

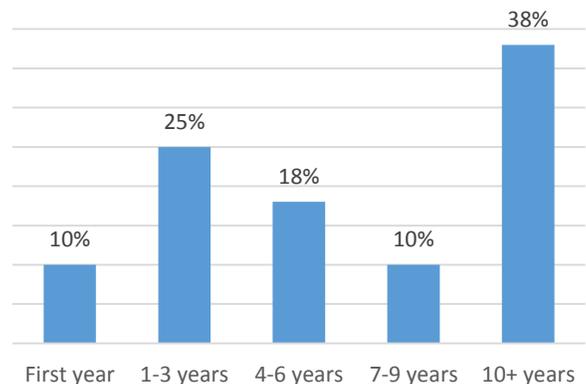
**The S.C. Public Montessori Study**  
 2013-2014 Implementation Survey  
 Selected Summary

In the fall of 2013, an online survey was administered to all principals of Montessori programs within the South Carolina public school system. Of the 42 programs in the state, 40 responded (95%). The survey, which included 49 questions, is administered yearly. Within this report is a selected summary of the findings of this survey. Findings are grouped by survey category and figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

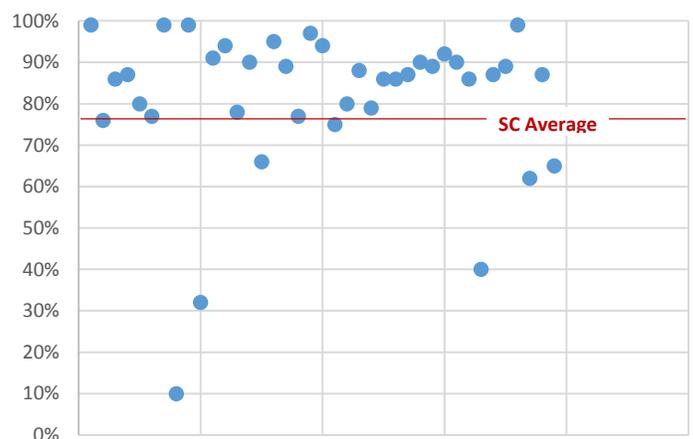
**Montessori School Information**

- There are **42** Montessori programs operating in South Carolina public schools
- **81%** are school-within-a-school Montessori programs; **12%** are whole-school Montessori programs; **5%** are charter schools; **10%** serve students in the middle grades
- **38%** have been in existence over 10 years; **10%** are in their first year of operation (see **Chart 1**)
- **62%** are classified as Title I schools
- **83%** of schools with Montessori programs have a poverty index higher than the state average (see **Chart 2**)
- **59%** are located in rural areas; **22%** in suburban areas; **20%** in urban areas
- On average, the primary and lower elementary levels have the most Montessori classes per school
- **54%** have an enrollment waiting list; on average, there are **39 students** on Montessori program waiting lists
- **34%** are member schools of a national or international Montessori organization or association
- **24%** are accredited by a national or international organization or association; of these **50%** are accredited by MEPI; **38%** by AMS; and **12%** by NAEYC

**Chart 1: Length of Montessori Program Existence**



**Chart 2: Montessori School Poverty Indices**

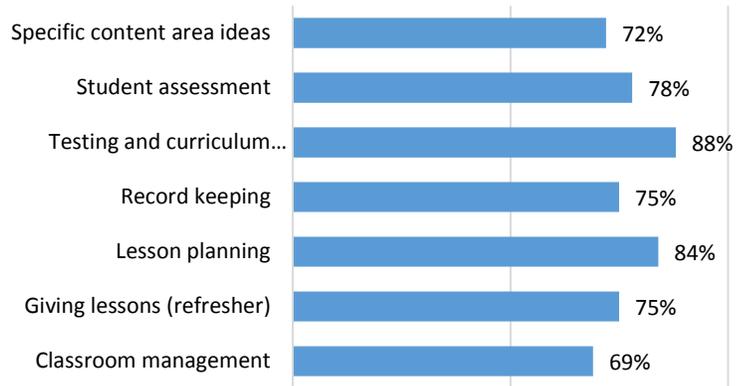


**Montessori Teachers, Training, and Recruitment**

- **69%** of teachers have Montessori credentials for the level they teach; **28%** are in the process of obtaining credentials
- **78%** of programs maintain an active and open recruitment for Montessori credentialed teachers

- **66%** of programs have two or more teacher trainings led by experienced, credentialed Montessori educators per year; **17%** have one per year; **17%** do not have any (see **Chart 3** for training topic information)
- **77%** of teachers have at least one teaching assistant
- **43%** of assistants receive school-based Montessori training; **40%** are trained by someone in their district; **18%** receive training by an outside individual or organization

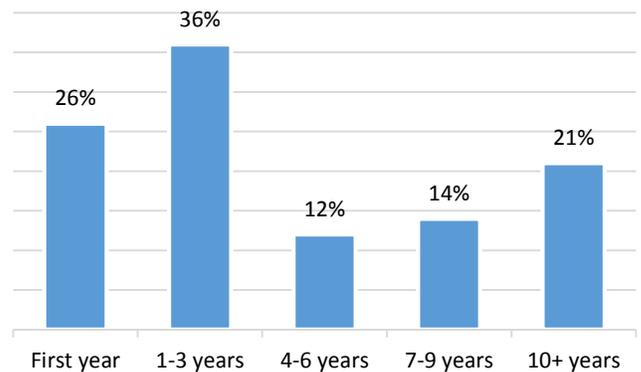
**Chart 3: Montessori Teacher Inservice Programs Topics**



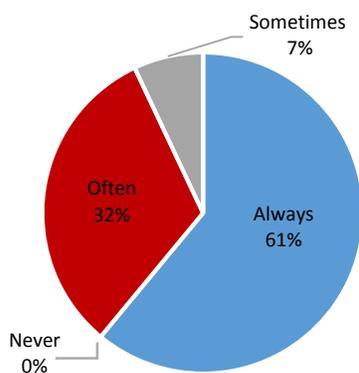
**Administration, Leadership, and Program Support**

- **26%** of principals are in their first year as a Montessori principal; **12%** have been a Montessori principal for over 10 years (see **Chart 4**)
- **8%** of principals have a Montessori teacher certification; **2%** have a Montessori administrator certification
- **55%** of principals have attended one or more Montessori-focused workshop, conference, or training session in the last year
- **64%** of programs report that their school has a curriculum coordinator; **22%** of them have experience as a Montessori teacher; **34%** have attended one or more Montessori-focused workshop, conference, or training session in the last year
- **84%** report that their districts have assigned an individual to oversee the Montessori program
- **93%** report that higher levels of administration (district, state, etc.) always or often demonstrate support for their school’s Montessori program (see **Chart 5** and **Chart 6**)

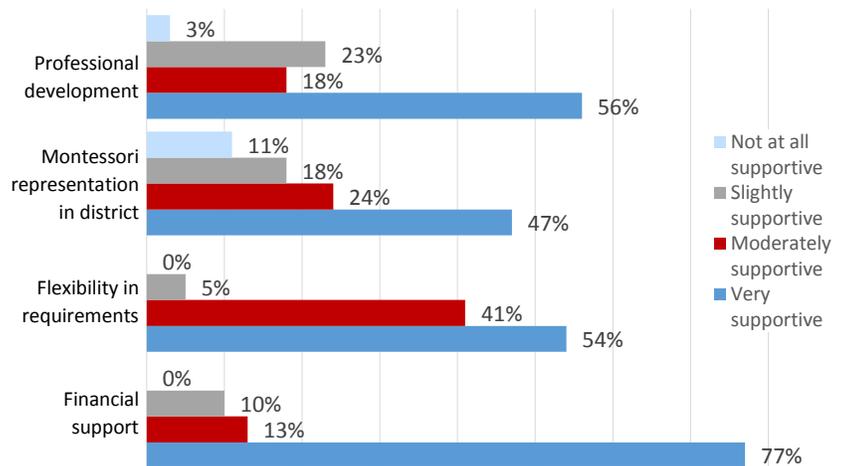
**Chart 4: Years of Experience as a Montessori Principal**



**Chart 5: Extent of Support from Higher Level Administration**



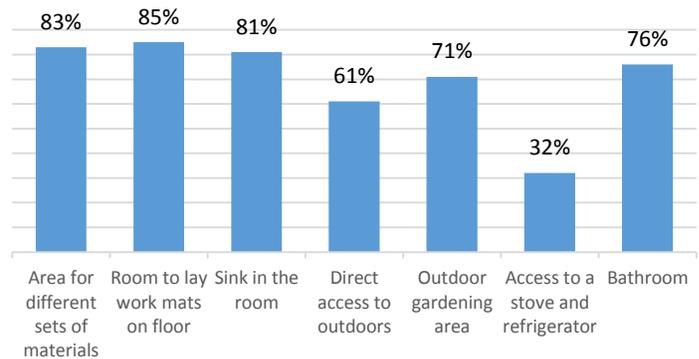
**Chart 6: Levels and Types of Support from District Administration**



## Classroom Structure and Environment

- 70% of principals report that **all** of their Montessori classrooms are equipped with a full complement of level-appropriate Montessori materials
- 63% of principals report that **all** of their Montessori classrooms are multi-aged based on Montessori's three-year age span
- 68% of principals report that **all** their Montessori classrooms have at least 2.5 hours of uninterrupted work periods per day
- See **Chart 7** for an illustration of the particular features found in Montessori classrooms across all programs

Chart 7: Programs Reporting that 75% or More of Classrooms Have a Particular Feature



## Student Assessment

- 75% of principals report that Montessori teachers never use numerical or letter grades in the classroom (see **Chart 8**)
- 58% of principals report that Montessori teachers use observations and checklists to assess student progress

Chart 8: Use of Numerical Grades in the Classroom

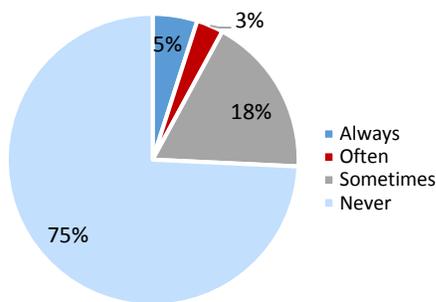
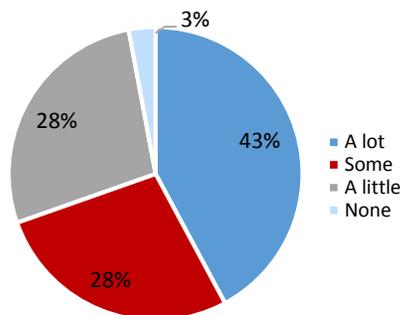


Chart 9: Amount of Preparation for State-Mandated Assessments



- 93% of principals report that Montessori parents have 2 or more conferences per year with their child's teacher to review his/her progress
- 43% of principals report that their schools focus a lot on preparation for state-mandated assessments (see **Chart 9**)

## Recruitment and Parent Education

- 67% of programs have a lottery if more students apply than spots are available (see **Chart 10**)
- 90% hold one or more information session every year for prospective Montessori parents and families
- 91% provide one or more ongoing parent education program every year that promotes the understanding of Montessori (see **Chart 11** for program topic information)

Chart 10: Program Admission Process

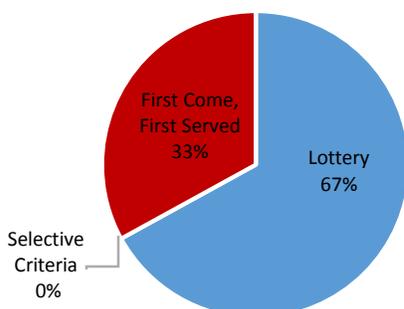
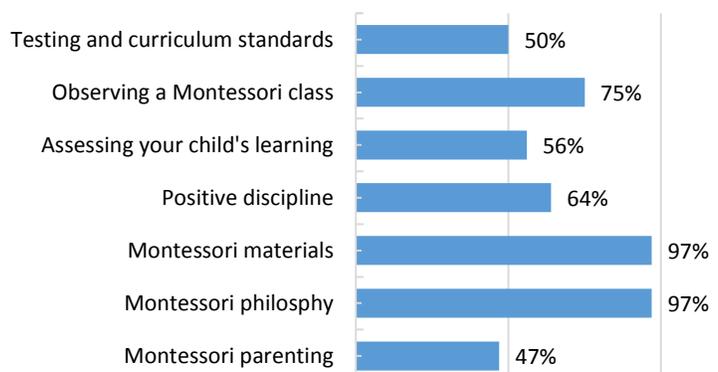


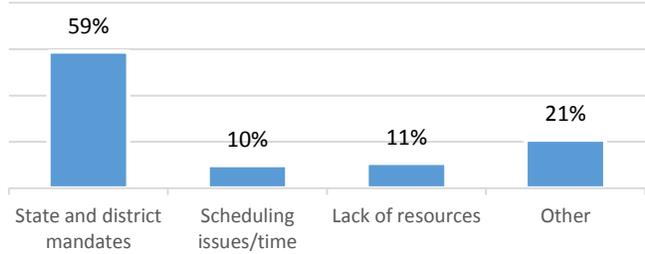
Chart 11: Montessori Parent Education Programs Topics



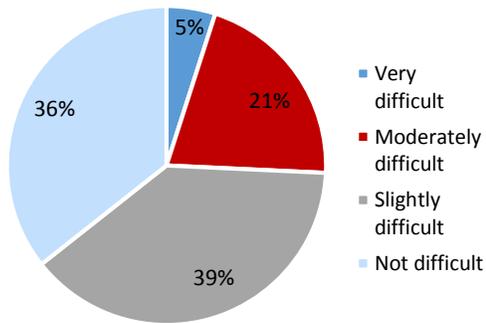
### Authenticity of the Montessori Program

- There are a range of opinions regarding the ability of schools to implement authentic Montessori
- **State and district mandates** are reported as being the most common barrier to Montessori implementation (see **Chart 12**)
- See **Chart 13** for an illustration of principals' responses to state, district, and federal mandates and their impact on authentic Montessori implementation
- See **Chart 14** for an illustration of principals' responses to state-mandated assessments and the level at which they compromise the character of the Montessori program

**Chart 12: Barriers to Montessori Implementation**



**Chart 13: Mandates and the Difficulty of Montessori Implementation**



**Chart 14: Mandated Assessments and Their Level of Influence on the Montessori Program**

