

## SAMA Membership Benefits 2024

### Protecting and Advancing Montessori Education in South Africa

One of the most significant benefits of SAMA membership is the advocacy and protection of Montessori education in South Africa. Through our membership with **NAISA (National Alliance of Independent Schools of South Africa)**, our active involvement with ECD chambers of government, and collaboration with the Department of Social Development and the Department of Education, SAMA safeguards the rights of Montessori schools to continue practicing authentic Montessori education.

We tirelessly negotiate through legislative channels to ensure positive outcomes amidst challenges that pose threats to Montessori practices.

### Key Benefits for All Montessorians as part of SAMA's Commitment

- **Advocacy & Protection:** Protecting Montessori schools right to practice Montessori education as part of a constitutional right.
- **Continued Professional Development:** Access to an ongoing program to facilitate support and guidance through regional meetings, workshops, and further training opportunities.
- **Promotion of Montessori:** Working towards a cohesive public and media relations campaign to raise awareness of Montessori education.
- **Centralised Information Hub:** Continued refinement and access to resources through our National Office and the SAMA website.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connection with other Montessori professionals and institutions.
- **Annual National Montessori Conference:** A gathering of Montessori educators for professional growth and collaboration.

## Additional Benefits for SAMA Members

### General Member Services:

- Monthly **SAMA Newsletter** or updates as needed.
- Access to all **SAMA Publications**.

### Individual Membership Benefits

Individual members enjoy:

- Free attendance at SIG meetings and Zoom discussions.
- Access to relevant documentation on a password-protected area of the SAMA website.
- Discounted rates for advertising in SAMA publications.
- Free job seeker advertisements.
- Discounted rates for products and services negotiated by SAMA.
- Reduced membership fees for staff at member schools.
- Discounted rates at the Annual Conference.
- Opportunities to apply for **ETDP SETA bursaries**, as allocated periodically.

### School Membership Benefits

School members enjoy all individual benefits, PLUS:

- Representation on provincial forums and liaison with government bodies.
- Monitoring and updates on regulations and legislation relevant to Montessori schools.
- **Advertising materials** and brochures tailored for member schools.
- Access to SAMA-adopted AMI curriculums for 0–3, 3–6, and 6–12.
- A **parent handbook** and a **guideline document** for primary Montessori education.
- Free vacancy advertisements on SAMA platforms.
- Use of the **SAMA Organisational Member logo**.

- Mediation options for grievances.
- Support in growing Montessori education in rural and township areas.

### **SAMA's Quality Assurance Commitment**

SAMA members voted in favour of the implementation of a **3-Tier Self-Evaluation process** to assist independently owned Montessori schools in working towards and maintaining authentic Montessori principles. This process includes school visits and clear guidelines for continuous improvement.

Additionally, we are current refining and enhancing the Quality Assurance processes - Montessori School in a Mirror for Full Level member schools, ensuring the highest standards of Montessori education across SAMA Member schools in the region.

### **Fostering a Montessori Community**

The SAMA Executive Committee is committed to uniting Montessori educators, schools, and advocates under a shared vision inspired by Dr. Montessori's principles. We aim to create a sense of community and connectedness through:

- Networking opportunities.
- Advocacy for Montessori education.
- Active pursuit of additional benefits for members.

Although membership is not compulsory, we encourage all Montessorians to join and contribute to strengthening the Montessori community in Southern Africa.

**Together, we can ensure the legacy of Dr. Montessori thrives for future generations!**