



## CITATION ORDER

<p><b>Citation Issued To:</b>          Prepared Montessorian Institute (formerly known as Higher Ground Education)          26592 Towne Centre Dr.          Foothill Ranch, CA 92610</p> <p><b>Institution Code:</b>          93794576</p>	<p><b>Citation Number:</b>          25260187</p>
	<p><b>Total Fine Amount:</b>  <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$6,001.00</span></p>
	<p><b>Order of Abatement Included:</b> Yes</p>

Elizabeth Elias issues this citation in her official capacity as Deputy Bureau Chief of Enforcement at the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, California Department of Consumer Affairs (hereinafter referred to as the "Bureau").

### LICENSING HISTORY

1. On or about May 26, 2020, the Bureau issued an Approval to Operate an Accredited Private Postsecondary Institution, Institution Code 93794576, to Prepared Montessorian Institute (formerly known as Higher Ground Education), hereinafter referred to as the "Institution." This Approval to Operate will expire on or about September 23, 2026, unless renewed.

### DISCIPLINE HISTORY

2. The Institution has the following discipline history:
  - [Citation No. 2021231, issued on April 13, 2021](#)
    - Evidence of compliance; citation satisfied June 21, 2021

### CITATION JURISDICTION

3. This administrative citation is issued to the Institution pursuant to California Education Code (CEC) section 94936; and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (5 CCR) section 75020 et seq. for the violation(s) described below.

### CAUSE FOR CITATION & ASSESSMENT OF FINE AND/OR ORDER OF ABATEMENT

4. The Institution is in violation of the following Bureau laws and regulations:

**Violation #1:**

**5 CCR section 74112(m)(1-6) and (m)(8-9) - Uniform Data – Annual Report, Performance Fact Sheet, 5 CCR section 71930(e) – Maintenance of Records and CEC section 94929.7(a) – Documentation of Performance Data**

**Cause for Citation:** On or about May 21, 2025, the Bureau conducted an unannounced compliance inspection pursuant to CEC section 94932.5(a). Bureau staff requested documentation supporting data reported on the Institutions 2022/2023 School Performance Fact Sheet (SPFS). Upon review of the SPFS supporting data, Bureau staff found that the Institution failed to collect and/or maintain some of the required data points pursuant to 5 CCR section 74112, specifically subsections (m)(1-6), and (m)(8-9).

**Administrative Fine:** Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75030, the Bureau has determined this to be a “Class A” violation. The Institution is issued a fine of \$2,501.00.

**Order of Abatement:** Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75020, the Bureau issues the following order of abatement:

The Bureau orders the Institution to correct the violation by providing an electronic copy of the template used by the Institution to document supporting data for SPFS, for the Bureau to verify the Institution is collecting the required data points pursuant to 5 CCR section 74112.

In addition, the Institution must submit a statement of attestation they have corrected the violation and will ensure that the supporting data for SPFS is maintained and immediately available during an inspection. The statement of attestation must be dated and signed by an authorized representative of the Institution.

**Violation #2:**

**5 CCR section 76215(a) - Student Tuition Recovery Fund Disclosures**

**Cause for Citation:** On or about May 21, 2025, the Bureau conducted an unannounced compliance inspection pursuant to CEC section 94932.5(a). Bureau staff reviewed six student files and found that all of the enrollment agreements within the student files reviewed failed to contain a statement

regarding the Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF), as required, pursuant to 5 CCR section 76215(a).

**Administrative Fine:** Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75030, the Bureau has determined this to be a "Class C" violation. The Institution is issued a fine of \$1,000.00.

**Order of Abatement:** Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75020, the Bureau issues the following order of abatement:

The Bureau orders the Institution to submit a statement of attestation they have corrected the violation and will ensure that all student files include the required disclosures and required language regarding the Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) pursuant to 5 CCR section 76215(a).

**Violation #3:**

**CEC section 94935(b) and (h) – Notice to Comply and 5 CCR section 75010(h) - Notice to Comply; Informal Appeal Process**

**Cause for Citation:** On or about May 21, 2025, Bureau staff issued a Notice to Comply (NTC) to the Institution. The Institution failed to correct some of the cited violations within the required 30-day period. The following violations from the NTC remain uncorrected:

- **Violation 5** - CEC section 94909(a)(5) - Minimum Requirements for School Catalog
- **Violation 6** - CEC section 94909(a)(9) - Minimum Requirements for School Catalog
- **Violation 7** - CEC section 94909(a)(8)(B) - Minimum Requirements for School Catalog
- **Violation 8** - CEC section 94909(a)(7) – Minimum Requirements for School Catalog
- **Violation 10** - 5 CCR section 71810(b)(13)(B) – Catalog
- **Violation 12** - 5 CCR section 71800(a) – Enrollment Agreement

- **Violation 13** – 5 CCR section 71800(b) – Enrollment Agreement
- **Violation 18** - 5 CCR section 76215(a) - Student Tuition Recovery Fund Disclosures
- **Violation 19** - CEC section 94911(e)(1) - Minimum Requirements for Enrollment Agreements

**Administrative Fine:** Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75030, the Bureau has determined this to be a “Class B” violation. The Institution is issued a fine of \$2,500.00.

**Order of Abatement:** Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75020, the Bureau issues the following order of abatement:

The Bureau orders the Institution to correct the violations identified in the Notice to Comply and submit proof of compliance pursuant to CEC section 94935 and 5 CCR section 75010.

### COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER OF ABATEMENT

5. In accordance with the provisions of CEC section 94936 and 5 CCR section 75020, the Bureau issues the order(s) of abatement described above. Evidence of compliance with the order of abatement must be submitted to the Bureau within 30 days from the date of issuance of this citation. Evidence of compliance with the order of abatement may be sent by mail or email to:

- Mail: Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education  
Attn: Discipline Unit – Aurzella Izmarai-Karimi  
1747 North Market, Blvd., Suite 225  
Sacramento, CA 95834
- Email: [bppe.discipline@dca.ca.gov](mailto:bppe.discipline@dca.ca.gov)
  - In the subject line, please include the Institution name and citation number.

### **COMPLIANCE WITH ASSESSMENT OF FINE**

6. In accordance with the provisions of CEC section 94936, and 5 CCR sections 75020 and 75030, the Bureau hereby orders this assessment of fines in the total amount of \$6,001.00 for the violations described above. Payment of the fines must be made to the Bureau within 30 days from the date of service of this citation unless an informal conference or hearing is requested. To assist the Bureau in processing the payment of fines, please submit the enclosed *Payment of Fine – Waiver of Appeal* form.

Payment must be sent to the Bureau by mail at:

- Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education  
Attn: Discipline Unit – Aurzella Izmarai-Karimi  
1747 North Market, Blvd., Suite 225  
Sacramento, CA 95834

### **NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS**

7. You have the right to contest this citation through an informal conference with the Bureau pursuant to 5 CCR section 75020 and/or through an administrative hearing in accordance with Chapter 5 (Commencing with section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

If you wish to contest this citation, the Bureau must receive a written request within 30 days from the date of issuance of this citation asking for an informal conference and/or administrative hearing or you may also submit the enclosed *Notice of Appeal of Citation – Request for Informal Conference and/or Administrative Hearing* form.

The written request may be sent by email or mail to the addresses below:

- Mail: Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education  
Attn: Discipline Unit – Aurzella Izmarai-Karimi  
1747 North Market, Blvd., Suite 225  
Sacramento, CA 95834
- Email: [bppe.discipline@dca.ca.gov](mailto:bppe.discipline@dca.ca.gov)
  - In the subject line, please include the Institution name and citation number.

Failure to submit a written request for an informal conference and/or administrative hearing within 30 days from the date of issuance of this citation will forfeit your ability to appeal the citation.

If a hearing is requested, you are not required to comply with this citation until a final order is entered against you.

### **COMPLIANCE WITH FINE AND/OR ORDER OR ABATEMENT DISCLOSURE**

8. Pursuant to BPC section 125.9 and 5 CCR section 75050, payment of fine and/or compliance with any order of abatement does not constitute an admission of the violation charged and shall be represented as satisfactory resolution of the matter for the purposes of public disclosure.

Pursuant to 5 CCR section 75050, failure to comply with this citation order, its order of abatement, and/or administrative fine by the required due date is grounds for denial or discipline of an approval to operate. Where a citation is not contested and fine is not paid, the full amount of the assessed fine shall be added to the fee for renewal of the approval to operate. An approval to operate shall not be renewed without payment of the renewal fee and fine.

### **BUREAU CONTACT INFORMATION**

9. If you have any questions regarding this Citation, please contact Aurzella Izmarai-Karimi, Citation Analyst by email at [Aurzella.izmarai@dca.ca.gov](mailto:Aurzella.izmarai@dca.ca.gov) or by phone at (916) 574-7344.

“Original Signature on File”

6/8/2026

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Elizabeth Elias  
Deputy Bureau Chief of Enforcement

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Citation Date of Issuance

#### Enclosures:

- Notice of Appeal of Citation: Request for Informal Conference and/or Administrative Hearing
- Payment of Fine – Waiver of Appeal
- Declaration of Service by Certified and First-Class Mail