

May 14, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I have had the joy and satisfaction of working successfully with Rachel Cole for the past two years at Esther Jackson Elementary School in Roswell, Georgia. In my capacity as Fifth Grade Department Head, I've personally witnessed her cooperative spirit, professional attitude, and caring disposition.

Rachel works collaboratively with her colleagues and has developed an especially close, working relationship with the members of the fifth grade team. She has been a key contributor to the development of dynamic cross-curricular units that engage all learners, allow for differentiated instruction, and incorporate technology as a crucial learning tool. I am continuously impressed with her ability to create lessons that activate student's prior knowledge and provide multiple opportunities to be successful with new concepts and skills. Additionally, Rachel is able to modify assignments to address the needs of accelerated learners and special education students in her class.

Rachel is able to create an atmosphere of mutual respect with students. Students feel comfortable and enjoy participating in lessons and asking for help due to her friendly, easy-going disposition. While instructing students, she uses a variety of representations and methods to help students comprehend the subject matter and often tries to link it to their experiences. This positive and supportive atmosphere has helped to increase student self-esteem, confidence and academic success.

Whenever we meet as a department, I have always found Rachel to be the quintessential professional, listening to others opinions with interest, offering suggestions based upon sound pedagogy, and demonstrating a sincere willingness to try new strategies. Rachel actively pursues professional development opportunities and sought out feedback that would make her a better teacher, showing a genuine desire to continually grow. Earnestly caring for her fellow teachers and the students she serves is also a strong and noticeable trait in her personality.

Finally, Rachel will be an excellent asset to the teaching profession and any district that chooses to hire her. On numerous occasions she has devoted time beyond normal school hours to organize, plan, and dedicate herself to the success of her students. Her professionalism is a well-balanced blend of competence, experience, and cordiality. I eagerly give my endorsement of Rachel Cole's skills and professionalism without qualification and with the highest praise.

Sincerely,



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