

The mission of the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) shall be to promote quality education by establishing standards designed to guarantee that educational professionals meet threshold levels of knowledge and skills required to prepare all students for success.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND TEACHER EDUCATION BOARD

Maryland State Department of Education

BILL: HB0467 **DATE:** February 5, 2022

SUBJECT: Education – Teacher Certification **COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means

Montessori Schools

POSITION: Support

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EXPLANATION:

The Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) supports House Bill (HB) 467 Teacher Certification- Montessori Schools, which establishes eligibility criteria for teachers teaching in Maryland Montessori schools, effective July 1, 2022.

The PSTEB recognizes that the robust preparation required by those teachers who hold credentials from the American Montessori Society; The Association Montessori Internationale; and programs accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education, provides those educators with the skills to effectively teach the Montessori method. Employing an individual with one of these credentials is advantageous to the Montessori programs in Maryland public schools.

Currently, Maryland is experiencing a shortage of teachers. Allowing those teachers who have completed a rigorous program leading to certification by the American Montessori Society, The Association Montessori Internationale; and programs accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education, will open the teacher pipeline for Maryland public schools, as well as assure that those students attending a Maryland Montessori school program are receiving the best Montessori education.

The PSTEB also supports the distinction made between a teacher candidate who undergoes the training of receiving credentials from the American Montessori Society; The Association Montessori Internationale; and programs accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education and a teacher candidate who receives certification to teach in a public school from an accredited institution of higher learning. This upholds the rigor of both credentialing processes and recognizes the unique differences and preparation that teacher candidates must



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complete if they want to pursue a credential from the American Montessori Society or from the various teacher education preparation programs offered across the state.

The PSTEB respectfully requests that you consider this information as you deliberate HB 467. Please contact Maleeta Kitchen, at maleeta.kitchen@gmail.com for any additional information.