

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MONTESSORI IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

UNITED STATES

Using Classroom Observation to Assess Learning
That Supports the Development of Executive
Functioning, Literacy, and Social and Emotional Skills



At-a-Glance /

Number of Schools:

507 Public Montessori Schools Across the United States

Number of Years Implementing Next Generation Learning:

100+

Success Definitions:

Rigorous, challenging academic work that develops, in equal measure, intellectual, social, and emotional skills. High fidelity Montessori classrooms are characterized by a high degree of self-regulation, curiosity, persistence, and joy.

Major Content Providers:

The pedagogy was developed over five decades by Maria Montessori and is carried forward by Montessori-trainers and teachers. There are various vendors who supply the materials, training centers that prepare the teachers and professional organizations that accredit and support Montessori schools.

Measurement Approach:

At the highest level, the goal of a Montessori education is to support the natural developmental path leading to the full realization of human potential. At a more practical level, the Montessori Method focuses on developing executive functioning and social-emotional skills, engagement in learning, and human creativity. Leaders of the Montessori movement are focusing on a two-pronged effort related to measurement. In the short-term, the National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector is developing observational tools that allow educators to assess the degree to which classrooms support the development of executive functions, language, and social and emotional skills. Longitudinal studies are looking at creativity and executive functioning outcomes, as well as next school success and teacher intake surveys.

Call a Colleague /

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Measurement Resources to Share /

[Rubric of Essential Elements of Practice in the Public Sector](#)

This rubric contains a set of “look-fors” that can assist schools and school leaders in determining how well their classrooms align with the essential elements of the Montessori model.

[The Minnesota Executive Function Scale](#)

The scale is an external measure of executive functioning that is popular among Montessori educators. Founded at the University of Minnesota and funded by the National Institutes of Health, Reflection Sciences. The MEFS is the only measure of Executive Function that can be used with children as young as two.

[The EPoC](#)

The Evaluation of Potential Creativity being used in an international study by the OECD of 17 countries. Montessori educators are participating in the study. The tool is used to measure potential creativity in the context of multiple-criteria screening and identification process. The battery builds the student’s profile based on a number of criteria including: learning style; expression style; performance efficiency; motivation and task commitment.

External Measurement Partners /

The [National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector](#) uses on-the-ground data to build knowledge and support for high quality implementation.