked with special needs kids, and I am a retired Pediatric Nurse. A school teacher. We have had the privilege of spending time with Gateway students and teacher. We are the parents of Steve Clark, Grade 8 match Gateway Teacher.

Carolyn & Dennis Clark, Parents of 8th Grade
Joe Carucci, Gateway Grandparent

system.

believe he will have two strikes against him until we can get him properly placed in the school.

renew the charter for Gateway, and don't go back into the school student feeder system, then I

using. For this decision is flawed and thus leading you to a wrong conclusion. Lastly, if you don't

know your trying your best to make the correct decision. However, I strongly believe the data your

know the decision on Gateway by the D.O.E. is difficult. I

doing homework with him for your years. I know the decision on Gateway school. He gets better every day. How do I know this? I have been picking him up and

gone from anger, frustration and tears in the past to becoming an above average reasonable student.

Let me tell you about my grandson Donute. He has made, on a relative basis, more progress in 12

weeks at Gateway than in the past 3 years in the public school feeder system. His demeanor has
Robin Zizmont, Gateway Parent

...scores on his DCAS scores last spring.

Gateway he now received 5 A's and 3 B's on his report card and above average grades on his most recent report card. After spending his...
school. Additional time is needed to allow my daughter to meet the state standards. Judged on testing scores alone, my daughter's results are a perfect example of the amazing work being done at the
year. Her test scores at the end of last year were below state standards but were above district standards. If Gateway is being the accountability score increased 12 points from 3rd grade to 5th grade. At this rate she should meet state testing standards this
standards in Reading for both categories by 5th grade. Math instructional score has increased by 13 points from 3rd to 5th grade.
grade. As this year begins she should meet the state testing
increased 12 points. Her state test scores have also continued to improve yearly. Her instructional Reading score
has increased 12 points from the beginning of 3rd grade to the end of 5th grade. The accountability score in Reading has
in addition to individual subject grades, her state test scores have also continued to improve yearly. Her instructional Reading score

Grade

Proficiency, to "meets and exceeds" in all core subjects. She has attained Honor Roll status since she started at Gateway in 3rd
classmates and friends have suffered with the same struggles so she feels less isolated. Knowing that she is just like everyone else
of having to repeat second grade, she shied away socially and her confidence continued to decline. As Gateway most of her
was retained in second grade because she was not receiving the attention needed to understand the classwork. As a result
was retained in second grade because she was not receiving the attention needed to understand the classwork. As a result
procedural problems in school. While attending the district feeder school she struggled severely with test taking, classroom
ratio is 13/2, which allows her to be less distracted by other students and receive the assistance she needs daily in order to
teacher ratio of 27/1. She did not receive the attention she needed and had difficulty with her essay. When my daughter attended the district feeder school she struggled severely with test taking, classroom
When my daughter attended the district feeder school she struggled severely with test taking, classroom

Dear Secretary Murphy and Members of the Board of Education,

Denise Johnson, Gateway Parent
Denise Johnson, Gateway Parent (cont'd)

Thank you.

I urge you to renew Gateway Lab School's charter. Please give them additional time to prove that the unique environment they provide for our kids is truly helping them to succeed in school and in life.

Provide for our kids what is needed. As a result, her ability to focus and be successful in her education would be negatively impacted. She needs the creative outlet needed by my daughter. These are all things that she would be denied at a traditional feeder school. As a result, her ability to focus and be successful in her education would be negatively impacted.

Denise Johnson, Gateway Parent (cont'd)
Sandra Meyer

Sincerely,

Thank you for your consideration.

Lastly, I strongly urge you to not revoke the charter for Gateway Lab School and to continue to support them.

children who are struggling with learning differences and schools that are equipping them.

Great strides toward their goals, often standardized testing was inadequate to show that. I urge you to find better ways of assessing English as a Foreign Language and Adult Literacy. Although we as administrators, teachers, or tutors, knew the students were making

ways of assessment for them and their schools. The last 2 years of my working career were spent in Adult Education, specifically

In addition, where there are children who may not fit the "average" description of a student, I also encourage you to find alternative

he has a greater compassion and empathy with those who have difficulty learning.

been so supported by the staff and teachers that he now has the self-esteem to know that he can succeed and excel. Not only that,

decision. As a result of the education my friend's child received at Gateway, he is now reading at Grade Level, enjoying school, and has

understanding that you recently announced that the charter for this school will be revoked. I encourage you to reconsider your

I am writing on behalf of a friend's child who has benefited greatly from his educational experience at Gateway Lab School. It is my

Dear Sir or Madam,

Sandra G. Meyer, Friend of Gateway Parent
FAX: 610-344-5934
TEL: 610-344-6246
West Chester, Pa. 19380
601 Westown Road, Suite 288
Chester County Health Department

Sincerely,

Hunter Hale, S.E.O.

This school will have detrimental life-lasting effects for the future of many students those students at this school.

I plead with those charged with the decision to close Gateway Lab School to thoroughly evaluate this situation. There is a need and a market for schools of this nature to provide a nurturing learning environment to a population of students who learn differently. Closure of Gateway Lab School would be a disservice to him and the many students who are in desperate need of such a specialized and educational environment. This type of learning environment cannot be provided at traditional public schools. I fear that my son's educational and emotional progress may regress if this school is closed.

My son, Trey Hale, is currently in the 8th Grade. He started at Gateway Lab School in the 5th Grade. We moved him from Brandywine Springs Elementary School to ensure that his special education needs can be facilitated in a more individualized and specialized approach.

This email serves as a vote of support for the Gateway Lab School to retain its charter.

To whom it may concern,
Angela Hale

Sincerely,

Over crowded school without the capacity to properly teach or accommodate them. If Gateway lab closes, my son among many other needy children will be placed back into an intelligence. Please take into consideration the benefit of Gateway lab. DCAS scores are only a small indicator of a child’s intelligence. My son has hated school and felt bad about his learning ability while attending our typical feeder school, now he loves going to school and shows a good attitude about his learning. My son hated school and felt bad about his learning ability while attending our typical feeder school, and activities. My son has also improved emotionally and physically. Gateway offers many after school sports and activities and is now receiving an A grade level. Not only has my son improved academically with the help of Gateway staff, he has also improved emotionally and physically. Gateway offers many after school sports and activities. I’m writing in regards to the abrupt decision to close Gateway lab school. Since 2012 my son has attended Gateway lab.

To whom it may concern:

Angela Hale, Gateway Parent
loves to go to school everyday and gets upset if he is late for any reason. He is also in choir. He tells us things like, "I am very talented! I can play the trombone, the guitar, and sing." He is also in after school when he was in 4th grade. He now hears certain songs on the radio and starts, "I think I might be in 5th grade."

He has learned to play the guitar and the trombone at Gateway Lab School. His trombone education began in the 5th grade and he is successful in class. He is also accepted. They see our son for whom he is and not just as a boy with ADHD. They help him focus when needed because he is accepted. They see our son for whom he is and not just as a boy with ADHD. They help him focus when needed.

Kindergarten before Gateway Lab School was an option, and had a difficult time. Gateway gives our son a place where he is accepted, where he is not just as a boy with ADHD. They see our son for whom he is and not just as a boy with ADHD. They help him focus when needed. They see our son for whom he is and not just as a boy with ADHD.

Some of the most amazing rewards we have seen our son achieve at Gateway are not quantifiable in any exam. They are when our son starts to show improvement. His Spanish DCAS test is improving. He is making progress. He is above average in math and science. He is above average in math and science. He is making progress.

During our son's first year he was below standard on the DCAS tests. His teachers developed an individualized education plan. Our son has attended this school since it opened three years ago. Our son is an intelligent, curious individual who also struggles.

We are writing to you today in regards to the recognition of the Charter School Accountability Board to close Gateway Lab School.

Craig & Maggie Burgess, Gateway Parents

Secretary Mark Murphy
Craig and Maggie Burress

Sincerely,

His behavior, as we can see positive improvements in both his work has made in the life of our son and in our family. We no longer worry about him struggling in school, academically or with his friends. We see what a difference their hard work in that school is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of the students. We can see what a difference they are making in student's and there are a school that has an incredibly dedicated staff. Every single staff member.

Craig & Maggie Burress, Gateway Parents (cont'd)
I hope you will revoke the decision of closing this school for those children's sake.

Give them confidence and the same hope for a brighter future than children with no learning disabilities have.
The Gateway Lab School does more than just helping children with a learning disability, the Gateway Lab School system, schools that will not have the real means to help them, most of them will fall eventually.

As they found out last week that this just so perfect school might be closed, you can imagine the despair.

Along 29 other classmates.

One of my best friend had been struggling with her son's ADHD and learning differences for years, seeking help every direction to help him be in the best learning environment possible. He was placed in a public school in Delaware, but now...
Bunny Lamotte

need the extra care that Gateway offers. He is so much more confident. This note is to encourage that the school remain open. There are other kids that

My Grandson Trey Hale is a 5th Grader there. His is ADHD the progress he has made there is wonderful.

Bunny Lamotte, Gateway Grandparent
Committee to recommend non-renewal for Gateway’s charter for the upcoming school year. It is impressive how quickly GLS has established its identity and school system. We have a viable place to learn here in Delaware. We write to plan for your active involvement in seeing to it that Gateway Lab School operates without the expected decision of the charter school accountability.

Specific and tangible examples of GLS working, comprehension, and enjoy a moment of personal accomplishment. This is one of many text technologies tool allowed him to produce a viable report on time, demonstrating his ability to demonstrate an understanding of the material he read. A speech-to-text technology tool allowed him to produce a viable report on time, demonstrating his ability to demonstrate an understanding of the material he read. A speech-to-text technology tool allowed him to complete the report to his satisfaction. To hand write in classic form would have been virtually impossible, thus not completed. To hand write in classic form would have been virtually impossible, thus not completed.

Most everything he does takes much longer to accomplish. He and GLS are using level. Our son is currently in fifth grade at GLS. He reads and writes at second/third grade level. Most everything he does takes much longer to accomplish. He and GLS are using level. Our son is currently in fifth grade at GLS. He reads and writes at second/third grade level. Most everything he does takes much longer to accomplish. He and GLS are using level.

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Dave & Bonnie Kitts, Gateway Parents
Dave and Bonnie Kits

Sincerely,

Dave Kits

help assure that Gateway lab school remains open.

These children and this school need to be assessed by more than a test score. Please do not discriminate against our children. Please visit and interact with its students and teachers.

Please contact Mark Murphy and urge wisdom about this treason. Gateway lab school. Take a couple hours from your busy day to

now and winter break is just a few weeks away.

choice open houses are occurring child is. The selection process takes time, and extra diligence by special needs parents is essential. Choice open houses are occurring

the selection process takes time, and extra diligence by special needs parents is essential. Choice open houses are occurring

Secretary of Education, Gateway families are scrambling. Delware is not just a simple state in regard to navigating its school system. Different school was not on the minds of any GTS family members. Now is the time we all anxiously await the decision of Mark Murphy.

In addition, please get involved with addressing the absolutely poor timing of such an action. A month ago, the notion of attending a

is just getting started.

Please get involved with revisiting the recommendation for non-removal. Gateway lab school should be given more time to grow. If

The Charter school accountability committee and the DOE administrators must know that child with learning differences/ special

establishing a foundation for learning throughout life.

student's to learn and develop successful habits. Those factors are often reflected in standard test scores, but are so essential in

instruction, individual counseling, group counseling, and understanding. These are all essential elements for him and other special needs

GLS was designed specifically to help children (like our son), The progressive school and its systems include unique forms of

recommending for this appropriate exception only to recommend close and without any action or intervention.

recommendation for this appropriate exception only to recommend close and without any action or intervention.

GLS was designed specifically to help children (like our son), The progressive school and its systems include unique forms of

It is unclear why this decision was made and we are one of many families very interested in better understanding what is behind this

Dave & Bonnie Kits, Gateway Parents (cont'd)
Gateway Open!

Thank you for your time and consideration for keeping classroom doors open after early dismissal on test scores. Please reach out to the families to find out what is going on. Every day in their school is a gateway to a future of success. There are parents who ask them if their son or daughter is on the spectrum, succeeded since they started at Gateway. They have ADHD or Autism. Their teachers are parents to ask them if their son with ADHD or Autism is on the spectrum. They succeeded since they had the chance to see where a student grows. It should not be the only piece to the puzzle. Have you met with scores is used to see where a student grows, but it should not be the only piece to the puzzle. Have you met with students to assess their growth? It's been happening to a school counselor and test coordinator in a public school and understand that standardized test scores are an important part of the puzzle.

Difference:

Level and self-esteem. My nephew is now on the honor roll, reading at his grade level, and enjoying new and engaging curriculum. Along with compassion and encouragement, the teachers and staff at Gateway Lab School have been highly beneficial to my nephew's academic life. He started as a third grader behind age, but has shown growth and progress. He has been working on his own pace, and we have seen improvement.

To Whom It May Concern:

Elle Quinon, Gateway's Aunt & R.C.C.D.S School Counselor
As importantly, maybe more so, the Roman is a success story. She reads and writes continuously to improve in math, and is an active contributor in class and at the school. Just needs after coming to us to explain their plans.

Understanding why Roman became upset at school and unable to learn, they quickly made changes to help accommodate her special different, which didn’t take nearly as long as we had thought. Within the first few weeks, the teachers and staff at Gateway began to school at the beginning. For the school was nearly a place where she felt safe enough to learn. She quickly learned that Gateway was far better than Roman did, but then was more challenging to attend. Roman didn’t want to go to

farther behind even with the special help that the school said they were providing to her.

Sometimes would carry her to school screaming, crying and still wearing her pajamas. We thought we were finally getting her the help she needed in 2nd grade, she spent much of that year institutionalized at Rockford as

have been serving disadvantaged students with special needs. This means that our daughter, 3 to 8 since 2011-12, Gateway has

Learning-disadvantaged students and will become a model for other schools to emulate. Needs more time to demonstrate to the Department of Education that the program they are developing works to help

The Charter School Accountability Committee is recommending to the Secretary of Education that Gateway’s application for charter renewal be denied and to close the school. Based on charter renewal request will be a major mistake, in my opinion. Gateway

is our mission to provide a quality education and educational environment to disadvantaged, special-needs, daughter’s and sons in our

I am asking you to support the approval of Gateway Lab School charter renewal application. Gateway deserves your support to continue

William Bert, Gateway Parent
William Berri
Gateway Parent (cont'd)

(302) 764-0657

Sincerely,

Thanks for reading.

I will be there Wednesday night in support of the Gateway Lab School.

Gateway needs more time. Please help them get it.

I am asking for your help to save the Gateway Lab School so that they can continue to save students to become productive members of our County, our State, and our Country.

I am worried for your help to save the Gateway Lab School so that they can continue to save students to become difference to Rowan. This is her last year there; she starts 6th grade next Fall.

I also worry how many children will be lost if Gateway is forced to close. I am concerned even though it makes no sense.

and daughters with special needs.

and daughters with special needs. will recognize the special mission, methods, and talents at Gateway and start suggesting it to the parents of sons.

many more they will save if they are allowed to continue their mission. I wonder when other schools in the area know that the teachers and staff at Gateway have been able to save many other children, too. I wonder how

Rowan.

might be institutionalized, in jail, or worse. I am convinced that the teachers and staff at Gateway helped save been able to reduce her dependency on medication by more than 50%. Without her experience at Gateway, she friends. She became a Girl Scout. She is relaxed at home and gets along better with her older brother. She has enjoys going to school. And because she goes to Gateway, we have seen other changes in her behavior. She has

William Berri, Gateway Parent (cont'd)
Sharyn Krueger
Thank you for your time.

weeks ago when he learned of the possible closure of Gateway Lab School, I am attaching a letter that Nathan wrote several
been a gift to my son and my family, as well as many other children and their families. I am hopeful that my son, Nathan, will continue to flourish in this wonderful school in the seventh grade. Gateway Lab School has

Special needs.

that would be unbelievable and the children would be the ones affected the most. No one would want that for their child that has
reach out to children with a wide spectrum of learning disabilities. These teachers care for all of them. These educators are able to

Gateway Lab School has a family of dedicated, hard-working teachers that love their students. Nathan has formed bonds with some

is doing extremely well academically, Nathan received straight A's on his report card this trimester. He has been diagnosed in so many ways. School is no longer socially difficult for him and he
loved school since that first day in August 2011. He has flourished in so many ways. School is no longer socially difficult for him and he

issues. When I found out a Gateway Lab School was planning enrollment for the following year, I immediately started the application

Nathan is a very bright, witty, intelligent eleven-year-old. He was diagnosed with ADHD when he was in the second grade. He had

My son is currently in the sixth grade at Gateway Lab School. He was a third grader there when the school first opened in 2011. His

To whom it may concern,

Sharyn Krueger, Gateway Parent
accepted and doing well.

needs and stated that she recommends another student to transfer there who was

After the 2nd trimester, his 4th grade teacher recommended GLS as a better fit for his

His final report range was proficient to meets proficient.

and at times when he did ask questions, his teacher responded "figure it out."

He became uninterested due to the fast class pace, he withdrew from participating in class

Revealed together.

DECA Assessment was not taught in class nor in the materials sent home. What we

After testing in the spring 2014, he remarked that much of what was on the

he scored 386, below range, in social studies.

Below: Reading-750 to 701, Mathematics-684 - 683, with 1IP accommodations. Last year,

Public School DECA Assessment in the past 2 years dropped from meet standards to

example:

students in such a short time compared to his experiences in the public school system. For

started his first year in 5th grade at GLS this past August. He has made remarkable

As an active parent, I am very concerned since my son, diagnosed with Asperger's SCGA-7, just

board of Education meeting on December 12th.

2014 at 6pm and Secretary Mark Murphy will be making a final decision at the next

License of Gateway Lab School (GLS) for 5 years. A hearing is scheduled for December 10,

I am writing to rally your support and the State Board of Education to renew the Charter

Dear Secretary Mark Murphy,

Leslie Mitchell, Gateway Parent
Many thanks in advance for your continued support.

Rewarding to our overall economy and communities.

Sincerely,
Leslie Mitchell

GLS Parent

Leslie Mitchell

GLS Parent

Leslie Mitchell

Sincerely,

This year, after his first trimester at GLS:

1. Using a modified curriculum, he ranged from near proficiency to exceeds proficiency in academics.
2. He has developed social skills and teamwork skills.
3. He actively participated after the first week, and is able to tell me what he learned in most subjects.
4. He is also learning to play the guitar which he loves!
5. Most importantly, he is a much happier kid living a more normal life at GLS as any kid should.

I recently read about Governor Markell’s Universal Recycling Program and how it first began behind and is now benefiting our environment and economy. He mentioned it took “educating the public” and 4 years after adopting a comprehensive plan in 2010 before dramatic results were achieved, as we supported and respected these efforts as well as board of education initiatives, we pray you will support ours. Please Give GLS “More Time” and have the same faith in GLS and our children by

Rewarding us a 5 year charter using the same faith you approved our Alternative Framework for 2015. Allow our program the opportunity to achieve dramatic results. Surely our kids are even a more valuable investment and their future benefits more

It was extremely shocking to hear that the same board has refused to renew our charter.

Therefore, education approved GLS for an Alternative Framework in 2015 based upon the positive trends over the last 3 years. Therefore, of a student population that has had difficulty learning in a traditional school setting. We learned that the Delaware Board of

GLS Parent (cont’d)
to speak!

Charles Burbank

Thank you.

Progress. Since Delaware offers no comparable alternatives to Gateway, I don’t know what we’ll do if we lose this school.

These results, which may not be measurable by testing, are just as real and just as important as any academic standard. If pushed back

just academically, but socially, behaviorally, and emotionally as well.

Gateway Lab School has leveled the playing field for children like my son. He has made ASTOUNDING progress in just a few months, not

and has joined the drum club and baseball team. He even likes music now, and looks forward to the days he has music class.

This year, our first year at Gateway, he is THRIVING! No suspensions, no phone calls, no harsh discipline. He actually likes school now.

reason, and regularly acced out as a result.

Last year at his district school, my son was disenfranchised and damaged by the school’s lack of resources for dealing with learning and

called Non-Verbal Learning Disorder, compounded by ADHD.

My name is Charles Burbank, and I am a parent of 2 students at Gateway, both in the 9th Grade. One has an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

To whom it may concern,

Charles Burbank, Gateway Parent
Jackie Burbank

Thank you.

Of course not. Choosing this school would amount to nothing more than discrimination against learning-disabled children.

Do you really think their individual scores will improve if placed back into their district schools? Of some sort of learning difficulties. Do you really think their individual scores will improve if placed back into their district schools? Or standardized test scores are simply NOT an accurate way to evaluate the progress of a school where more than 70% of the students have 

basketball), and he has not been suspended or sent home. And, both of my sons just got six A's and two B's on their Report card.

student compared to last year. He is completing his class assignments, participating in extracurricular activities (Drum Club and Gateway knows how to handle kids like my sons, and how to get them interested and interested in learning. Our sons have become a model

Our son's psychological recommended Gateway Lab School to us, and things have been wonderful so far this school year. The staff at

him. My husband and I lived in fear of those phone calls.

almost every week we would get a call from the school asking us to come take him home because they didn't know how to deal with

severely, including having his desk and chair taken away and being forced to sit on the floor in class. He was suspended numerous times.

We realized this disciplinary issue was a disciplinary issue. He was punished how to behave in a mainstream classroom environment. The

resources or expertise to provide the learning environment he needed. Why not act out because he can't focus and doesn't understand

Our Non-Verbal/ADHD son had a terrible school experience last year. Not because it's a bad school, but because they just didn't have the

year, we were lucky enough to get both of our sons into Gateway to start the fourth grade.

My name is Jackie Burbank, and I am a Gateway parent with two children in the school, both of whom have IEP's. One of them suffers

To whom it may concern,

Jackie Burbank, Gateway Parent
Thank you for your consideration. I am highly optimistic that Gateway will be able to thrive given the time and opportunity. School to prosper now and in the future. Having worked with Ms. Dolan at Kumba Academy Charter School, Catherine Dolan has put the infrastructure in place to realize the significant gains necessary for Gateway lab apply the research-based and innovative teaching methods being provided. I believe that Head of School, however, it is a time intensive process to break students’ old patterns of behaviors, learn new skills, and is providing the foundation for children to build upon their knowledge acquisition academically. By teaching social and organizational skills in addition to the educational curriculum, Gateway have less emotional distress. This provides the best environment for children to learn and achieve atmosphere where students feel they belong, are able to rebuild their self-confidence, and subsequently students from Gateway lab school. Many of these children transferred from schools where they had given up sensory instruction, integrated arts, and experiential learning. In my private practice, I have seen several students with ADHD, who were not thriving in the traditional public school environment, could learning disabilities, and ADHD, who were not thriving in the traditional public school environment, could population of girls. This school was created to be the place where children, especially those with special needs, psychologist at the Pike Creek Psychological Center. I strongly support Gateway lab school and the

Richard Holmes, Founding Gateway Board Member
Beth Arnilla & husband, Gateway Parents

Frustration.

In the past, she was prone to give up or deride her reading skills without being prompted and works towards building her self-confidence. She is excited about reading! She reads with more enthusiasm now. This teaching method is extremely valuable to a child whose

Gateway classrooms support diverse learning styles. In her reading class, there are used to.

wonders for her self-esteem, sense of academic success and achievement; she doesn't get off track or get lost in the learning process. This process enables Julie to experience a elevated level of engagement in the learning process. The teaching method was tailored to meet learning styles. She was an excellent way for her to learn it; she picked up the concepts quickly because of the way

The staff at Gateway is adept at teaching children with special needs and employs

strongly support remedial of the Gateway lab school charter, here are just a few:

number of learning challenges including ADHD. There are countless reasons why we

learned about Gateway in the summer of 2012 while searching for alternatives to Delaware's traditional public school. From

My daughter's name is Julie. She is a 5th grader at Gateway Lab School. My husband and I
vote to renew the Gateway Lab School Charter.

Dependent on would be devastating and discriminating against the special needs community that currently serves. Please show progress. To take this option away from the many families of special needs children who have come to Gateway. She's only been at the school a few months and has already had supportive environment provided at Gateway. She feels good about herself and what she is capable of learning as a direct result of the support. My daughter feels good about herself and what she is capable of learning as a direct result of the education Gateway offers an excellent alternative to the conventional public school. Julie made new friends quickly at Gateway, she struggled to be accepted by her peers in the conventional public school. She enjoys going to school, she loves participating in the after school clubs that Gateway offers.

- Important component to maximize Julie’s learning and promotes academic success. Julie has difficulty focusing and requires frequent prompts to stay on task. The smaller classroom size is an

Beth Arnilla & husband, Gateway Parents (cont’d)
Valerie Ward

Thank you so much for your time.

I appreciate your support with my child's education. Every child is born with great potential, and every child should have the chance to develop that potential in a supportive and encouraging environment. It is important for students to feel confident and secure in their learning, knowing that they are valued and respected.

My son, Jack, currently attends Gateway School. He is in the first grade and has found a great deal of success there. He has struggled with reading in the past, but his teacher, Ms. Thompson, has been instrumental in helping him improve his skills. Jack is now reading at grade level and is confident in his abilities.

In his first grade year, the school implemented a new program called “Read to Learn.” This program has been successful in increasing students' reading comprehension and confidence. Jack has enjoyed participating in this program and has shown significant improvement in his reading skills.

I would like to express my gratitude to the school administration and staff for their dedication to helping students like Jack succeed. Your commitment to providing a positive learning environment has made a significant difference in my son’s life.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Valerie Ward

Gateway Parent
Thank you,

You are eliminating our options to give Joshua the type of learning that he greatly needs. There is a definite need for this type of school for our son Joshua and many other children. If this school closes,

scores than he has received in his previous 6th grade class.

school work this year with a much more serious attitude and this most recent report card has reflected better closely with Joshua. Reading every night and keeping a close monitor on his school work Joshua has embraced his concerning Joshua’s behavior and how it may impede his learning. We as parents have been able to work more concerning both his academic capabilities and his behavior. We receive constant updates on-one-one attention concerning both his academic capabilities and his behavior.

Since attending Gateway Lab School, where he only has about 14 students in his class, Joshua has had much more

students in each class and his behavior started to change as well.

Once Joshua entered middle school, his ability with comprehension started to take a toll on his school work interests. With each subject, Joshua’s ability at comprehension has been an issue for him since elementary school.

trouble learning through common core teaching methods. His interest in school work depends greatly on his

Our son Joshua Stidham just started at Gateway Lab School this school year for 7th grade. Joshua very often has
David Zollers and Michele Brown

Sincerely,

David Zollers & Michele Brown, Gateway Parents
Thank you for your time,

Students who attend, and it's teachers are the ones responsible for this adaptation of skills. This school is needed by him and the other 207 other

I see my son struggle with the same issue I did and see him learning the same skills to adapt to them. Gateway Lab School

high school with my original class.

Both socially and educationally, in order to be mainstreamed back into a normal learning environment, I was able to graduate both socially and educationally. In order to be mainstreamed back into a normal learning environment, both of these schools helped me to adapt by teaching different skills.

School for three years and then into Notre Dame. Both of these schools helped me to adapt by teaching different skills, dyslexia, and other learning disabilities. Shortly after, I was enrolled in a program at a secondary learning center. I attended that. Realizing someone body was missing something, and after visits with my pediatrician, a rash of testing began. I was diagnosed with

children. "Christopher is lazy and doesn't apply himself. It's always my problem. They said it took my mother, who stepped up,

I am able to relate to this and my son's situation because throughout my life, I've fought this same battle. Thirty-six years ago I

Grades.

cut and dry and don't always work the same for every child. Therefore, changes may not be seen immediately on paper and in
cout by both teachers and students. Before these improvements in learning can be made. These improvements are short

You are looking for information about educational implications. What needs to be looked into consideration is the battle that must be

My name is Christopher Bayer and I'm writing this letter in response to the issue of my son, Nathan Bayer, and Gateway Lab

To Whom it May Concern,

Christopher Bayer

Gateway Parent
My thanks.

I hope that the decision on Gateway can be reconsidered.

Loyalty with test-taking & entrance exams all together.

Usually only demonstrations 2-3% of a child's aptitude, which is why many universities are considering doing something many of the learning challenges these children are facing. But, what we often forget is test taking community that are benefiting so greatly. It's no surprise that test scores from Gateway would be lower.

Hello, I'm writing to you to show support of keeping the Gateway Lab School open for all the children. In this

Louise Butler, Friend of Gateway Parent
William Riley

Thank you.

Providing

Please support these students and the excellent program that Gateway Lab School is

need more TIME. Our KIDS need more time

special needs it takes TIME to turn around the years of frustration, anxiousness and failure. We

Please give Gateway Lab School more time to prove what they are doing. For children with

in smaller classroom environments in a free, public school setting.

order to use these new plans to better the school and keep providing these kids a place to thrive

I really feel the school should be given more time to show others have been, to be "under review", in

the new curriculum, instructional goals and planning.

incorporate beginning this school year. All optional curriculums can be made part of the school.

Teacher's, instruction, curriculum and so many other facets of the school later to

in their school's future. Catherine brought in evaluators from U of I to help to evaluate the school,

that year. Now I have taken to ensure our students achieve their goals. The Head of School, our

I have been so pleased with the great lengths that Catherine Dolan, our Head of School, only in

needed in a classroom of 25 students. Gateway has been able to give her what she needs!

previously in her elementary school, our daughter was not able to get the full attention she

sizes and having individual attention suited to her needs.

on testing and feel back her self-esteem (most important), she enjoys school, the smaller class.

Grade 3rd Grade and she has been able to thrive. She started at Gateway in 3rd Grade and she

as a letter of support for Gateway Lab School. I would like to mention my Gateway student, 4th
Middle one in Fishing Club

is doing great!

something found a way to work on his social, organizational, and educational skills and he
were told at Skyline was intellectually slow and lacked any social skills. Gateway
active volunteers at Children's Therapeutic Riding Program. This is a person that we
the deaf, and works as one of the Ride Program's staff. He was also become
climb so much that he earned half of the piece of this class trip to Hershey Park last year
and doing well. His DCPS scores on evaluating there were good and have continued to
My oldest is now in 7th grade at Delaware Academy of Public Safety and Security
emotionally, as well as educationally, they have grown by leaps and bounds!
and was not working. They are not the same children that entered Gateway socially.
children and not the problems. Educational plans were changed according to what was
able to work as a team and come up with plans for their education. They saw the
when we were at the 5th grade level there. They were way behind what she had already learned. She
before they could be better helped at individual learning centers. I found this
pronoun based reading. Their answer to her not reading and scoring so poorly on testing
learn how to read. I was only then that they started implementing teaching her using
school.

Maryellen O'Leary, Gateway Parent

Furthest Right

Oldest on class trip 3rd row

ADHD, dyslexia, etc. We had already repeated the 1st grade with her and she was not
starting to read and was scoring poorly on all their tests. By 2nd grade she was still a non-
Chris MacMillking
Gateway Parent

smile on his face. He knew he belonged there. You could see it in his posture and home and comfortable with his surroundings. He knew he belonged there. During the summer, our son walked into the school with excitement and a relaxed attitude that showed he felt like he was at school. As a father, we have seen his confidence in the classroom blossom. When I first heard that Gateway lab school was closing at the end of the year, I was deeply saddened. Our son is a 5th grader who attends Gateway. He started in 3rd Grade. My husband and I have been significant in an academic level, many parents have seen significant strides in their child's education. Some victories are

On an academic level, Gateway Lab School starts providing education for Grade Three up through Grade 8. The primary achievement since he started there.

regarding: Kevin MacMillking, 5th Grader at Gateway lab school
Chris MacMickieing, Concerned Parent

Sincevery,

Chris MacMickieing, Concerned Parent (cont'd)

child who has different education needs. Please reconsider closing this school.
Closing Gateway Lab School would be a disservice to the community, the current student body and any other children.

I have academic success for our child. Having a safe environment with smaller classroom sizes and individually tailored attention have been a reference. Having a safe environment with smaller classroom sizes and individually tailored attention have been a positive experience. I would be more than happy to provide you with a copy of the testing information I have showed „provence Level: Advanced“. As I have kept records of my child’s academic struggles and strengths, I am happy to say that our son’s DCAS scores in both 3rd and 4th grade (when he started Gateway) for Reading and Language are excellent.

However, this testing showed that „he is exhibiting learning disabilities in the reading and written abilities. However, this testing showed that „he is exhibiting learning disabilities in the reading and written

which to learn. Our son was bullied prior to starting Gateway. When he was in 1st grade, he was chocked by another 1st grader on the school bus. Because he is an Aspergers child, the bullying had been going on for awhile before it escalated to that moment. Aspergers children have a difficult time expressing their feelings or even understanding them. It makes him extremely uncomfortable to even talk about it which allowed him to continually victimized. Had he not been chocked, we would not have known the true extent of the bullying that was taking place. Of course, that has left an impression on him. Gateway has offered a safe environment in which to learn.
environment Gateway promotes. He likes school.

can fit in. He enjoys reading now. He loves that he can understand and do well in math. He likes the students here, with the

time to learn the material. Gateway has given him confidence in his own abilities and shown him that he really can learn. That he really

to sit down with him and teach him the subject before he can do his homework. No longer does he have tears in his eyes as he

absolutely changed Kevin's life. He is no longer bullied. He is no longer ostracized and his learning has improved greatly. No longer do

We have heard about Gateway Lab School through word of mouth and immediately set out to enroll him in their program. Gateway has

was in tears on many mornings.

the bus. The bullying at school was less obvious (and less physical) but no less present. Kevin dreaded going to school every day and

with the school and the bus company. This continued throughout second grade and finally culminated in a student threatening Kevin on

difficultly communicating. It was only through other students that we found out that Kevin was being bullied on the bus. Despite talks

Forests Oak he loved his teachers, but hated school. It was quite literally, torture for him. Children with Aspergers have a great deal of

At Forests Oak he loved his teachers, but hated school. It was quite literally, torture for him. Children with Aspergers have a great deal of

in each right on reading alone. Most nights Kevin couldn't get through his homework without tears.

spent 204 for Kevin. During those two years at Forests Oak his teachers were very helpful but supporting Kevin's needs in a standard classroom

Kevin was diagnosed with Aspergers and ADHD at an early age. We met with his school at the time (Forest Oak) and came up with a

himself has grown in leaps and bounds. Gateway has done that for him.

required of him and teaching each school day to excel. There are eight of this education and employing school. His confidence in

tremendous improvement in so many facets of Kevin's learning experience. He's gone from struggling to learn the basic materials

Our son, Kevin, has now attended Gateway Lab School for two and a half years, first starting in third grade. In that time we've seen

Parent of Kevin MacMicking

James MacMicking
James Machmichking, Concerned Parent

Sincerely,

Please extend Gateway's Charter.

Gateway Lab School is in its infancy. It has shown excellent growth so far and is on a path that will lead to further improvements.

and borderline discriminatory.

Expecting Gateway's student body to meet the same standards as those schools, and in so short a time, is wrong.

that population so many charter schools. This school doesn't have a large population of "normal" children, a public school has to balance Gateway's students have IEP's and a significant portion of those students have 504 plans. These are not the top-performing students in general public schools, and has made an amazing difference for not just Kevin but so many of its other students. The majority of the school and doesn't want to go back to his old school. This is a special school, geared towards the children who perform the poorest.

My wife and I were in disbelief and horror when we heard that Gateway's Charter may not be renewed. Even Kevin is scared. He loves
James & Ginger Machickning, Gateway Grandparents

James & Ginger Machickning, Gateway Grandparents
With our Deepest Respect,

In conclusion, we sincerely request the renewal of Gateway lab School’s charter in Wilmington.

Gateway Lab School’s student population is either on an LEP or a 504 plan. One cannot compare children of special needs with students that are not academically challenged and may be the polar opposite in learning ability.

The population of Gateway Lab School’s student population is either on an LEP or a 504 plan. One cannot compare Gateway Lab School’s student population to other schools with similar demographics. This is not a reasonable comparison.

According to the report, Gateway Lab School is being rated by the same criteria and is being used to the same standards as college preparatory schools.

Also for this very reason, we are extremely concerned with the review of the Delaware DOE’s academic framework report for charter schools. According to the report, Gateway Lab School is being rated by the same criteria and is being used to the same standards as college preparatory schools.

James A. MacMicking

James A. MacMicking, Gateway Grandparents Cont’d
Those who need help the most perform the same as the rest of the population. The wiser decision would be to allow the Gateway Lab School to continue helping factor in Delaware’s schools. It will make Delaware the first state to tell the disabled that they have failed because they can’t meet the standards, no matter what the law says. If this act will tell the world that data, and data alone is the most important measure of education, no matter what the law says, the act will tell the world that data, and data alone is the most important measure of education.

Sincerely,
Mary C. Beardsley
Aunt of Gateway Student & Educator

Mary Beardsley
Aunt of Gateway Student & Educator

Dear Mark Murphy and the State Board of Education:

If we were to send our children to Gateway Lab School, I would be happy to discuss their individual needs and see if they are being met. However, I have never heard of Gateway Lab School and do not know of any other public school that can meet the IEP requirements of these students sufficiently. It is an absolute necessity that we have an effect on the test scores where you already anticipate a downturn due to the new public school system. Indeed, that will have an effect on the test scores where you already anticipate a downturn due to the new public school system.

That brings me to the question of test scores. I know of no other public school that can meet the IEP requirements of these students efficiently. If they could, test scores remain on test scores alone, then I urge you to reconsider the result of turning all of these students over to the public school system. Indeed, test scores remain on test scores alone.

To so many, I hope that you look at the students’ progress holistically. I hope that you look at the students’ progress holistically. I hope that you look at the students’ progress holistically. I hope that you look at the students’ progress holistically. I hope that you look at the students’ progress holistically. I hope that you look at the students’ progress holistically. I hope that you look at the students’ progress holistically.

My niece is a perfect example of the type of student who has benefited tremendously from Gateway’s approach. She struggles with autism, and in a Dwy School, she met with only so much success. She would not have done as well without Gateway’s approach. She struggled with mathematics and classroom that other students not understand their needs. I certainly hope you and the board do not base your decision on test scores alone. I hope that you look at the students’ progress holistically.

Mary Beardsley
Aunt of Gateway Student & Educator

Mary Beardsley
Aunt of Gateway Student & Educator
Their strengths, don't have to worry about that. Because they are truly a family that embraces differences through a lens of showing the students.

boosting students' confidence. Children with special needs are at a higher risk for being isolated and bullied, but Gateway students are building confidence in themselves and each other. Learning skills are just as important as academics. One thing I truly love about Gateway Lab School is the building of confidence and skills. Learning is more than just grades. We need social and emotional skills that will help our students grow as they go through life. Because for kids like our kids, the skills and social emotional learning that they need will make a difference in how they feel and how they behave.

The past few years have been filled with many ups and downs, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this journey. This past year has been especially challenging, but it has taught me the importance of being patient and understanding.

This year, I have learned that communication is key. I have had the opportunity to work with many different people, including teachers, parents, and administrators. I have also had the chance to work with special needs students, and I am grateful for the experience.

I have learned that it is important to be patient and understanding, and to always be willing to learn. I have also learned that it is important to be a good listener, and to always be open to new ideas.

I have also learned that it is important to be a good leader. I have had the opportunity to lead a team of volunteers, and I have been able to see the impact that we have had on the students. I am grateful for the opportunity to make a difference, and I will continue to do so in the future.

Tracy Moran, Gateway Parent
Sincerely,

Tracy Moran

Report card: Like I saw this evening.

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I hate to admit it, but with the past three years of his academics not meeting standards, I was slowly losing hope that I would see a change. However, this report card showed all As and Bs with one Cs. Many positive statements and areas of improvement with focus and concentration. From all kinds of emotions.

My regular check of papers and how his day was etc... His report card was inside. I sat down on the couch and literally was in tears. In only the couple of months our son has been at the Gateway Lab School he is making progress. Tonight, opening his book bag to do
Improvement in the amount ofoutsprts she has had.

her action. She's learning to manage her anger and what steps to put in place to make that happen. She has made a considerable
step back and think. This is a huge step for her, she is learning to control her anger and others when she is then to stop and think about

Lastly, our daughter has been laugher "I can't Gateway." In fact, the other day, her little friend was misbehaving and had to go inside

I just stumbled on how she seemed to mature in such a short amount of time.

Thirdly, when our daughter attended her traditional school, she was offered speech and occupational therapy two times a month. At

content.

they are studying. This "hands on approach" has assisted our daughter in remembering and most importantly understanding the

curriculum and teachers have contributed to this improvement. The curriculum allows the students to be immersed in the period

her first report card at Gateway and she has received an "A" in Social Studies and a "B" in Science. We truly believe that the

Secondly, when our daughter attended her traditional district school, she struggled in Social Studies and Science. We just received

just learning to read.

breaks them down. She was bothered before by the fact that she couldn't read. Her self-confidence has improved tremendously in

and now she is reading to us. She is pulling the tools to work that she has learned from her teachers. She sounds out the words and

Firstly, our daughter entered Gateway unable to read. After working closely with her teachers, she is now reading. In fact, we open

in her reading skills, speech, attitude, her willingness to attend school, socialization skills, and overall demeanor.

August 27, 2014. Our daughter has been diagnosed with ADHD, ODD, and Developmental delays. We have noticed an improvement

improvement we have seen in our daughter in such a short amount of time. Our eight year old daughter just started at Gateway on

Dear Secretary Murphy,

Bridget Huber & Kenneth Smith, Gateway Parents
Sincerely,

Bridget Huber & Kenneth Smith, Gateway Parents (cont'd)
Thank you,

Elaine Bongpane

Please reconsider the Charter School Accountability Committee's recommendation as their review does not see the entire picture. Get our curriculum stronger and she needs time to make the positive changes to help our children.

The Dept. of Education must realize that this school cannot be judged simply on test scores. Our head of school is working hard to compassion and a kindness for all types of kids.

My daughter is in fifth grade is reading at grade level and last year she tested on DAS testing and received a score of a score which is the highest that score that is able to be earned. She has confidence in herself again, she loves her school, she has met a diverse group of students there that help her to appreciate people - some have less disabilities and some more, but she has also felt a sense of belonging. Those that help her in the classroom, she has also felt a sense of working with other students which has helped her a great deal with reading and math. The specialists that are helping her each day, so that every day last year she received a grade of a grade.

The special needs classes in which her class in 3rd. They also helped her in the small class and she was challenged. The small classes were provided with small class sizes, teachers that had special training to help kids learn coping strategies for her ADHD and dyslexia.

Dear Mark Murphy:

Please give Gateway Lab School a second chance.

Letter to Mark Murphy and Delaware Department of Education

Gateway Parent
I thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

The future of many students throughout this school and surrounding populations of students who learn differently. Closure of this school will have detrimental lifelong effects for those students.

I plead with those charged with the decision to close Gateway Lab School to thoroughly evaluate this situation.

If this school is closed, students provided at traditional public schools. I fear that our children's educational and emotional progress may regress. Regression in despair at need of such a specialized learning environment. This type of learning environment cannot be provided at traditional public schools. I fear that our children's educational and emotional progress may regress.

The closure of Gateway Lab School would be a disservice to both our children and the many students who were struggling with their academics at Bridgeway Lab Schools, despite strong performance on Standardized Tests. Prior to moving to Gateway Lab Schools, both children were struggling in a more individualized and specialized approach. Prior to moving to Gateway Lab Schools, both children made significant academic progress.

My daughter, Gretchen, and son, Whitmer are in their second year at Gateway Lab School. We moved both children from Bridgeway Spring Elementary School to ensure that their special education needs can be

I would like this email to serve as a vote of support for the Gateway Lab School to retain its charter.

John D. Rappa

Sincerely,

John Rappa, Gateway Parent
Chazala Farooqui, MD

Dear Mr. Murphy,

I am writing to request that you reconsider my appeal for enrollment of my daughter at Gateway Lab School. I am writing to ask you to fill the dependent seats based on the number of applications we received.

I honestly believe that Gateway Lab School offers a unique opportunity for my daughter's educational needs. She has struggled in traditional education settings due to her developmentally delayed and ADHD diagnosis. She has been evaluated by professionals and has received individualized education plans (IEPs) at her current school, which has not met her needs effectively.

After spending several years in traditional public schools, we decided to enroll her in Gateway Lab School. The school has been a place of refuge for her, providing a safe and supportive environment.

I am writing to request that you reconsider my decision and allow my daughter to enroll in Gateway Lab School. I am confident that she will thrive in this environment and make significant progress.

Sincerely,
Chazala Farooqui, MD
Special education students struggle with standardized tests.

Since reading is the academic area where he struggles the most, he would be more successful at Gateway. 60% of the students passing reading in 2014; Richley had 54.55%.

Gateway’s test scores have been struggling. However, the 3rd grade score are higher than Richley’s.

Best one he has ever had: all A’s and B’s.

Also, he is more social around other kids and he is confident. He just received his report card and it was the

Gateway lab school starts in 3rd grade, so we decided to give it a try. James qualified for an IEP. For reading,

thought the class sizes were too big for James. He really needs a lot of extra attention and help.

To Whom It May Concern:

Tina Horgan, Gateway Parent & Educator
Tina Horgan, English Teacher at Delsea Technical High School and Parent of James Horgan, 3rd Grade at Gateway lab School

Tina Horgan, English Teacher at Delsea Technical High School and Parent of James Horgan, 3rd Grade at Gateway lab School

Sincerely,

Tina Horgan, Gateway Parent & Educator (cont’d)

Gateway is financially and organizationally sound. Please do not allow the state board to shut it down on test

and social progress than any other educational setting. Please renew Gateway lab School’s charter.

and absolutely loved it. He has always struggled with team sports, but has gained so much confidence with the

There is a very strong music program with a choir, band, guitar club and drumming club. My son played golf

Besides all of the services, Gateway provides extra curricular services that are not available at all of the other

but the state is sticking to the original one for this year. I think this is unfair.

progress. The state has allowed them to use the alternative assessment chart for the upcoming school years,

Tina Horgan, Gateway Parent & Educator (cont’d)
Masood Siddiqi, Gateway Parent

Dear Mr. Murphy,

I am writing this letter to provide my point of view regarding the recent decision to not renew Charter of Gateway Lab School. As an advocate of special needs education, I am concerned about the impact this decision may have on students who have some kind of disability or special need and need IEP and 504.

In a traditional school environment, it has been observed that children who are struggling to achieve academic success in a traditional school environment need more than 50 percent of whom have some kind of disability. I am worried about the future of these kids, especially those who are part of the special education program.

The atmosphere in traditional schools before and who can assure us that this time around it would be different. I am also worried about the future of these kids if their school is closed. They were not provided with adequate teaching dedicated to work with special needs kids, understood their needs, and were able to provide help right where they have these kids see kids like them, with whom they can bond better and have no fear of being laughed at or made fun of. They have been a part of the special education program and have made significant progress.

If you close this school, I am afraid that she will be unable to continue her progress and be a responsible citizen in society. Some improvement in standardized testing. She still has a long way to go but at least she is getting better.

Since she started to go to Gateway Lab School, she has been more confident and has improved self-esteem. She is more outgoing and willing to participate in sports. She looks forward to go to school now. Her IEP goals have been consistently met. She has shown improvement in math and reading skills.

In the long run, I am worried about the future of students like my daughter who has learning disabilities related to Developmental Delay and ADHD. She has been through different public and private schools.

Sincerely,

Masood Siddiqi
CC: Jack Markell, Governor
Masood Siddiqui, MD, FCCP

Sincerely,

I am confident that next time around, we will be able to show DOE that these kids can achieve any goals which are set for them.

I request to you is that please give Gateway Lab School 3-5 years to show you required progress, based upon our trend so far. I understand that Gateway Lab School was unable to show statistical improvement as required by the state. Unfortunately, 3 years...
To all whom it may concern:

Patricia Jones, Aunt of Gateway Student
Debbie Askins, Gateway Parent

Year

After two years there she could not handle the work load with her medical condition. So we headed back to hockey with a new

year.

As you can imagine with all the health issues school became a challenge to say the least. At the time she was at Christ the Teacher

at Dupont.

With a different type of child, we had to watch for delays and monitor them on a daily basis. We spent many years back and forth

with a different type of child. We had to watch for delays and monitor them on a daily basis. We spent many years back and forth

with a different type of child. We had to watch for delays and monitor them on a daily basis.
Debbie Askins

Regards,

Madeleine would love to give you a tour.

Her daughter certifies in Special Education. The principle whom came from Delaware University meet them all and you be the judge. My daughter is double board but please don’t take my word for it, please visit the school and the children whom go there. Talk to the teacher’s all double board.

Debbie Askins, Gateway Parent (cont’d)
Barbara Carucci, Gateway Grandmother

Brade: I am a grandmother of a 4th grade, Donate Christopher Hayes, who attends the Gateway Lab School. I have been Donate’s caregiver for over the last 3 years. His ability to learn and self-confidence was hit lowest point being enrolled in the public school system and over 3 years ago, he started attending school at the age of 5. Donate has struggled in the public school system since then. But after school when he started attending school at the age of 5, Donate has struggled in the public school system since then. I know a critical point in his life with his ability to learn at a school where he could be educated. I researched two schools for learning disabilities in the state of Delaware, unfortunately they came as a hefty tuition fee and one that is not an option. We researched two schools for learning disabilities in the state of Delaware. Unfortunately they came as a hefty tuition fee and one that is not an option. We researched two schools for learning disabilities in the state of Delaware. Unfortunately they came as a hefty tuition fee and one that is not an option. We researched two schools for learning disabilities in the state of Delaware. Unfortunately they came as a hefty tuition fee and one that is not an option. We researched two schools for learning disabilities in the state of Delaware. Unfortunately they came as a hefty tuition fee and one that is not an option. We researched two schools for learning disabilities in the state of Delaware. Unfortunately they came as a hefty tuition fee and one that is not an option. We researched two schools for learning disabilities in the state of Delaware. Unfortunately they came as a hefty tuition fee and one that is not an option. We researched two schools for learning disabilities in the state of Delaware. Unfortunately they came as a hefty tuition fee and one that is not an option. We researched two schools for learning disabilities in the state of Delaware. Unfortunately they came as a hefty tuition fee and one that is not an option. We researched two schools for learning disabilities in the state of Delaware. Unfortunately they came as a hefty tuition fee and one that is not an option. We researched two schools for learning disabilities in the state of Delaware. Unfortunately they came as a hefty tuition fee and one that is not an option. We researched two schools for learning disabilities in the state of Delaware. Unfortunately they came as a hefty tuition fee and one that is not an option. We researched two schools for learning disabilities in the state of Delaware. Unfortunately they came as a hefty tuition fee and one that is not an option. We researched two schools for learning disabilities in the state of Delaware. Unfortunately they came as a hefty tuition fee and one that is not an option. We researched two schools for learning disabilities in the state of Delaware. Unfortunately they came as a hefty tuition fee and one that is not an option.
Years later they had made the correct decision for the recertification of the Gateway Lab School. Furthermore the DOE will see, be endless. Why believe Gateway will be turning out students, that parents and teachers will be proud.

The school is only at the beginning phases and given the chance the possibilities will

Barbara Carucci, Gateway Grandmother (cont'd)
Respectfully,

Improve and progress to meet the needs of these unique students.

I am thrilled to see how the improvement each year

to be part of the Gateway Family. We are thrilled to hear how much our
people working tirelessly to create this new and wonderful alternative school. My children and I are

Please, I urge you to renew Gateway Labs Charter. This school is a work in progress. It has many dedicated

This school provides “a port in a storm” for many students that do not thrive in a traditional model. We

The music and arts, project oriented learning, BYM class every day, and thank heaven there is recess. An

all things that were challenging for them in the traditional school setting.

My children now have elevated self-esteem, they no longer hate school, and they have friends and socialize.

He had anxiety about going to school.

Younger son was pulled out for so much intervention that he felt singled out, his self-esteem suffered and

possible for that teacher to address my child’s needs. This is the story for most traditional classrooms. My

teacher emphasized it was one teacher for 24 students this year, I know that this had an impact. I was not humanly

teacher’s efforts make all the difference in the world. When my older child was in a traditional classroom at one

particular ability. The smaller classroom size and the ability of the teachers to truly teach specifically

The best part about Gateway Lab is its success is that they teach each child as an individual and their

ADHD and dysgraphia. My 10 year old has a written expression disorder known commonly as dyslexia.

children have very high intelligence but have mild learning disabilities. My 13 year old has autism and dyslexia.

attended this school and I can tell you how much of a difference it has been for their education. Both my

I write today to briefly express my great opinion of the Gateway Lab Charter school. Two of my children

Dear Sirs and Madams:

Anne Marie Shortwell, Gateway Parent
holding a dragon project he made for school. See how much fun those kids are having!

Below is a picture of the bus I end of the year party at Brandywine Springs Park. My younger son is

Anne Marie Shottwell, Gateway Parent (cont'd)
As an educator, I have high hopes that the Gateway Lab School will be recognized for the educational opportunities it offers to developmentally challenged students. Please give it enough time to succeed.

Sensory difficulties:

Improve his ability to interact with other children. He has an IEP and receives occupational therapy to treat his socially and emotionally. At Gateway, he is in a small class with situations tailored to lessen his anxieties and struggles both intellectually very bright.

My grandson, Harry Scheinberg, is a third grader at Gateway. He is intellectually very bright, but struggles both

Knowledge to a standardized testing format.

Individualized learning system of Gateway and does well in class. However, she is unable to translate her proven confidence and has increased her level of social interaction with others. DeLisa has thrived under the existence. During this time, she has made great improvement in her personal growth. DeLisa has developed self.

My granddaughter, DeLisa Scheinberg, is artistic and has been a student there for the four years. It has been in

I am the grandmother of two students at the Gateway lab school.

Sandra Scheinberg, Gateway Grandmother
that their sons and daughters learning challenges cannot be addressed in a traditional public school setting.

Parents are working with the faculty and staff of Gateway Lab School to provide the best possible education for their children knowing

and their families. I am editions by the depth of commitment and determination shown by the parents of Kayla’s classmates. These

During the past four months, as Legal Guardians, my husband and I have had the opportunity to interact with Gateway Lab School students

work through Achieve 3000 that is specifically determined differentiated instruction targeted to help her improve academic mastery.

Gateway Lab School has used the MAP testing to provide an evidence-based analysis of Kayla’s skills. She has been receiving assigned

assist Kayla when it becomes evident that she was negatively impacted by serious attendance issues. I am also pleased that the faculty of

able to address to the care, concern, and professionalism of the faculty and staff that assisted us by providing us with information to

and emotional growth during the time she has been enrolled at Gateway Lab School. I am

that she has made great strides in her social and academic growth over the last almost three and one half years so I write this letter. I am confident that I can meet with Gateway Lab

Given that we did not have Legal Guardianship and custody of Kayla until this summer, I am not able to provide you with her measurable

disability in mathematics and her diagnosed Attention Deficit Disorder-Combined Type and Anxiety after her poor social and academic

second trimester of seventh grade. The decision to enroll Kayla at Gateway Lab School was made in light of her documented learning

in July of 2014 my husband and I became Legal Guardians for our Granddaughter Kayla Gardner. Kayla’s mother enrolled her at the

Dear Secretary Murphy,

Re: Charter School Accountability Committee decision not to renew the charter for Gateway Lab School

To: Mark Murphy, State of Delaware Secretary of Education

Susan Gardner, Gateway Grandmother
Grandmother/Legal Guardian of Kayla Gardner

Sincerely,

Susan M. Gardner

I am requesting that you grant Gateway Lab School a renewal of their charter. All indications are that Ms. Dolan and Ms. Solomon are building the school's faculty and staff to strengthen instruction and provide for measurable growth in student achievement.

In 2015, I was eager to see the results of performance for Gateway Lab School when the alternative framework for assessment is used.

The administration of the Gateway Lab School has taken great strides forward to structure and evidence based curriculum of instruction to meet the learning needs of a school community where approximately 60% of the enrolled students are documented learning disabled. I am eager to see the results of performance for Gateway Lab School when the alternative framework for assessment is used.

Sincerely,

Susan Gardner, Gateway Grandmother (cont'd)
Since starting at Gateway, Nicholas has become a totally different child. Nicholas has met and continues to meet his IEP goals. He now receives A's and B's instead of NP and BP on his report card. He now has friends at school and is improving in his social skills. He also educated myself and socially. I felt that they truly did understand what I was going through. I decided to enroll him on the sport.

The first day of Nicholas’ 4th Grade year is when we got the call from Gateway to come in for an interview. During our interview, I

4th Grade year

That summer Nicholas went to South Carolina to stay with his grandparents. While he was there, he was tutored three times a week by

could see he was starting to regain.

special education teacher. It was my hope that I could help him get back on track and prepare him for his upcoming

school. I was told by his regular teacher that he was not seeing the best education that he could and no one

was pushing him to work to his full potential. In his classroom he had a regular teacher who taught the children, who were on track. The

was pushing him to work to his full potential. In his classroom he had a regular teacher who taught the children, who were on track. The

children would end up in-school suspension. Nicholas was in the third grade at Brade. I learned of a new charter school for children with learning differences: Gateway Lab.

implemented and medication was started to help him succeed in school. During his time at Brade, Nicholas’ Grades were not the best.

I am writing this letter in support of Gateway Lab School and my son Nicholas Simons-Webster. Nicholas has attended Gateway Lab since

the 4th Grade. He is currently in the 6th Grade.

To whom it may concern,

Shannon Simons, Gateway Parent
I thank you for your time and consideration.

I am asking if you give Gateway time to implement their plan and allow time for the plan to show results. I am asking that you give Gateway time to learn in a different way and they are here to help you. Gateway lab school lets our kids know that it is ok to learn in a different way and they are here to help you. Mentioned above cannot be measured on a state exam. Gateway lab school gives our kids the tools that they need behavior have ceased. Instead I get phone calls to let me know what my child is doing right. These things I have has the opportunity to see older children who learn the way he does succeed in school. The phone calls about

Shannon Simons

Shannon Simons, Gateway Parent (cont'd)
Elizabeth and Blake Hubschmidt

Thank you

There is a great need for this school and children are needing more and more of this one on one help.

Keep our school going.

I hope that with all the info you get from parents will be put into play and you can find it in there realm to

My son is doing well socially, I see him coming out of his shell. This is a huge jump for him because he is

After all the reason why these kids are in this school is because they don't fit the mold for the other schools.

Gateway has done better in reading and writing. His scores from his testing show improvement for him.

Just wanted to explain how my son has been in packed by this wonderful school. My son since being in

Hello Mrs. Johnson,
Mr. & Mrs. Richard B. Seewald

Respectfully,

Thank you for your time.

Please keep Gateway Lab open for our children.

options. It would be a mistake to close the doors to so many special, gifted, needy children.

Gateway Lab is the school for our boys. There is no other choice for them. We have exhausted all of our

the best they can be.

consistent, patient, firm, caring, dynamic. They are a team working together to help build up a child into being

Gateway Lab has been a huge blessing to my family, especially for our two adoptive sons who were enrolled at

To Whom it Concerns,

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Seewald, Gateway Parents
Sincerely,

Michelle Edwards

Give Gateway a second chance. Desperately need the assistance that Gateway provides to our children who deserve to have more time to learn. Please make the decision to keep Gateway Lab School open not just for my son but for the other children who teach.

Regal school setting. Gateway has helped my son with his social skills because of the approach Gateway School has helped my son reach a higher level at a pace that he needs rather than a forced My son has Autism and severe learning disabilities that prevent him in achieving the required goals in a normal My son is in the six grade and this is his third year at Gateway.

Michelle Edwards, Gateway Parent
Thank you.

Clubs and is not judged on whether she's a good artist or a good musician. She feels empowered, but here she feels confident
and does not feel alienated. She has learning disabilities and has always been interested in learning. My daughter was very interested before. Now she has
school, which shows that she is interested in learning. My daughter was very interested before. Now she has
experienced any bullying in the 3 years she has been here. She comes home and tells me what she does at
school, the participation in classroom discussions. She has a voice. She isn't being judged on what she says or
labeled as having ADHD. She was lost in the classroom environment. At Gateway, she is involved
education provided. At Gateway, she has thrived academically, emotionally, and socially. Before she was
population that attends this school. My daughter was lost at other elementary schools, even with special
 Please do not close Gateway Lab School. This is a unique school which has been a godsend for the unique

Beverly Pottinger

Beverly Pottinger, Gateway Parent
Dear Delaware Board of Education,

Karen Jordan, Gateway Parent

Sincerely,

Karen Jordan

Performance: Please give Gateway Lab School more time to implement the new curriculum and improve their academic reading confidence on his own and his self-esteem has improved tremendously.

My son, Jimmy, joined Gateway Lab School this year as a 7th grader. After 7 years attending Holy Angels,
# Petition

I support the renewal of Gateway Lab School.

Date: December 9, 2014

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<td>11. Nicholas Simon-Webster</td>
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Petition
I support the renewal of Gateway Lab School.

Date: December 9, 2014

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Threatened Delaware charter schools prep final plea — NewsWorks

DECEMBER 10, 2014
Threatened Delaware charter schools prep final plea

Gateway's Catherine Dolan with t-shirts and binder ready for Wednesday's hearing. (Avi Wolfman-Arent/WHYY)

BY AVI WOLFMAN-ARENT

The Gateway Lab School in Wilmington may not have a charter when the next school year begins. But it does have a binder—a very large binder.

And for that, head of school Catherine Dolan is proud.

"It has been a powerful showing of community support," says Dolan. "As I've been telling the children, this is democracy at work."

http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/local/item/76137-threatened-delaware-charter-scho... 12/10/2014
Filled with submissions from parents and politicians, the binder represents Gateway's last, best chance to save its school. Roughly 90 parents at this school of 208 students wrote letters explaining why Gateway should remain open despite a recommendation from Delaware's Charter School Accountability Committee's that the state revoke Gateway's charter.

Last month, the committee voted to shutter Gateway and Reach Academy for Girls in New Castle at the end of this school year. On December 18, the state secretary of education, Mark Murphy, and the state board of education will act on that motion. If both recommend revocation, the schools will close.

**Gateway goes big**

In the meantime, parents, staff, and supporters of the charter schools are busy galvanizing support—much of which will be on display at 6 pm this Wednesday when the public gathers inside the Carvel State Office Building in Wilmington for a hearing.

Gateway in particular has undertaken a furious self-preservation effort. Lieutenant Governor Matt Denn, State Senator Bryan Townsend, State Representative Joseph Miro, and Senate Majority Leader Patricia Blevins all wrote letters asking the state to keep Gateway open.

State Representative Kimberly Williams issued a similar statement, and got 18 of her General Assembly colleagues to co-sign.

The school hired three buses to ferry supporters to the public hearing, and encouraged parents to wear a shirt with the school's logo on it.

Then there's the binder—a novella filled with quivering testimony.

"My daughter entered gateway in 3rd grade, transferring from another school," reads one. "My daughter could not read at grade level and needed more assistance than a traditional public school could provide. Also she had very few friends, felt different and anxious every day. She felt she did not fit in with other children. To use her words, 'They don't get me.' Gateway Lab School has been the catalyst for her reaching her full potential. She is now reading at grade level, is excited about going to school every day, and has many friends."

http://www.newworks.org/index.php/local/item/76137-threatened-delaware-charter-scho... 12/10/2014
Asking for time

Gateway, opened in 2011, focuses on students with special needs in grades 3 through 8. The state classifies just under 60 percent of the school’s population as “special education.”

The Charter School Accountability Committee argued that Gateway’s test scores have not improved enough to merit a charter renewal. The school did not meet standards for test score growth in each of its three years, and fell “far below standard” on its overall test scores.

Gateway will argue that the school needs more time to prove itself considering the population it serves. Dolan, the head of school, says she will present evidence showing that students who come to Gateway in the third grade improve dramatically from the first semester to the second.

She’ll also try to convince the public and the board of education that closing Gateway would do irreparable harm to the students who have found refuge there. “They came to us having experienced failure,” says Dolan. “The question becomes: What are we returning them to?”

Deja vu

For Reach Academy, an all-girls school serving grades K through 8, Wednesday’s hearing will likely bring a sense of déjà vu. The state tried to revoke Reach’s charter last year, but the school filed a lawsuit claiming the move would have been discriminatory given the continued presence of an all-boys schools. A federal judge ordered that the school remain open for at least another year.

With the sand trickling through that legal hour glass, Reach once again faces closure.

As with Gateway, the Charter School Accountability Committee cited Reach’s poor academic performance in its decision to recommend revocation. Roughly 33 and 49 percent of Reach students were deemed proficient.
on state math and language tests respectively. Both figures represented significant gains from the year prior, but were more than 20 percentage points below state average.

Reach's school leader, Tara Allen, would not comment on the school's preparations of the public hearing on Wednesday.

"We're a family"

The school's Parent Teacher Organization, however, is attempting to rally backers. The group posted a letter on the school homepage (http://www.reachacademyforgirls.org) announcing that it would circulate a petition to keep Reach open. The letter says the class that collects the most parent signatures will receive a pizza party.

Valeria Muhammad, the Parent Teacher Organization treasurer, hopes the state will look beyond data points when evaluating her daughter's school. "We don't feel as though everything should be based on test scores," says Muhammad.

Muhammad moved to Delaware from New Jersey so her daughter, Najla, could attend Reach. She says the school's nurturing environment offers a kind of communal feel that doesn't show through in state accountability reports.

"We're a family," Muhammad says. "And we don't want our family broken up."

Regardless of outcome, both schools figure to get a moment in the spotlight. Reach has endured its fair share of media attention—and scrutiny—over the past year. But for Gateway, the hearing offers a rare chance to make its mark.

"It's been a bit of an odd limelight, but it's exposure for us," says Dolan with a chuckle. "Gateway is on the map."

SUPPORT PROVIDED BY

http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/local/item/76137-threatened-delaware-charter-scho... 12/10/2014
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December 4, 2014

Op-ed submission for the News Journal

GIVE GATEWAY MORE TIME
By Pamela Tate Draper

Gateway Lab School is in danger of closing. As the lead founder of this school, I am disheartened by that possibility. GLS is a Responsive Classroom® school which means that our approach to teaching is based on the premise that children learn best when they have both academic and social-emotional skills. Many of our students struggle with both how to understand and communicate information effectively. Children with learning disabilities or autism spectrum disorder typically struggle with understanding social cues. After years of academic failure for most of our students....we are seeing GROWTH.

Unfortunately, the gains that have been made are not immediately evident in the high-stakes, standardized testing that is used to measure that growth. The students are being measured against their neuro-typical peers across the state and appear to be failing. One cannot compare apples to oranges. Are they both fruit? Yes. But are they different in taste and texture? Absolutely. Not all students learn in the same manner. In the ideal school world, all students would attend a ‘typical’ school and learn in the ‘typical’ fashion. But this is the 21st century and we know now that there are many students who have learning disabilities and social-emotional challenges who cannot thrive in a typical school setting. Let’s give these students a fighting chance to learn in a manner that works for them.

Standardized testing is a woefully inadequate way to measure the progress of our students. Just getting past the anxiety, attention deficits, dyslexia, processing speed issues, eye-hand coordination, and spatial-awareness and sensory challenges are major hurdles to get over prior to approaching the questions on the test.

Gateway teachers have received extensive professional development in the Responsive Classroom® approach. They are also experienced in arts-based instruction and how to specifically teach students with moderate to severe learning disabilities who have complex needs. What we are seeing at GLS is that once the social-emotional needs of our students are addressed, they become less anxious and more confident learners.

A secondary mission of Gateway is to “serve the community as a center for the professional development and education of teachers, parents and students by providing access to the latest research-based curriculum, technology, and training.” We know that most students with special needs will not attend Gateway, but there is a need for teachers state-wide to learn proven strategies that will help those students experience individual success. Given time, the Board of Gateway believes GLS can be a part of that solution.
I believe that given more time, the students of Gateway will be able to meet AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) and prove that their school deserves to remain open because they deserve an environment that is the best place for them to learn. Please show your support to “Give Gateway More Time” by attending the public comment meeting on December 10th at the Carvel Building, 820 N. French St. in Wilmington, or leaving your comment on the Department of Education website: InfoCSO@doe.k12.de.us.

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