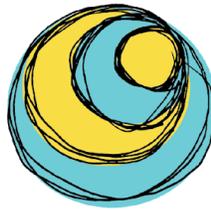


MONTESSORI
ASSOCIATION



NORTH
CAROLINA

*With a collaborative and unified voice we promote, support
and advocate for Montessori education in North Carolina.*

April 2018

Dear Montessori Education Supporters:

The Montessori Association of North Carolina (MANC) is here to serve and advocate for high quality Montessori education in our state

<http://www.montessoriasociationofnc.org>

Many have asked: "What can I personally do to help Montessori trained and credentialed teachers in North Carolina easily obtain a NC State Teacher's License, so that all children in the NC Montessori schools can be assured of having a trained Montessori lead teacher in their classroom (in both public and private schools) who can then implement an authentic Montessori program?"

What to do? Support this vital goal now:

Send a letter to ask the NC State Board of Education and the NC Department of Public Instruction to approve and recognize MACTE Accredited Montessori Teacher Preparation Programs and grant teachers who receive a Montessori diploma from a MACTE Accredited Montessori Teacher Training Program a full NC State Teaching License.

If you agree, please copy the letter of support (found below) as soon as possible, and send it to the decision making people at the email addresses we have listed below. Please feel free to send the letter as written, or attach your own personal story, comments and feelings. We ask that all comments remain positive and productive. (If you have received this email through your school email account, please send the letter from your home email account).

Please send letters:

1. To the Board Members of the NC State Board of Education
(who are voting on this in April)
2. To the Board Members of the Charlotte Mecklenburg School District
3. To any staff, parent and friend of Montessori education in NC

At the present time, this is the most effective way for all of us to speak with a unified voice in an effort to support NC State recognition of the Montessori credential, and the subsequent granting of a NC Teaching License to all Montessori teachers who have received diplomas from a MACTE Accredited Montessori Training Program.

We, the Montessori community in NC, want every one of the MACTE Accredited Teacher Training Programs to be recognized by NC - just as the state recognizes all CAEP sanctioned teacher education programs.

Please join us in this effort. We need unified voices and participation from all who support Montessori education in NC.

Please send this letter as soon as possible to ask that:

1. The NC State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction approve and recognize ALL MACTE Accredited Teacher Preparation Programs.

2. The NC State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction grant all Montessori teachers who hold a credential from a MACTE Accredited Teacher Education Program, a NC Teaching License.

Thank you for sending these letters. Joining together, we can make a significant difference for all Montessori children in North Carolina by ensuring them a lead teacher in every classroom who is a Montessori diploma holding, NC licensed teacher from their first day of school to their last!

With great appreciation for your dedication to Montessori education,

The Board of the Montessori Association of North Carolina (MANC):

Bobbe Spink, President: bobbe@montessoriassociationofnc.org

Patrice Britz, Vice President: patrice@montessoriassociationofnc.org

Justin Tosco, Secretary/Communications: jetosco@montessoriassociationofnc.org

Kateri Carver, Founding Board Member: kateri@montessoriassociationofnc.org

Please also consider becoming a member of MANC:

<http://www.montessoriassociationofnc.org/about/membership/>

Thank you for sending the sample letter (below) to these contacts:

North Carolina State Board of Education Members: Chairman:

William Cobey:
william.cobey@dpi.nc.gov

NC State Board of Education Members:

Al.Collins@dpi.nc.gov
dan.forest@dpi.nc.gov
becky.taylor@dpi.nc.gov
reginald.kenan@dpi.nc.gov
amy.white@dpi.nc.gov
olivia.oxendine@dpi.nc.gov
gregory.alcorn@dpi.nc.gov
todd.chasteen@dpi.nc.gov
wayne.mcdevitt@dpi.nc.gov
patricia.willoughby@dpi.nc.gov
eric.davis@dpi.nc.gov
rscott@warrenk12nc.org

North Carolina State Superintendent:

Mark Johnson
mark.johnson@dpi.nc.gov

CMS School Board Members:

maryt.mccray@cms.k12.nc.us
rhonda.lennon@cms.k12.nc.us
elysec.dashew@cms.k12.nc.us
ericka.ellis-stewart@cms.k12.nc.us
thelmab.bailey@cms.k12.nc.us
rubym.jones@cms.k12.nc.us
carole.sawyer@cms.k12.nc.us
margarets.marshall@cms.k12.nc.us

CMS Superintendent:

Dr. Clayton M. Wilcox
claytonm.wilcox@cms.k12.nc.us

CMS Interim Head of Human Resources:

Vincent Smith
v.smith@cms.k12.nc.us

Sample Letter to Send:

Date:

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is _____. *(If your child attends or has attended a NC Montessori program, or you teach or have taught in a NC Montessori school, you can mention it here along with the name of the school and any other information you wish to share).*

I am writing in support of this issue: that the NC State Board of Education and the NC Department of Public Instruction recognize all Montessori teaching diplomas granted by any Montessori Teacher Education Program accredited by MACTE, The Montessori Accreditation Council of Teacher Education, and grant these Montessori diploma holding teachers a full North Carolina Teacher License. MACTE - The Montessori Accreditation Council of Teacher Education – is the international standard-setting and accrediting body for Montessori teacher education. MACTE was granted initial recognition by the US Department of Education in 1995 and continues to be the only accrediting body for Montessori Teacher Training Programs recognized by the DOE: (<http://www.macte.org/>)

North Carolina currently recognizes teacher education programs that are recognized by CAEP, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Programs. (<http://www.ncate.org/about/vision-mission-goals>). CAEP is the route used for accrediting traditional Teacher Preparation Programs, but MACTE is the route used for accrediting Montessori Teacher Education Programs. MACTE is sanctioned and recognized by the US Department of Education, however CAEP is not. Having MACTE accreditation guarantees that Montessori Teacher Education Programs are of the same rigor and accomplishment as traditional teacher education programs.

I ask that ALL MACTE Accredited Teacher Education Programs be recognized and acknowledged in the same way as the CAEP programs are recognized. Montessori teaching diplomas granted from any MACTE Accredited Teacher Training Program should be recognized by the NC Board of Education and the NC State Department of Public Instruction; and a NC Teacher License should be granted to teachers holding a diploma from any MACTE Accredited Montessori Teacher Education Program. Many other states already do this, including our neighboring state, South Carolina.

Why do this?

*** To keep and recruit good Montessori teachers:**

If you recognize the MACTE Accredited Montessori credential and grant a NC Teaching License for credentialed Montessori teachers for the upcoming school year's hiring cycle, 2018— 2019, then, NC school districts would be able to hire fully trained and credentialed, diploma holding Montessori teachers **now** in order to provide authentic Montessori programs for children and parents in North Carolina.

*** To save the School District money:**

In some public schools, the current practice is to hire NC licensed, traditional teachers first and then pay for these teachers to receive Montessori training and diplomas (which can take up to two years, costing \$8-10,000 per teacher), thus leaving children to be taught by non-trained or credentialed Montessori teachers until they have completed their training.

*** To ensure authentic Montessori programs for parents and children:**

It is an international standard and requirement of both AMS (American Montessori Society - <http://amshq.org/>) and AMI (Association Montessori International - <https://amiusa.org/>) - the diploma granting national Montessori organizations - that an authentic Montessori classroom has to be taught by a trained, lead, credentialed Montessori teacher who holds a Montessori diploma for the level they teach. Where this is not currently happening in Montessori classrooms in NC, authentic Montessori implementation is not possible. This is a potential consumer protection problem for the State of North Carolina, as parents are sometimes not receiving the Montessori education they expected when they chose this for their children.

*** North Carolina schools need more fully trained Montessori teachers to meet the high demand:**

Many children and parents clamor for more Montessori schools, high quality Montessori education and authentic implementation in North Carolina. School districts have opened and are planning to open more Montessori schools to meet the demand. Teachers will come to teach in NC and stay here if their Montessori diploma is acknowledged, recognized and licensure granted by the NC Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction.

Again, I ask that the NC State Board of Education, the NC Department of Public Instruction, all NC School District Superintendents and School Boards recognize all MACTE Accredited Montessori Teacher Education Programs, and grant NC Teaching Licenses to Montessori trained and certified teachers who hold a diploma from a MACTE Accredited Program.

By doing this, we can make a significant difference for all Montessori children in North Carolina by ensuring them a lead teacher in every classroom who is a Montessori diploma-holding, NC Licensed teacher from their first day of school to their last!

Thank you,

Name
Address
Phone Number

Background information for your reference:

This is a synopsis of the work that has currently been accomplished in Charlotte, NC, spearheaded by parents and teachers:

The problem: Credentialed Montessori diploma-holding teachers are having great difficulty obtaining NC Licensure and thus, are not being hired to serve as lead teachers in a public Montessori classroom. (If they are hired, they are often hired as assistants in classrooms to help children and NC licensed lead teachers who are not Montessori trained).

If a non-trained NC licensed lead teacher is hired for a Montessori classroom, he/she is then sent, at great expense to the district, to obtain Montessori training - all the while continuing to teach Montessori children during the academic year. (Montessori training can take place during summers and over select weekends throughout a one to two year period). While the NC non-trained teacher is going through training, if there is already a trained/experienced Montessori assistant in the classroom, he/she then mentors the lead teacher and delivers authentic Montessori lessons to the children, if allowed - but is still not recognized by NC nor paid as a lead teacher. In the event that there is no credentialed Montessori teacher available to the children in the classroom throughout that time of training, then the children will not receive an authentically implemented Montessori program. This is not only unfair to the children and parents, but it does not reflect a commitment by the school or the district to adhere to the international standards set for authentic Montessori implementation, which includes having a trained, certified Montessori teacher leading each Montessori classroom in a school. This is also a serious breach of ethics: a Montessori school should ethically call itself such only if it adheres to the international requirements and standards set by both the American Montessori Society (AMS) <https://amshq.org/> and the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) <https://amiusa.org/>

The solution: This situation can easily be rectified when the NC State Board of Education and the NC Department of Public Instruction recognizes and grants NC Teacher Licensure to Montessori trained and credentialed diploma holders.

The work accomplished so far:

On March 13, 2018, teachers, parents and the President of MACTE made a strong presentation to the CMS School Board and to Dr. Wilcox, CMS Superintendent. They explained that:

1. Currently, Montessori credentials are not being recognized at the State level for NC Teacher Licensure
2. That CMS continues to open extremely popular and sought after Montessori schools, all the while not adhering the internationally recognized requirement that a Montessori credentialed teacher, holding a diploma for the level they teach, is an absolute essential component to implementing an authentic Montessori program. Instead, CMS often prefers to hire already NC licensed, but untrained, teachers to lead the Montessori classrooms - sometimes with Montessori trained teachers being hired as their assistant - at assistant pay levels - while the lead teacher - fully paid at teacher levels - receives Montessori training over a one or two year period, paid for by the CMS School District. Children in these classrooms are left without the benefit of authentic Montessori implementation from a lead teacher who is Montessori trained.

Dr. Rebecca Pelton, the President of MACTE, (The Montessori Accreditation Council of Teacher Education, which is the international standard-setting and accrediting body for Montessori teacher education. MACTE was granted initial recognition by the US Department of Education in 1995: <http://www.macte.org/>) also spoke and explained the rigor required to receive a Montessori credential. She outlined all of the other states that already recognize and grant state licensure for the Montessori credential, including South Carolina. She also offered to be available as needed to answer all questions and help with any blocks that came up during the process.

Parents from Trillium Springs Montessori, Chantilly Montessori, and Park Road Montessori also spoke in support of their Montessori programs, their children's success, as well as the impact Montessori has had within their own families. They spoke of how important Montessori education is for their children, how they value and support the Montessori-trained credential their teachers' hold, and how positive this influence and experience has been as they've embraced the Montessori philosophy of education.

Jennifer Stallings, a fully experienced Montessori trained teacher, now serving as an Assistant Teacher in Charlotte for many years, was influential in bringing this issue before the CMS School Board and created a way for all concerned to support this effort. If you would like to view the presentation to the CMS School Board, here is the link to the video – (skip ahead to 49:20 in the video for the Montessori speakers):

[CMS School Board Meeting 3/13/2018](#)

Update:

On March 26, 2018, this group received a response from the CMS Interim Head of Human Resources, Vincent Smith. He stated that the NC State Board of Education will vote in April "to begin an application process for Education Preparation Programs."

The problem: If the State approves the application process for general Education Preparation Programs, there is no guarantee that Montessori Accredited Programs will individually be approved, thus still leaving some fully trained Montessori teachers without the ability to receive a NC State Teaching License.

Further background:

At this time, the approval process for the NC State Education Preparation Program accepts all CAEP programs. CAEP is The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (<http://www.ncate.org/about/vision-mission-goals>). It is the route used for traditional Teacher Preparation Programs, **not** Montessori. Programs that are already recognized by CAEP will not have to individually apply to be accepted by the state.

The problem: Some Montessori Teacher Education Programs will **NOT** be recognized by the State of NC because they are not recognized by CAEP. MACTE accredited programs are of the same rigor and accomplishment as CAEP education preparation programs. In fact, MACTE Accredited Teacher Training Programs are the US Department of Education recognized and sanctioned Teacher Education Programs that produce Montessori credentialed teachers. And while MACTE is currently recognized by the United States Department of Education - since 1995 - CAEP is currently NOT recognized by the USDE. Yes, both of these accrediting bodies create teachers prepared to be in the classroom; however, MACTE is actually acknowledged by the USDE for accrediting **Montessori** teacher preparation programs, and this matters.

***** Please help us in this effort by sending out some letters today! *****