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## The Trust for Learning Announces the Opening of the Brady Education Foundation's Request for Proposals to Research the Impact of Montessori Education in Public Schools

*Five year, \$3 million investment to investigate how the Montessori approach produces achievement outcomes for children age three to third grade and may reduce the achievement gap between children from under-resourced communities and other children.*

Chapel Hill, North Carolina, June 20, 2017—The Trust for Learning announced today that one of its funding partners, The Brady Education Foundation (BEF), is inviting proposals to participate in a research network focused on investigating the impact of high-fidelity Montessori education in public settings from age three through third grade. This five year, \$3 million commitment from BEF will support rigorous evaluations of the impact of Montessori education and investigate whether Montessori education can reduce the gap in educational outcomes faced by children living in under-resourced communities.

“We’re thrilled to begin this initiative on this important topic,” said Elizabeth Pungello Bruno, Ph.D., President of the Brady Education Foundation. “It is imperative that we increase access to high quality early learning environments, especially for families from under- resourced and under-represented communities. While rigorous research concerning the effects of the Montessori approach is limited, recent evidence suggests that it may be particularly effective for executive functioning and achievement outcomes. The information generated by the community of researchers that will be supported by this initiative has the potential to provide parents and the public with critical information needed to help create equitable opportunities and close the achievement gap.”

Barbara Crockett, Executive Director of the Foundation, added, “The first Montessori classrooms provided low income children highly personalized, developmental education that built skills necessary for success in life. One hundred years later, Montessori education is a popular choice for affluent families, but it is often overlooked as a potential solution for children in low-resourced communities.”

The Foundation is particularly interested in research outcomes related to executive functioning, achievement, mastery orientation and school engagement. The RFP process will take place in three stages: Letter of Intent, Stage 1 full proposal and Stage 2 proposal. A webinar will initiate the process on August 16, 2017 at 1:00pm Eastern time. Please email [applications@BradyEducationFoundation.org](mailto:applications@BradyEducationFoundation.org) to request an invitation.

“As a partner with the Brady Education Foundation, we’re excited to see the results of the research bear out over the next five years,” said Stephanie Miller, Executive Director of the Trust for Learning. “We believe that highly developmental learning is ideal for all children, and Montessori is an exemplary model. We’ve seen great results among smaller programs. Having a community of researchers and more robust research is a big step toward proving widespread impact and making more of these transformative programs available to low-income families.”

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