

Dear Montessori Schools,

The United Montessori Schools of Indiana, your state organization supporting Montessori education in our state, has some exciting news to share with you. The state Validation Program is ready to start!

The UMSI Validation Program gives meaning to Montessori by setting key components agreed upon by our own community. Being a validated school has a number of benefits for Montessori schools, families, and for INDOE and FSSA. (See attached Overview).

Each school will complete a school questionnaire, provide documentation of key components, and have an on-site Verifier Team visit. The Verifier Teams are fellow Montessori educators who volunteer their time to support Montessori education in IN.

UMSI is pleased by the numbers of educators who have volunteered to participate in the Verifier training and we want to give others an opportunity to engage in this valuable work. Verifier Teams are an essential part of the process. As a fellow Montessori educator, you will complete a 1-2 hour on-site visit to a participating school. The purpose of this visit is simply to verify that information provided by the school is accurate. You and your team member will drive to the school (reimbursement will be made available), complete your observation report, and make your recommendation to the Approval committee. This is a direct and doable way to support Montessori education in IN.

A Verifier Training session will be scheduled prior to your first school observation. Volunteers will learn how the project works, specifics of their role as verifier, and have plenty of time to ask questions. This training will use our video conference tool, Zoom, and you will be sent a link prior to the meeting. The number of participants will be limited so that all questions can be responded to.

The UMSI Board of Directors is working proactively on your behalf to support, protect, and defend quality Montessori education in our state.

If you have questions about the project, please feel free to contact the Validation Project Coordinator at tiffany.fennig@fwcs.k12.in.us . This is your project and your state organization and we look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your ongoing support of UMSI as we support you.

United Montessori Schools of Indiana Board of Directors.