



## **A State Montessori Validation Project: Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. What is a State Montessori Validation Project?**

The State Montessori Validation Project is a model, or template, for setting baseline standards for the state Montessori community to establish an accountability system, through a state recognized Montessori Validation Organization. This validation assures the consumer, state agencies, and Montessori schools that a minimal level of quality has been met.

### **2. What is the purpose and intention of the Validation Project?**

The goal of the project is to provide a baseline measure for all participating Montessori programs in the state. This will provide an agreed upon “definition” enabling consumers and state agencies to better understand, and trust, that those validated Montessori schools meet a certain level of safety and quality.

### **3. What are the baseline standards?**

The “standards” are those key components that, at a minimum, the state Montessori community believe a school should have in place to be recognized as a Montessori program. These are baseline components which do not define “best practice” but rather provide a measure of quality assurance to state agencies and families.

### **4. Who sets the standards for all Montessori schools and programs?**

These “standards” are determined by the state Montessori community itself represented by the SCMA.

These key components are foundational to the implementation of the Montessori philosophy, pedagogy, and curriculum as researched by Dr. Montessori and taught in Montessori Teacher Education Programs.

### **5. What are the benefits of the state Montessori Validation Project?**

**For Montessori schools:** A state validation project will give meaning to the use of the name Montessori. Giving a level of self-regulated accountability to state agencies and consumers can provide assurance to the SC DOE and parents that a given program meets the essential standards to use the name Montessori. These include recognition of the Montessori teacher credential, and curriculum, and assessment tools

**For State Agencies:** A state validation project enables state agencies to have a measure to judge safety and quality through the assurance that a school calling itself Montessori

has met a minimum set of standards established by their peers. This can result in greater trust and willingness to negotiate variances for validated Montessori programs. **For Consumers:** Families who have chosen a Montessori program for their children should be confident that they are, in fact, receiving a Montessori education with key components in place.

6. **What about liability issues? Will our state Montessori community become “responsible” for Montessori schools and programs in our state?**

These key components do not replace state regulations or licensing requirements of Montessori schools. Therefore, the state agency retains liability.