

# Montessori and PreK

Tamara Mount, Hilltop Montessori School

Kristen Martin, Montessori School of Central Vermont

# Our Schools



## *Hilltop Montessori School*

- 124 Students, Toddler through Middle School
- 27 PreK Students



## *Montessori School of Central Vermont*

- 94 Students, Toddler through Sixth Grade
- 45 PreK Students

**And there are at least 7 other Montessori schools in VT who are PreK partners**

# What is Montessori Education?

- Much more than a philosophy, an established, credentialed, structured, accredited early childhood education program that is rooted in neuroscience, observation, and child development.
- Important components include:
  - Prepared Environment
  - Materials
  - Mixed-Age Groupings
  - Montessori Trained Teachers



# The Prepared Environment



# Materials

*Practical Life*



# Materials

*Sensorial*



# Materials

## *Math*



# Materials

## *Language*



# Materials

*Cultural*



# Mixed-Age Groupings



# Rigorously Trained Teachers

A Bachelors degree plus a Montessori credential from a program accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) includes a rigorous graduate level course of study:

- Child-development
- Level specific subject matter
- Curriculum scope and sequence
- Instructional planning
- Assessment
- Family partnership
- Supports for learning differences
- Culturally responsive teaching
- Year long student teaching component



# Montessori = Public Programs



## 10 States have a pathway to state teacher licensure

- Connecticut
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Indiana
- Minnesota
- Montana
- Ohio
- South Carolina
- Virginia
- Wisconsin

- 550 Montessori Public Programs
- 5,000 Montessori Private Programs

## 15 States explicitly recognize a Montessori credential for lead teacher status in child-care licensing regulations

- Alaska
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Montana
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- Oregon
- Virginia
- Washington
- Wyoming

# Rigor of Montessori Teacher Education

*For a MACTE Accredited Program, for the Early Childhood Education Level, ages 3-6*

Minimum Academic Hours In Class.....	200 hrs
Academic Hours Out of Class.....	400 hrs
Practicum In Class.....	400 hrs
<u>Practicum Out of Class.....</u>	<u>240 hrs</u>
<b>Cumulative Total.....</b>	<b>1,240 hrs</b>
Divided by 37 Hour Required Minimum.....	33

College Credit Preparation Equivalency.....33 CCPE

**Many Montessori certification programs are now coupled with a BA or MA in Early Childhood Education.**

# Add MACTE Accredited Montessori credentials?

If you are considering adding language recognizing Montessori teaching credentials back in to this bill/PreK program, it would be important to consider, **“or has an early childhood teacher credential from a program accredited by Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE).”**



- shortage of public programs to serve 3-4 year old students in the state
- private programs are a cost effective way for public schools to have these children served
- shortage of licensed teachers available for the number of PreK programs needed
- shortage of “panelists” available to do portfolio review, and it comes with a cost of \$1,200 for each teacher

Having an outside fully vetted organization, MACTE, helping to certify quality teachers for Vermont will save the state work, and still ensure the high-quality programs we all want for these young children.