

Testimony of Frank Nickerson
Parent of Capitol Hill Montessori at Logan School
DGS Oversight Hearing
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CHML gets funding according to its number of students. It spends money on children's educational needs based on enrollment and enrollment patterns. We attract student enrollment if parents believe students learn and if it's a safe learning environment. If people perceive there's lead in the water and lead paint on the walls they're not going to think the school is safe and will pull their children out of our school at the first opportunity. (When kids are surveyed on if they feel safe in the school will lead or sub-par facilities be listed as a reason? -we're rated on this!) If parents think the lack of sufficient facilities hurt their child's ability to learn they will move that child to another school.

The inability of DGS to manage the lead problem and the inability of the district to keep CHML renovation on schedule is costing us students, funding, and a better education. It's making it harder to retain students and bringing undesired student turnover. It's making it harder to teach and learn. DGS and DCPS behavior is counter-productive and hurting the very goals the school is asked to achieve. It's hurting the educational environment. It's costing the children remaining in the school overall educational dollars and a better education. Because of inattention and mismanagement. No more. Don't do this to our children. Our school and teachers are amazing but the staff is stretched thin in its ability to achieve needed educational goals. Fix this. Fix it now.

Thank you.