



May 18, 2019

Recommendation for Brian Colton

I had the pleasure of working with Brian Colton as his instructor in two courses. The range of experiences I had with him included the introductory course, ELED 500 Reflections: The Art and Science of Teaching, and the mathematics methods course, ELED 538 Mathematics MAT Seminar. I am confident in offering a recommendation on his behalf.

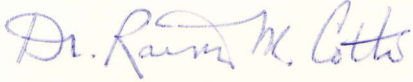
During ELED 500 Reflections: The Art and Science of Teaching, Brian was an avid participant, demonstrating enthusiasm and intelligence in all aspects of the course. The course included assignments in which Brian observed and worked with children, including a classroom observation in which he described evidence of Rhode Island Professional Teaching Standards in classroom practice, and a six-lesson afterschool program that he developed and taught around creating a school newspaper. The afterschool program was very successful and Brian wrote lesson plans that demonstrated his ability to implement instructional models, teaching strategies, and informal assessments that he learned in the course. In addition, Brian presented research on bullying in the classroom to his colleagues, providing them with valuable information, ideas, and resources on this critical topic. Suffice to say, Brian demonstrated strong aptitude in grasping and implementing the course content. He also sought and accepted constructive feedback and was able to use it to enhance his lesson plans.

Subsequent to the introductory course, Brian participated in ELED 538 Mathematics MAT Practicum. Brian was a valuable member of the course, offering his thoughts and ideas to the benefit of his colleagues. He did excellent work in co-constructing and teaching a unit on fractions in a fifth-grade classroom. He used manipulatives to model the concepts and assess children's progress, and made changes during lessons as he recognized the need. He used the information he obtained from his assessments to make adjustments to subsequent lessons, an essential skill in today's focus on data-driven instruction, and in fact wrote summative reports of student progress in terms of the unit. Thus, Brian revealed himself to be competent in translating theory into practice, and in implementing the Common Core Standards for Mathematics. Continued experiences teaching will serve to deepen his teaching knowledge and skills, but he is a strong candidate already.

I highly recommend Brian Colton for a position as an elementary classroom teacher. He has demonstrated the knowledge, understandings, skills, and disposition

essential for promoting student understanding and achievement, and clearly considers a focus on individual student needs as critical. It would be my pleasure to discuss his qualifications further. I can be reached at (508) 212-4303.

Sincerely,



Dr. Rainy M. Cotti
Associate Professor
ELED MAT Program