



Making Montessori
Meaningful
A State Validation Project

Our MSM Mission

The mission of the Montessori Schools of Massachusetts is to promote knowledge and understanding of the Montessori methods of education in Massachusetts and to provide a framework for communication and cooperation among Montessori schools within Massachusetts and other New England states, and between these school and other private and public schools, government agencies and organizations concerned with education.

The Why

A state-wide Validation Project is for schools-

- To demonstrate the essentials in place to provide a Montessori education.
- To demonstrate agreement within the state Montessori community of those essentials.
- To help the broader education and early childhood community understand what Montessori is.
- To help families understand what to look for in a Montessori school.

The What

- Agreed upon baseline, threshold criteria to implement a Montessori program.
- A process of “self-regulation” providing accountability that benefits schools, families, and state agencies in MA.
- Providing an agreed upon “definition” that identifies schools implementing baseline, threshold criteria of Montessori programming.
- Based on the Essentials established by the Montessori Public Policy Initiative of AMI & AMS.
https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/6e8b98_2ee478a725ee4ff2979dd14273fd4a74.pdf
- Schools accredited by AMS, MEPI, or IMC and those recognized by AMI are automatically validated.

Benefits

- For Montessori Schools: Gives your school the opportunity to demonstrate that you are implementing a program with baseline, threshold criteria essential to Montessori education.
- For Parents: Gives confidence to families that they are receiving a Montessori education with key components in place.
- For State Agencies: Can provide state agencies with a measure of assurance that a school calling itself Montessori has met a minimum set of standards established by their peers, creating a greater trust and willingness to negotiate variances for validated Montessori programs.

The MSM Validation Criteria

- Implement Montessori philosophy.
- Montessori credentialed lead teacher.
- Multi-age, developmentally appropriate, grouping of students.
- Montessori curriculum & materials.
- System of observation.
- Daily uninterrupted work cycle.
- Montessori educator on decision making team.
- Meet all federal, state, and local regulations.

Who

Volunteers

- Project Coordinator- to organize and schedule.
- Verification Teams- experienced Montessori educators for on-site visit.
- Approval Committee- 3 Board members to approve validation.

How

- Complete application on MSM website Validation page, pay a nominal fee.
- Receive and complete a Questionnaire.
- An on-site visit by experienced, credentialed Montessori teachers.
- Validation acceptance by the MSM Approval Committee.
- Receive your certificate of Validation.

When

Next Steps

- The MSM Advocacy Committee submitted the Criteria to the MSM Board who gave their approval in September 2018.
- The MSM Advocacy Committee shared a survey with all Montessori schools in the state on Dec. 3, 2018.
- Prior to this conference, we sent all enrollees the same survey.
- Results will be tallied and shared with the Montessori community.
- The Handbook, and all needed documentation forms are created, and any needed revisions will be made after the survey.
- When ready to begin, MSM will communicate with you on how you can apply and begin the process.

Validation Survey Results as of 12/12/18

1. A Montessori classroom implements a philosophical approach that is consistent with the methods and areas of instruction as recommended by Dr. Maria Montessori and national organizations (AMI, AMS, IMC, MEPI).

	Number of responses	Response Ratio
Agree	36	100%
Disagree	0	0.0%
Total	36	100%

2. Each classroom in a Montessori school has a lead teacher with a credential from a MACTE accredited teacher education program, or an AMI teacher training program, at each level.

	Number of responses	Response Ratio
Agree	33	91.6%
Disagree	3	8.3%
Total	36	100%

3. Each classroom has a developmentally appropriate mixed-aged group of students based on the planes of development and consistent with teacher education programs/practicums and national organizations.

	Number of responses	Response Ratio
Agree	35	97.2%
Disagree	1	2.7%
Total	36	100%

Validation Survey Results continued

4. A Montessori classroom implements a Montessori curriculum, and areas of instruction.

	Number of responses	Response Ratio
Agree	36	100%
Disagree	0	0.0%
Total	36	100%

5. A Montessori classroom has the full complement of the research-based Montessori materials.

	Number of responses	Response Ratio
Agree	32	88.8%
Disagree	4	11.1%
Total	36	100%

6. A Montessori classroom uses a system of observation/formative assessment and documentation used to implement the program for each student.

	Number of responses	Response Ratio
Agree	36	100%
Disagree	0	0.0%
Total	36	100%

Validation Survey Results continued

7. A Montessori classroom has a daily schedule that provides an uninterrupted work period of 2-3 hours (with 3 being the ideal). Enrichment programs and transition times are scheduled to accommodate this work period.

	Number of responses	Response Ratio
Agree	36	100%
Disagree	0	0.0%
Total	36	100%

8. A Montessori school has a Montessori credentialed staff member who contributes to administrative decisions on policies and procedures related to Montessori philosophy and pedagogy.

	Number of responses	Response Ratio
Agree	36	100%
Disagree	0	0.0%
Total	36	100%

9. A Montessori school meets all federal, state, and local regulatory and statutory requirements for the health and safety of the students.

	Number of responses	Response Ratio
Agree	36	100%
Disagree	0	0.0%
Total	36	100%

Other States

- Six state Montessori organizations have implemented a validation/verification project.
- Several organizations are considering a project in their state.
- MPPI has recommended that state organizations begin this effort.

Questions, Comments, Curiosities?

- Why credentials from a MACTE accredited or AMI teacher education program?
- Why starting with just early childhood level?
- Volunteers?
- Pilot schools?
- Others?

Thank you!

- We've enjoyed our time with you today and thank you for your interest in Montessori Advocacy.
- Please fill out the survey!
- Look for more information coming from MSM with survey results and validation process.

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