



March 16, 2023

Testimony Concerning HB 206

Early Childhood Education – Prekindergarten Programs - Montessori Schools and Programs
Submitted to Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Senator Brian Feldman, Chair

Position: Support

Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School strongly supports HB 206, which seeks to change the eligibility requirements for the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program and publicly funded prekindergarten programs to include Montessori schools and programs. This bill will allow public Montessori programs and MSDE-approved Montessori schools and programs to participate in the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program while at the same time aligning the group requirements and staff requirements with existing COMAR 13A.6 regulations already in place.

Our school serves 540 students, including 87 preK3 and preK4 students enrolled in our Children's House – our public Montessori program for early learners. Families travel from 26 different Baltimore City zip codes to attend our joyful and diverse learning community.

Montessori schools like ours have a proven track record of delivering successful educational outcomes. As a public charter school, we are part of a growing number of public Montessori programs committed to ensuring broader access to high-quality educational opportunities. Together, we can partner to provide families with a range of early learning options, which will in turn help to ensure that all children have the foundation they need to succeed in school and beyond.

The proposed amendments to the eligibility requirements will ensure that Montessori schools and programs are held to the same standards as other prekindergarten programs, while also allowing for the unique quality markers of Montessori classrooms to be maintained.

We urge a positive report on HB 206 and invite you to visit our program to experience our learning environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Meghan Rennard", is positioned above the printed name.

Meghan Rennard
Executive Director