



Dear Montessori Schools in South Carolina,

The South Carolina Montessori Alliance, your state organization for the support of Montessori education, has some exciting news to share with you. We are proud to announce that the SCMA **Validation Program** will be shared at a day-long meeting sponsored by Richland One on Aug. 16. We are looking forward to bringing this valuable program to you.

This voluntary program is an important way for you to show your parents and the public that your school offers students a quality Montessori program they can trust. This validation of your Montessori classrooms, Infant/Toddler through Secondary, lets the SC Department of Education and State Board of Education know that your school meets the standards set by our Montessori community in SC.

SCMA will be sponsoring this program for all Montessori classrooms in both public and independent schools in SC.

This program is valuable for schools, families, and state agencies.

Benefits for Montessori Schools~

- Assures that the use of the name “Montessori” has meaning
- Assures families of a “true” Montessori program
- The SC Department of Education and State Board of Education can recognize Montessori as a quality educational program

Benefits for Families~

- Provides assurance that when a school says it is Montessori, it really is
- Provides the confidence that their child is receiving a Montessori education that includes essential Montessori components

Benefits for SC DOE~

- Gives a standard “definition” of what it means to be a Montessori program
- Builds trust in the system of Montessori education
- Provides assurance of quality that can lead to full implementation of Montessori education

The SCMA Montessori Components~

- A Montessori program with a philosophical approach that is consistent with the methods and areas of instruction as recommended by Dr. Maria Montessori.
- A lead teacher with a credential from a MACTE accredited teacher education program, or an AMI teacher training program in each classroom at the level of training.
- A multi-aged group of students based on the Planes of Development and developmental readiness of the child at each level.
- A curriculum and instructional materials to implement the program for each class and level.
- A daily schedule that provides an un-interrupted work period of a minimum of 2 ½ -3 hours in each class and level.
- An established group size consistent with the Montessori system of education and as recommended by AMS, AMI, IMC and MEPI? (if regulation prohibits, an ideal group size established if not currently implemented).
- A staff member with a Montessori credential who contributes to decision making on administrative issues as they relate to Montessori philosophy and pedagogy.

To learn more, we are pleased to invite you to a Professional Development workshop being sponsored by Richland One. This day-long event will take place at WG Sanders Middle School 3455 Pine Belt Rd. Columbia 29204. August 16th 8:00-12:00.

RSVP: Candice.wilson@richlandone.org by August 3rd.

We look forward to sharing this project with you, and hope you will join us on Aug. 16th. This is your project and your state organization and we look forward to your input and questions.

Thank you,

The SMCA Board of Directors