



Eligibility Requirements for MEPI Accreditation

Accreditation by a professional society indicates to parents, boards of directors, governmental agencies, and the general public that a school has met or exceeded the standards of the profession and is worthy of public trust. This document allows prospective candidates to determine if they are eligible and have the capacity to be successful in the quest for that recognition.

Membership

The school must be a “Silver” level MEPI school member, attesting to the authenticity of the classroom environments. If a school is not a member of MEPI, it may join as a Bronze-level member, but it must rise to Silver level before it can be accepted as a candidate for accreditation.

Systems

School-level systems such as administration, strategic planning, human resources, financial planning and management, marketing and publicity, safety, operational processes and educational program should function in a professional manner.

Faculty Credentials

Montessori faculty should hold a certificate from a MACTE approved or recognized program for the level at which they are teaching. In lieu of such, an educational plan should detail the plans and procedures for having said faculty member obtain a valid certificate within the following 12-24 months. Because of the extreme shortage of experienced and certified Montessori faculty, we also allow for experienced teachers with 10 or more years of experience to include a portfolio process to verify their experiences and competency in a Montessori environment.

Years of Operation

The school must have completed 3 or more years of successful operation.

Understanding of Standards and Ratings

The school leadership should read and understand the standards and ratings and ascertain that the school can meet, or is actively working to meet, all standards at a basic foundational level.

Broad Community Support

The school community should broadly support the work required for accreditation. This work will require many hours by the staff and volunteers from the constituents of the school community.

Financial Resources

The school will need the financial resources to pay the school membership fee (\$250 plus \$50 for each additional level), accreditation fees (\$150 application and \$250 for final certification fee), and the expenses of an on-site visit (travel, lodging, meals, and a \$100 stipend for on-site validators). The Self Study may also uncover weaknesses in the school that require financial investment to upgrade.