

February 24, 2023

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to express my interest in becoming a TEAM Mentor for the Bristol Public School system. My name is Cassandra Dupre and I am the current Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade Special Education teacher for the Breakthrough program at Ivy Drive School. I have been working in the Bristol Public School system since 2013. For the first two years of my time in Bristol, I worked as a paraeducator in the ASEP program while I pursued my Master's degree in Special Education. While working in the ASEP program, I worked alongside some of the most talented special educators in Bristol who helped guide me every step of the way and lead me to my next role as a special education teacher. Once I became eligible, I applied for, and accepted the GOAL teacher position at Mountain View School working with Kindergarten through 2nd grade students. Again, I was supported and encouraged by some of Bristol's greatest educators in all different roles for over four years as I continued to gain knowledge and experience. I continued to broaden my skills as a resource teacher on the 8th grade team at Greene Hills following the COVID school closure and navigated virtual learning alongside a team of experienced middle school teachers. Finally, I returned to teach in the Breakthrough program as the district worked together to bring all GOAL classrooms together in one building to create a new and improved program and experience for our students in Bristol as the Breakthrough program.

To this day, I continue to feel encouraged and supported by the experienced staff of the Bristol Public Schools. I feel incredibly blessed to have been heavily supported in my earliest years of teaching by teachers, principals, support staff, and mentors and would love to be able to help foster the same support to new and upcoming teachers aspiring to gain the same knowledge and experience I did just ten years ago. In my time of teaching as a special educator, I have acquired important and necessary skills in the following areas:

- Effective and consistent communication between home and school
- Prepare and differentiate enticing lessons following district grade level curriculum
- Collaborate with colleagues in both general education and special education

I would truly be honored to be trained as a TEAM mentor for the upcoming school year. With my experience as a special education teacher in a self-contained program, I feel that my position offers a different perspective of the special educator's role along with a diverse set of strategies and approaches towards educating students with special needs. Students in the Breakthrough program have been most successful with clear, concise and predictable instruction and programming; however, the most important piece of being a successful educator overall, is forming relationships with students. If there is one thing I would like to stress as a mentor teacher, it is simply the fact that getting to know and taking an interest in students is one of the key ways to educate students successfully. I look forward to continuing my work with some of Bristol's future educators.

Thank you for considering me for this opportunity,

*Cassandra Dupre*

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