

## **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