

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary

March 3, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with sincere pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Mr. Brian Colton. I've had the opportunity to become closely acquainted with Mr. Colton as the Assistant Principal of Dr. Martin Luther King Elementary School in Providence. Mr. Colton was serving as a substitute in one of our two, autism classrooms. Mr. Colton graciously accepted the long-term position after a successful interview knowing the challenges he would face in an autism classroom in an urban school district. He rose to the challenge of substantiating himself as the classroom teacher. However, he didn't stop there. In addition to his general education certification, he obtained emergency certification in Special Education and was made the teacher of record in our autism classroom. As a leadership team at King, we were ecstatic that he received this certification and could stay onboard at our school. He has exceeded our expectations with his engaging lessons and the connections he has made with his students.

Working in an urban, school setting can be quite challenging regardless of the grade level. Students who live in extreme poverty come to school with a myriad of social and emotional issues that teachers have to gently navigate their way through before any teaching and learning can take place in the classroom. Teachers have to build relationships with their students and families and establish a rapport with them in order to develop their trust. Mr. Colton made sure he did this with his students and their families before he attempted to academically engage them. He knew it was vitally important to his success to get to know his kids first. Because he did this, his experience, thus far, has been successful. He has developed strong, positive relationships with his students and their families allowing him to not only address his students' social and emotional needs, but their academic needs as well. Mr. Colton differentiates and modifies his lessons and activities to accommodate of all his students. He has humbly sought out mentor teachers in the building to support and guide him in an attempt to strengthen and hone his skills as a teacher new to this area. I am proud of him for seeking the support in a profession where new teachers may feel a sense of isolation especially in an autism classroom. His commitment to his students and his craft make him an outstanding candidate to fill a position in your school district.

With that being said, I strongly recommend Mr. Brian Colton for a position in your school district. He has established himself as a dedicated, effective teacher at our school. I am confident that he will fully embrace the families, community, philosophy, and challenges of any school district that is lucky enough to call him one of their teachers.

Best Regards,

Maria Petrosinelli
Assistant Principal