

MSM & Advocacy

Announcement for MSM members

Your Montessori Schools of Massachusetts is proud to share our latest advocacy initiatives with you. Our advocacy committee has worked diligently on your behalf to support Montessori education and schools in our state.


This committee has worked with our consultant, Christine Lowry from Montessori-Now, to fully research the policies and rules and regulations that are of greatest impact on our early childhood programs and classrooms and to guide us with goals and clear action plans.

Our initial goal was to work with the Quality Rating and Improvement System within the office of Early Education and Care. After a thorough researching of the QRIS levels, methods of assessment, and staff quality measures, we were able to share conversation with the QRIS manager and her staff. Our efforts included a presentation of the competencies of the Montessori credentialed teacher for recognition of the credential and Montessori specific professional development credit. We were also able to share the ways in which the QRIS assessment tool, the ECERS-R, would need adaptation to accurately reflect quality in a Montessori environment. As many of you know, the QRIS office responded by providing a Montessori specific webinar presenting their understanding of how Montessori schools could participate.

Some take-aways from the webinar helped us understand that:

- the MA QRIS was in quite a state of flux, with many changes anticipated
- the department was planning to complete an analysis of a number of credentials beginning in January 2017
- changes in licensing regulations were resulting in inconsistent application of requirements depending on county and/or schools

Soon after this webinar, there were major staff changes in the QRIS department. Given what we were learning, (much of that thanks to schools' participation in the MSM survey), and receiving no further communication with the QRIS office, our committee and the MSM board needed to reassess our goals and methods.



The decision was made to focus on gaining recognition of the Montessori credentialed educator on the Professional Registry Career Lattice. This recognition of training rigor, courses, and supervised teaching experience, and the competencies of our teachers is the first step in efforts to address ratio and group size requirements, curriculum and material restrictions, and professional development requirements. We are pleased to announce that we will be meeting with Commissioner Tom Weber in late January to share information about the Montessori credential and the high quality of our early childhood teachers. Our goal is to begin a collaborative conversation with the commissioner and his departments within EEC.

We will keep you up to date as our conversations and efforts evolve with EEC.

We have learned a great deal over the past year. Advocacy is a slow, steady process of hard work that requires patience, flexibility, and good old grace and courtesy. Your MSM board is committed to this process and is proud to be the one voice for all Montessori in our state. Thank you for your support, your feedback, and continued involvement with the Montessori Schools of Massachusetts.

The MSM QRIS Advocacy Committee

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