

## Montessori Teacher Certification Proposal Receives First Reading Approval by the South Carolina State Board of Education

The South Carolina Department of Education is pleased to announce that the Montessori Teacher Certification Proposal received first reading approval at the State Board of Education meeting in Columbia on November 10, 2009.

The proposal was introduced to:

- Recognize the specialized training that current public school Montessori teachers have completed
- Establish an alternative pathway to obtain Montessori certification for persons with a bachelor's degree who have completed a Montessori teacher education program approved by Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE).

The intent of the second part of the proposal is to increase the pool of applicants eligible to apply for Montessori teaching positions in public schools in South Carolina. Currently most school districts pay teacher training costs for new programs/positions. This proposal has the potential of greatly reducing such costs. For a reader-friendly version of the proposal in chart form, see the last page of this document.

The proposal was part of a certification amendment that addressed several areas. Below is the rationale for the Montessori section as it appeared in the proposal that was presented to the State Board (Amendments in Regulation 43-62, p .2) It is followed by the actual changes proposed with regard to Montessori which are on page 27 of the same document.

If the proposal gains second reading approval in January 2010, it will be sent to the South Carolina Legislature for approval during their 2010 session (January – June 2010). With legislative approval, the certification changes will take effect for the 2010-2011 school year.

### **Rationale** (from Amendments to Regulations 43-62)

In order to expand programs of choice in South Carolina public schools, a key challenge is the need to address the current shortage of Montessori-trained teachers to fill positions for the growing number of programs. The intent of the proposed certification in Montessori is to provide recognition through certification to current public school teachers who have completed Montessori teacher education programs approved by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE). Amendments in Regulation 43-62 will establish categories of Montessori certification for SC teaching credentials; award certification to those teachers who have met the current requirements; and, additionally, create an alternative pathway to Montessori certification for college graduates not otherwise certified as teachers in SC who have completed a MACTE-accredited training program and passed appropriate state certification examinations. These amendments will increase the pool of candidates for Montessori public school positions and, thereby, help decrease the cost to school districts for Montessori training.

## C. MONTESSORI

### 1. Levels of Montessori Certification

Primary (3K-5K)

Elementary I (Grades 1-3)

Elementary II (Grades 4-6)

Middle (Grades 6-8)

2. Individuals who wish to add Montessori to an existing certificate must meet the following requirements.

(a) Bachelor's degree

(b) Initial or professional certificate at the appropriate level (early childhood, elementary, middle, or preK-12 level \*)

(c) Completion of a training program at the appropriate level accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE)

\*A minimum qualifying score on the content area examination(s) required by the State Board of Education for early childhood, elementary, or middle level certification is also required for individuals with a prerequisite certificate in a preK-12 field who wish to add the appropriate Montessori level.

3. Individuals who wish to qualify for initial Montessori certification must complete a State Board of Education approved undergraduate or graduate teacher preparation program in early childhood, elementary, or middle-level with a Montessori emphasis (i.e., includes all requirements for a MACTE training program), AND submit passing scores on the certification examinations approved by the State Board of Education at the appropriate level.

OR

4. Verify completion of a bachelor's degree, a MACTE approved training program, and passing scores on the appropriate certification examination(s) approved by the State Board of Education, including the pedagogy exam. Additional certification fields may not be added to an initial Montessori certificate under this option unless the educator completes a State Board of Education approved teacher preparation program in the additional field.

## Montessori Certification in South Carolina Levels of Certification

*Mont. Early Childhood (3k-5k)*  
*Mont. Elementary I (gr. 1-3)*  
*Mont. Elementary II (gr. 4- 6)*

*Mont. Middle Language Arts (gr. 6-8)*  
*Mont. Middle Math (gr. 6-8)*  
*Mont. Middle Science (gr. 6-8)*  
*Mont. Middle Social Studies (gr. 6-8)*

	<b>ADD-ON CERTIFICATION</b>	<b>INITIAL CERTIFICATION</b>
	Bachelor's degree	Bachelor's degree
	Initial or Professional certificate at EC, elem., middle, secondary, or pre K-12	
	Certificate of completion from a MACTE accredited Montessori teacher training program for a level(s) listed above	Certificate of completion from a MACTE accredited Montessori teacher training program for a level(s) listed above
	Minimum qualifying score(s) on the examinations required by the SCDE as follows:	Minimum qualifying score(s) on the examinations required by the SCDE as follows:
	ONLY if person is seeking a level of Mont. certification for which he/she is not appropriately certified by state, e.g., state cert. in EC – wants to add on Montessori Elem. II (gr. 4-6)	Principles of Teaching and Learning Grades K-6 OR Gr. 5-9 (middle)  AND
Mont. EC Mont. El. I	Praxis II- Educ. of Young Children Praxis II- Educ. of Young Children	Praxis II- Educ. of Young Children Praxis II- Educ. of Young Children
Mont. El. II	Praxis II: Elem. Ed. Content Area Exercises Praxis II: Elem. Ed. C&I & Assessment	Praxis II: Elem. Ed. Content Area Exercises Praxis II: Elem. Ed. C&I & Assessment
Mont. Mid.	Praxis II: Middle Level LA Praxis II: Middle Level Math Praxis II: Middle Level Science Praxis II: Middle Level Social Studies	Praxis II: Middle Level LA Praxis II: Middle Level Math Praxis II: Middle Level Science Praxis II: Middle Level Social Studies

Proposal was given first reading approval. It will need second reading approval and approval by State Legislature to become effective for 2010-11.

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