

BEECH STREET SCHOOL
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Elinor Murphy
Principal

Mikel LaChapelle
Assistant Principal

June 28, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with pleasure that I write a letter of recommendation for Stephanie Evans for an elementary classroom or ELL teaching position. Stephanie was hired as a paraprofessional in September 2012 to work with ELL (English Language Learner) students who are in K-5 mainstream classes at Beech Street School. Located in Manchester, NH, Beech Street School is a K-5 inner city school with 630 students. Approximately 94% of the students are eligible for free or reduced lunch and more than 52% of the students have a non-English language background. As an ELL teacher, I was Stephanie's immediate supervisor.

Stephanie was a positive, dedicated and resourceful member of our staff. She utilized her training as a teacher and the knowledge she acquired through courses she took in Utah towards ELL certification, to design and implement effective lessons. She also sought appropriate supervision when needed.

Stephanie provided in class support to ELL kindergarten students during math, and Readers and Writers Workshops. She worked with small groups of children using instructional strategies that provided students access to the kindergarten curriculum, while at the same time helping them learn English. Stephanie effectively provided the scaffolds her students needed to be successful while being unobtrusive in the classroom.

Stephanie also worked with groups of 4-6 significantly below grade level 3rd, 4th and 5th grade ELL students during their intervention periods. Her lessons demonstrated best practices and always addressed grade level curriculum and the WIDA Standards. While she used Avenues, an ELL anthology, as the foundation of her lessons, she chose units that took into consideration the students' interests and cultures. To extend students' knowledge of the science and social studies introduced in the anthology, she gathered additional realia and photos, found websites to explore and provided hands on activities. These enhancements helped guide her students to a deeper understanding of the content. In addition, Stephanie met students' individual needs by adding student specific guided and independent reading activities and word work. Stephanie assessed her students regularly, and kept detailed notes that informed her instruction. District assessments administered by other staff have shown that all her students made significant progress.

Stephanie requested and received state training in administering both the ACCESS For ELLs and the W-APT screener for ELL students new to our school. She is certified and competent in giving and assessing these tests, as well as administering the DRA and other informal assessments. In addition, she requested and on her own time, attended district training provided to our ELL teachers.

Stephanie was an integral member of our ELL team. In addition to being part of our ELL meetings, she attended Student Study Team and Intervention Team meetings. She was insightful of her students and their needs and she made significant contributions to program decisions regarding service delivery and curriculum. She had an excellent rapport with her students and communicated effectively with classroom teachers. It is without reservation that I recommend Stephanie Evans as a certified classroom teacher or an ELL Teacher eligible for alternative certification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arlene O'Connor".

Arlene O'Connor
ELL Teacher
Beech Street School