

**South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC)
Annual Standards Assurance Form**

H.4077 (R.247) as Signed by the Governor on May 18, 2018

2018-19

Document A – Application for Continued Participation in ECENC Program

Please complete the information requested below concerning your independent school. This information will be listed on the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee's website, www.eoc.sc.gov.

Independent School Name:	Montessori School of Florence
Independent School Contact Person:	Kathleen Smith
Independent School Address:	510 W. Palmetto St
City, State, Zip Code:	Florence, SC 29501
Independent School Telephone Number:	(843) - 629-2920
Independent School Fax Number:	(843) - 629-0870
Independent School E-mail Address:	Director@MSFedu.org
Independent School Website Address:	FlorenceMontessori.com

Please review the standards below based on H.4077 (R.247) as signed by the Governor on May 18, 2018. An "eligible school" is defined as "an independent school including those religious in nature, other than a public school, at which the compulsory attendance requirements of Section 59-65-10 may be met," and does not discriminate based on the grounds of race, color, or national origin. Please indicate whether your school has met each standard to ensure the following academic requirements are being met. The S.C. Education Oversight Committee reserves the right to **request additional documentation** to show the school is in compliance with state law.

STANDARDS	YES	NO
1. Offers a general education to primary or secondary school students.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Is located in this state.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Has an educational curriculum that includes courses set forth in the state's diploma requirements, graduation certificate requirements (for special needs children), and where the students attending are administered national achievement or state standardized tests, or both, at progressive grade levels to determine student progress. Please	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Has school facilities that are subject to applicable federal, state, and local laws.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Is a member in good standing of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools, the South Carolina Independent Schools Association, or the Palmetto Association of Independent Schools.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Provides a specially designed program or learning resource center to provide needed accommodations based on the needs of exceptional needs students or provides onsite educational services or supports to meet the needs of exceptional needs students, or is a school specifically existing to meet the needs of only exceptional needs students with documented disabilities. Please provide a summary of the services provided based on exceptional needs of students served.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Did this school receive any grants last fiscal year (July 1, 2017 until June 30, 2018) from Exceptional SC from the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Fund? Please complete Document B.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. By December 31, 2018, will your school submit school-level test score results from the prior school year on national achievement tests and individual student test scores for students who received a grant from Exceptional SC in the prior school year? Please complete Document C.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. By December 31, 2018, will your school provide a "compilation, review, or compliance audit of the organization's financial statements as relating to the grants received, conducted by a certified public accounting firm"? Please complete Document D.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I assure that all documents submitted to the SC Education Oversight Committee for the purpose of applying as an eligible school, as defined by state law, is true, accurate, and complete under penalty of perjury in accordance with Section 16-9-10 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

Signature: _____

Date: July 27, 2018

Print Name of Signature Above: kathleen Smith

Title: Assistant Director

Email: Director@MSFedu.org

Return this form to Melanie Barton

- Phone: 803.734.6148
- E-mail: mbarton@eoc.sc.gov
- Mail: P.O. Box 11867
Columbia, S.C. 29211
- Fax: 803.734.6167
- Physical Location:
1205 Pendleton Street
Room 502 Brown Building
Columbia, SC 29201

Montessori School of Florence



Great Foundation - Great Future

July 30, 2018,

Dear Committee Members,

The Montessori School of Florence is a multicultural, non-discriminatory day school serving students from 2K thru 6th grade. In the Montessori tradition, the school fosters development of every student's intellect and character through strong, hands-on academics, in a child-centered, nurturing setting. Individual lesson plans are created to ensure mastery and to foster responsibility and independence.

The Montessori School of Florence uses Montessori methods and philosophy to educate children from 24 months (2K) to 12 years old (6th grade). Inherent to the Montessori curriculum is a "follow the child" model in which each child is met where he or she is academically and is then guided through individual growth. Lessons are given when a child shows readiness for the new lesson by mastering the precursory information and demonstrating the diligence and ability to work on a more complex concept.

Lessons are given 1:1 or 1:2-3 (if a small group of similarly ready students is available). The child then practices the lesson first with materials and then abstractly until he or she demonstrates understanding. Formal testing is not part of the curriculum (other than standardized testing). Understanding is demonstrated through successful practice and verbal responses with teacher.

The individualized curriculum and student-driven pace is ideal for children at all levels of academic ability. The very nature of a Montessori classroom is conducive to the success of many children with learning differences. Often when we receive a psych-ed evaluation from a psychologist, the recommendations are already part of our daily practice. Because of the child-centric, individualized nature of the Montessori curriculum, we are able to serve the unique educational needs of children with learning differences, including mild expressions of the autism spectrum disorders, ADHD, sensory integration issues and the like.

Additionally, we work closely with Therapeutic Designs and Services and Irene Ingram, OT, who specialize in Sensory Integrative Dysfunction. The Montessori School of Florence utilizes the services of an occupational therapist who comes to the school biweekly to provide OT and other therapies for a number of our students. Our music teacher is also a certified in Music

Therapy and provides one-on-one academic support to students as needed. The Montessori School of Florence Curriculum Coordinator and lead teacher for 4th- 6th grade, Mrs. Teena Kyer, holds a Masters of Education in Learning Disabilities.

We have been and continue to be successful in bringing many children with learning differences to their fullest potential through our individualized, student-centered, Montessori curriculum.

Thank you for your time and support. Please contact me should further information be necessary to continue to offer the ECENC benefit to our families with special needs children.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Smith
Assistant Director

Document B Grants Received

Application for Continued Participation Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children (ECENC) Program 2018-2019

Independent School Name: Montessori School of Florence

An independent school continuing to participate in the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children for Fiscal Year 2018-19 is required to submit the following information:

Total number of grants and total amount of grants received in the preceding fiscal year, from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Please complete the following chart. If no grants for any qualifying student were received from Exceptional SC in Fiscal Year 2017-18, please indicate with "0" grants received and "\$0" in total amount of grants received.

Total Number of Grants Received	Total Amount of Grants Received
Two	\$ 2,394.06

Total number of grants is the number of individual children/students who received a grant even if the school received more than one grant for a specific child/student. The total amount of grants per child/student should not have exceeded \$11,000.

Document C Student Assessment Data

Application for Continued Participation Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children (ECENC) Program 2018-2019

Independent School Name: Montessori School of Florence

An independent school applying for continued participation in the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Program for Fiscal Year 2018-19 is required to submit the following information **by December 31, 2018**:

Student test scores, by category, on national achievement or state standardized tests, or both, for all grades tested and administered by the school receiving or entitled to receive scholarship grants pursuant to this section in the previous school year. The school shall also provide individual student test scores on national achievement or state standardized tests, or both, for any student in grades one through twelve who received a grant from the program during the prior school year. The information must be used to provide program level reports to determine whether students participating in the program have experienced measurable improvement. Students with disabilities for whom standardized testing is not appropriate are exempt from this requirement.

Section 12-6-3790(E)(1)(b)

The information will be used to issue an annual report.

Annually, the Education Oversight Committee shall issue a report to the General Assembly documenting the impact of the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Program on student achievement. In addition, the report must include information on individual schools if at least fifty-one percent of the total enrolled students in the private school participated in the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Program in the prior school year. The report must be according to each participating private school, and for participating students, in which there are at least thirty participating students who have scores for tests administered. If the Education Oversight Committee determines that the thirty participating-student cell size may be reduced without disclosing personally identifiable information of a participating student, the Education Oversight Committee may reduce the participating-student cell size, but the cell size may not be reduced to less than ten participating students.

Section 12-6-3790(E)(6)

Schools applying for continued participation in the ECENC Program must provide the following:

- 1. School-level assessment results** for school year 2017-18 on national achievement tests for all grades tested in the school and for each grade with at least 10 students tested. Information should be provided for English language arts (reading) and mathematics achievement of students in the grade. Examples include: *TerraNova*, *Stanford 10*, *Iowa Test of Basic Skills*, etc. For grades 9-12, the school may provide average PSAT, SAT, ACT, or other scores as appropriate.

For schools that specifically exist to meet the needs of only exceptional needs students with documented disabilities, the EOC will work with the schools to provide information (including formative assessments, portfolios, etc.) that document the students' academic and social development.

How many students were enrolled in your school in 2017-18? 131

The following is a **template** that you may use for reporting purposes. For questions, contact the EOC office.

2017-18 School Year Results for (NAME OF ASSESSMENT) National Percentiles, Mean (Average) Scale Scores, Grade Equivalents, etc.		
Grade	English language arts (Reading)	Mathematics
1	<i>See attached MAP report</i>	
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

- 2. Individual student test scores** on national achievement tests for any child who received a grant from the program during the 2017-18 school year. No personally identifiable information will be published; instead, the information will be aggregated at the school or state level as stipulated in law.

Each school will have access to a secure data portal to upload individual student assessment results, which will include personally identifiable information. The portal will capture, at a minimum, the following information:

- Name of the student who received a grant from Exceptional SC in the prior school year along with data including date of birth, sex, grade level, etc. to ensure that the assessment results can be matched to the individual student who received a grant;
- For each student who received a grant, the results of a national assessment or assessments in 2017-18 and if possible, in 2016-17 as well to document academic growth. The name of the assessment as well as scale scores for students or national percentile ranks must be included; and
- If a student received a grant but due to the student's exceptional needs was not able to be assessed with a national assessment, the school must provide an explanation by student of the reason why a national assessment was not administered and how the school is measuring academic and personal growth for each student not assessed.

Please identify one staff person from your school who will provide the individual student test scores from this school:

Name:	<u>Kathleen Smith</u>
Title:	<u>Assistant Director</u>
Telephone Number:	<u>843-629-2920</u>
Email Address:	<u>director@MSFedu.org</u>



Student Growth Summary Report

Aggregate by School

Term: Spring 2017-2018
District: Montessori School of Florence

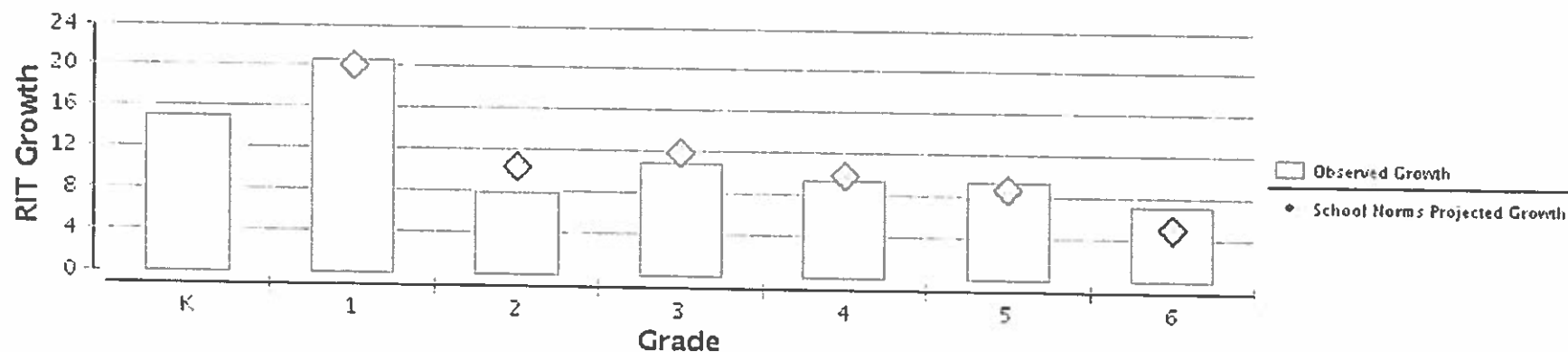
Norms Reference Data: 2015 Norms
Growth Comparison Period: Spring 2017 - Spring 2018
Weeks of Instruction: Start - 32 (Spring 2017)
End - 32 (Spring 2018)
Grouping: None
Small Group Display: Yes

Montessori School of Florence

Mathematics

		Comparison Periods								Growth Evaluated Against						
Grade (Spring 2018)	Growth Count†	Spring 2017			Spring 2018			Growth		School Norms			Student Norms			
		Mean RIT	SD	Percentile	Mean RIT	SD	Percentile	Observed Growth	Observed Growth SE	Projected Growth	School Conditional Growth Index	School Conditional Growth Percentile	Count with Projection	Count Met Projection	Percent Met Projection	Student Median Conditional Growth Percentile
K																
1	17	163.6	14.8	76	184.1	17.0	70	20.5	2.1	20.1	0.13	55	17	9	53	51
2																
3	10	192.2	12.2	51	203.1	10.5	48	10.9	2.3	11.8	-0.32	37	10	5	50	57
4																
5																
6	14	219.1	13.4	39	226.3	12.4	55	7.1	1.4	5.0	0.90	82	14	10	71	64

Mathematics



Explanatory Notes

* Calculations not provided because students have no MAP results in at least one of the terms. The Growth Count is zero.

† Growth Count provided reflects students with MAP results in both the Start and End terms. Observed Growth calculation is based on that student data.

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Student Growth Summary Report

Aggregate by School

Term: Spring 2017-2018
District: Montessori School of Florence

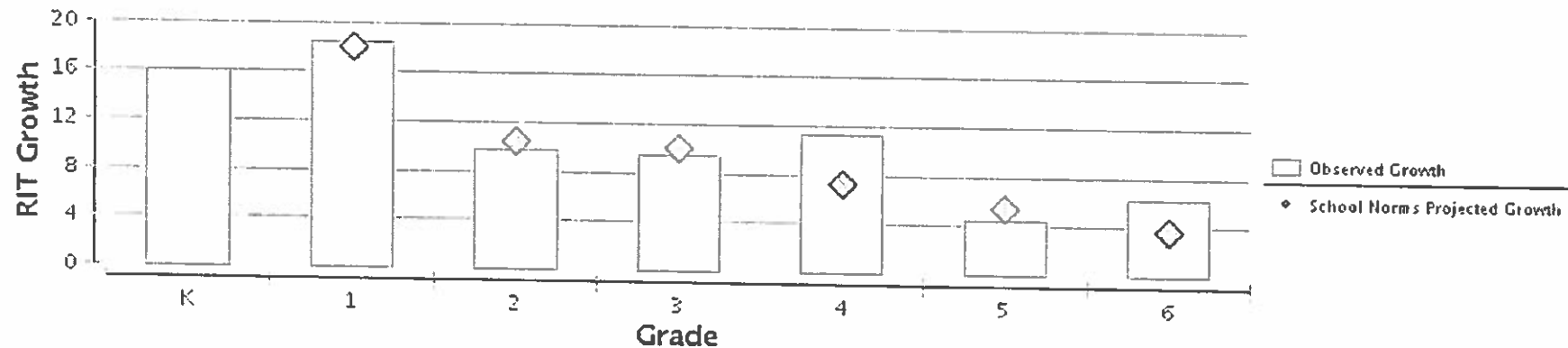
Norms Reference Data: 2015 Norms
Growth Comparison Period: Spring 2017 - Spring 2018
Weeks of Instruction: Start - 32 (Spring 2017)
End - 32 (Spring 2018)
Grouping: None
Small Group Display: Yes

Montessori School of Florence

Reading

		Comparison Periods								Growth Evaluated Against						
		Spring 2017			Spring 2018			Growth		School Norms			Student Norms			
Grade (Spring 2018)	Growth Count†	Mean RIT	SD	Percentile	Mean RIT	SD	Percentile	Observed Growth	Observed Growth SE	Projected Growth	School Conditional Growth Index	School Conditional Growth Percentile	Count with Projection	Count Met Projection	Percent Met Projection	Student Median Conditional Growth Percentile
K																
1	17	162.5	15.1	77	180.9	13.0	69	18.4	1.9	18.0	0.14	56	17	9	53	54
2																
3	10	194.7	13.5	81	204.2	13.4	80	9.5	2.5	10.0	-0.27	39	10	7	70	59
4																
5																
6	14	217.2	12.9	80	223.5	11.5	89	6.3	1.8	3.6	1.29	90	14	9	64	63

Reading



Explanatory Notes

** Calculations not provided because students have no MAP results in at least one of the terms. The Growth Count is zero.

† Growth Count provided reflects students with MAP results in both the Start and End terms. Observed Growth calculation is based on that student data.

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nwea

Student Growth Summary Report

Aggregate by School

Term: Spring 2017-2018
District: Montessori School of Florence

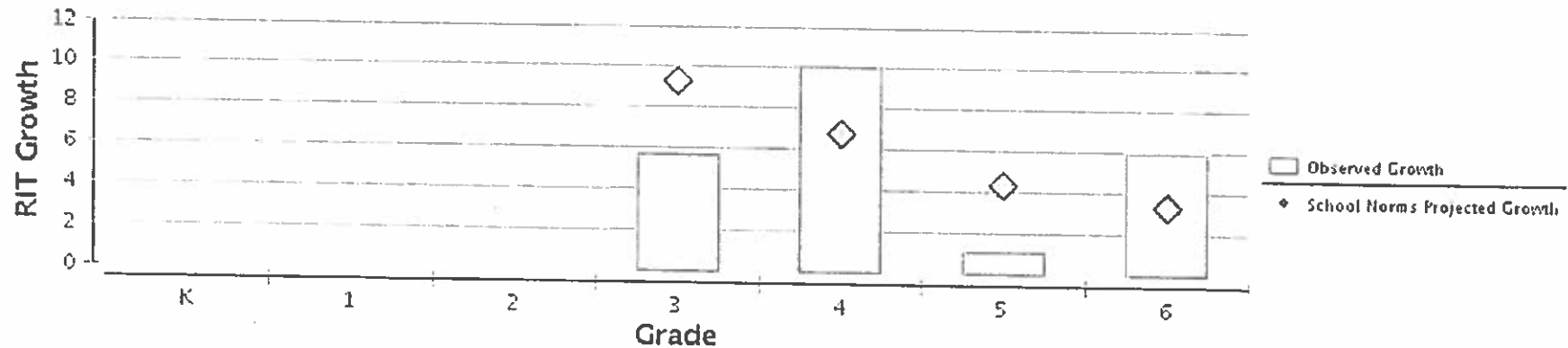
Norms Reference Data: 2015 Norms
Growth Comparison Period: Spring 2017 - Spring 2018
Weeks of Instruction: Start - 32 (Spring 2017)
End - 32 (Spring 2018)
Grouping: None
Small Group Display: Yes

Montessori School of Florence

Language Usage

		Comparison Periods								Growth Evaluated Against						
		Spring 2017			Spring 2018			Growth		School Norms			Student Norms			
Grade (Spring 2018)	Growth Count†	Mean RIT	SD	Percentile	Mean RIT	SD	Percentile	Observed Growth	Observed Growth SE	Projected Growth	School Conditional Growth Index	School Conditional Growth Percentile	Count with Projection	Count Met Projection	Percent Met Projection	Student Median Conditional Growth Percentile
K																
1																
2																
3	10	198.1	10.1	89	203.8	13.1	73	5.7	2.4	9.3	-1.72	4	10	4	40	30
4																
5																
6	14	215.7	10.6	77	221.6	10.6	86	5.9	2.3	3.3	1.36	91	14	10	71	74

Language Usage



Explanatory Notes

** Calculations not provided because students have no MAP results in at least one of the terms. The Growth Count is zero.

† Growth Count provided reflects students with MAP results in both the Start and End terms. Observed Growth calculation is based on that student data.

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Document D
Compilation, Review or Compliance Audit

Application for Continued Participation
Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children (ECENC)
2018-2019

Independent School Name: Montessori School of Florence

An independent school applying for or continuing to participate in the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Program is required to submit the following information:

“a copy of a compilation, review, or compliance audit of the organization’s financial statements as relating to the grants received, conducted by a certified public accounting firm.”

By law the compilation, review or compliance audit will be posted online at www.eoc.sc.gov.

Please answer the following questions:

	YES	NO
Did your school receive from Exceptional SC any grants in the prior fiscal year, between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If Yes , will your school submit to the EOC a compilation, review, or compliance audit of the school’s financial statements as relating to the grants received during the prior fiscal year and conducted by a certified public accounting firm by December 30, 2018 ? Failure to provide the compilation, review or compliance audit will result in your school’s removal as an eligible school under the ECENC program.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If No , will your school submit to the EOC a compilation, review, or compliance audit of the school’s financial statements as relating to the grants received and conducted by a certified public accounting firm by June 30, 2019 to the EOC if you receive grants from Exceptional SC this fiscal year between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019? Failure to provide the compilation, review or compliance audit will result in your school’s removal as an eligible school under the ECENC program.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING
AGREED UPON PROCEDURES**

MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF FLORENCE

Florence, South Carolina

June 30, 2018

BURCH, OXNER, SEALE CO
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CPAS

1341 W. ALICE Drive, 29505
P. O. DRAWER 4707
FLORENCE, SC 29502
TELEPHONE (843) 669-3142
TELECOPIER (843) 662-9255

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING
AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES**

To the Board of Directors
Montessori School of Florence
Florence, South Carolina

We have performed the procedures described below, which were agreed to by the management of Montessori School of Florence ("*School*"), solely to assist you in evaluating the performance of the School's compliance with certain requirements of the South Carolina Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Program, as recommended by the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee, for the program year ended June 30, 2018, in the areas addressed. The School's management is responsible for its financial records, internal controls and compliance with State laws and regulations. This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of the specified parties in this report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

Specifically, for purposes of this report, we have performed the following procedures and noted the indicated findings:

- We obtained documentation to verify that grants received under the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Program were for eligible children enrolled to attend the School.

We noted no exceptions as a result of our procedures.

- We compared the total of grants received for each child to the amount(s) disbursed from every scholarship funding organization (the "SFO").

We noted no exceptions as a result of our procedures.

- We obtained documentation to verify that no student's grant exceeded \$11,000 for the 2017-18 school year.

We noted no exceptions as a result of our procedures.

- If applicable, we verified that the School returned to the SFO a prorated amount of a student's grant if a student withdrew from the School during the school year.

We noted no exceptions as a result of our procedures.

- We obtained documentation that each grant was used for tuition which is defined as "the total amount of money charged for the cost of a qualifying student to attend an independent school including, but not limited to, fees for attending the school and school-related transportation."

We noted no exceptions as a result of our procedures.

The engagement to apply the Agreed-Upon Procedures was performed in accordance with the standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The sufficiency of the procedures is solely the responsibility of Montessori School of Florence. Consequently, we make no representations regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

We were not engaged to, and did not, perform an audit, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion on the compliance with certain requirements of the South Carolina Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children Program, as recommended by the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

This report is intended solely for the use of Montessori School of Florence's management and applicable State agencies, and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. This restriction is not intended to limit distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.

Burch, Grier, Seale Co., CPAs, PA

Florence, South Carolina

October 25, 2018