



MICHIGAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY  
466 N. John Daly Dearborn Heights, MI 48127-3703 (800) 308-4899

January 23, 2013

Re: Montessori Education and the Michigan Quality Rating System

Dear GSQ Core Team,

On behalf of the approximately 150 Montessori schools in the State of Michigan, the Michigan Montessori Society is asking that the State's Great Start to Quality rating system work with Montessori schools and educators to recognize the quality of Montessori programs, as well as accepting alternative rating systems. We applaud the efforts by the State to improve the quality of early childhood programs throughout Michigan. We also feel it is important to respect a variety of philosophies of early childhood education.

Montessori education has been in the State of Michigan for over 50 years and in the United States over 100 years. We serve more than 15,000 Michigan children and employ approximately 2000 people. Today's research continues to support and validate the positive outcomes of a Montessori education. However, the instrument that is being used to evaluate schools (HighScope's PQA) conflicts in several areas with Montessori philosophy. An authentic Montessori school will not be able to achieve the highest rating, because although Montessori education achieves the same goals and often exceeds them, the rating system only allows one method to demonstrate that goal. Montessori schools should not be precluded from a high rating due to a lack of compatibility with the chosen rating system.

We are proud of the quality of our schools, and would only request that the unique characteristics of Montessori be considered in the new rating system. To that end, we ask:

- That a "Montessori-friendly" rating system be implemented
- That trained Montessori validators assess Montessori schools
- That other rating systems or nationally recognized accreditations be considered equal to five stars
- That the Montessori Early Childhood Credential be recognized for its true value

To provide more information on this issue, we are including some background material with this letter. We look forward to our meeting with you on Tuesday, January 29.

Sincerely yours,

The Michigan Montessori Advocacy Committee

Attachments (4)