



LETTER OF INTENT

September 3, 2013

To: Maine Charter School Commission
23 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0023

The objective of this letter is to notify the Maine Charter School Commission of the intent to apply for a proposed charter school to open in September 2014.

- Name of entity that intends to apply: Birches Montessori School
- Location of the intended school: Centrally located to serve a small population in a large geographical area covering Sagadahoc, Cumberland, Androscoggin, Lincoln, & Kennebec Counties
- Grade levels to be served by the school: Kindergarten through 6th grade
- Target population: Deaf and hard of hearing students and their hearing peers
- School Program Design: Birches Montessori School will provide a Montessori learning environment for deaf or hard of hearing children and their hearing peers. The children will be given access to a visual and hands on Montessori curriculum encompassed with a Bilingual/Bimodal language access in spoken English and American Sign Language. Each child will be encouraged to explore within both modalities that best fit the child to help him or her reach their potential. Montessori is a comprehensive educational approach with the environment containing specially designed, manipulative materials that invite children to engage in learning activities of their own individual choice. Under the guidance of a trained teacher, children learn by making discoveries with the materials, cultivating concentration, motivation, self-discipline, and a love of learning. This self-directed approach to learning within a multi-age "prepared environment" help children develop strong self-images and confidence for success.
- Anticipated first year enrollment/projected total enrollment: Enrollment in the first year through the third year is projected to be between 30 to 60 students

Respectfully Submitted,

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