Poster Session:Identifying Challenges to the

Future of Public Montessori Elementary Schools

Angela K. Murray, PhD 2009 AMS National Conference

NCLB could create challenges for public Montessori schools

- Potential challenges of high stakes standardized testing (Anderson, 2005a; Lillard, 1996)
 - Shifting focus away from child-directedness
 - Limited test taking experiences
 - Individualized content coverage
- Highly qualified teachers (Anderson, 2004; Anderson, 2005a; Anderson, 2005b)
 - State and Montessori Certification required
 - Most states do not recognize Montessori certification

Research Questions

- What are current Montessori practices in public Montessori elementary schools?
- How concerned are leaders in public Montessori elementary schools regarding the potential impact of NCLB?

Procedures

Jola
Publications &
IntelleQuest
Montessori
School
Database

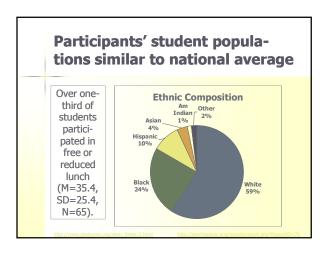


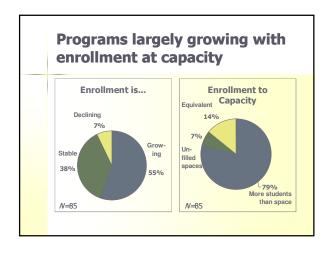
SurveyZ web based survey software April 24-June 1, 2005

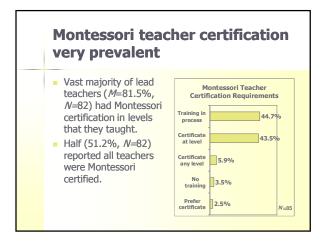
Schools on Sample List: 285 Valid Phone Numbers: 261 E-Mail Addresses: 180 Respondents: 85

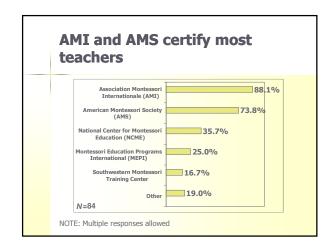
Participant Characteristics

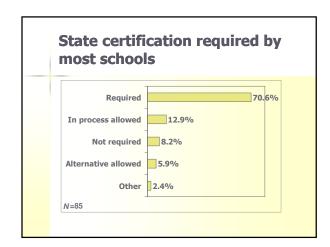
- Respondents
 - Were primarily school principals (64%)
 - Included few (only 2) with Montessori Administrator credential, but almost half (45.2%) had Montessori certification
 - Represented schools serving ages 4 to 12 with elementary enrollment of 167, on average

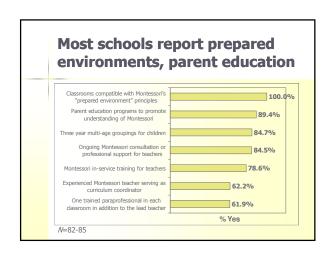




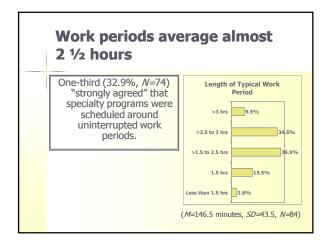


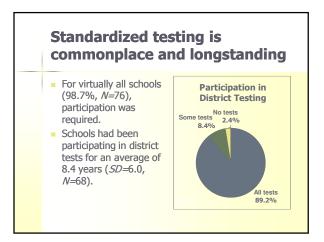


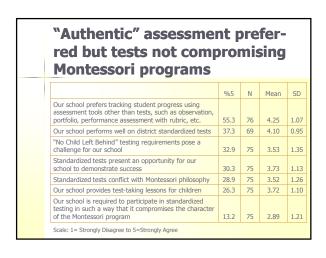




Classrooms reportedly wellequipped %5 Mean SD Our school offers a full complement of Montessori 0.81 78.9 76 materials in each classroom 4.64 Our school is committed to the core Montessori curriculum 4.35 0.98 Our school implements elementary education according to the original vision of Maria 3.87 0.94 Montessori 76 Scale: 1= Strongly Disagree to 5=Strongly Agree







	%5	N	Mean	5
Budget cuts	49.3	71	4.30	0.
Federal requirements	28.4	74	3.41	1.
State requirements	23.0	74	3.41	1.
Teacher issues	11.0	73	2.92	1.
District support	8.1	68	2.84	1.
Parent support	6.8	74	2.35	1.
Community support	6.8	72	2.31	1.

Information about appropriate assessment tools deemed most useful in the future				
	%5	N	Mean	SE
Montessori-appropriate assessment tools	61.1	70	4.40	0.9
Other Montessori schools' assessment strategies	56.9	70	4.30	1.0
Academic achievement in Montessori compared to other approaches	51.4	71	4.34	0.8
Student attitudes toward education in Montessori compared to other approaches	45.8	72	4.14	1.0
Student behavior in Montessori classrooms compared to other approaches	45.8	72	4.04	1.1
	33.3	72	3.57	1.3

Conclusions

- Montessori continues to be a popular option in public schools across the U.S. even though they struggle with budget cuts, stricter state and federal requirements and teacher shortages.
- Public Montessori elementary schools strive to maintain a unique educational environment through certified teachers, ongoing professional support and well-equipped classrooms.

Full Study Results Available at...

http://www.amshq.org/research/thesisMurray.pdf

References

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