Your Name

Your Address

City, State Zip

DATE

State Board of Education

333 Market Street, 1st Floor

Harrisburg, PA 17126

**RE: Chapter 49 (Certification of Professional Personnel)**

Dear Board Members,

As a parent of children who have attended a Montessori School, I am advocating for MACTE Accredited Teacher Training Programs to become *Alternative Program Providers* in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The US Department of Education has recognized the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) since 1995. Moreover, the effectiveness of the Montessori Method, which is over 100-years-old, has been validated by contemporary research.

In order to receive a Full Montessori Teaching Credential, one must take a fifth year of schooling after college. The training is all-encompassing. The Montessori Training teaches how to meet children where they are academically - rather than teaching one level to a whole group. However, Montessori teachers are trained in more than just academics; the Montessori Teaching Method fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, innovation, communication, and collaboration – all of the 21st Century Learning Skills. In this changing world, learning how to analyze, synthesize, and utilize information, gives students the additional skills that are needed to be productive and creative citizens in our world. More than that, Montessori Teachers are trained to teach their students conflict resolution skills as well as how to problem-solve. Perhaps most importantly in today’s world, instilling a respect for others is interwoven into their teaching. The Montessori Teaching Credential encompasses all that a great teacher is. Adding MACTE Accredited Teacher Training Programs as *Alternative Program Providers* in Pennsylvania would only strengthen the pool of educators in our Commonwealth.

Thank you for your consideration.

Your Typed First Name Last Name

Your City, PA