To whom it may concern,

I'm writing this letter to state my interest in being trained as a mentor/cooperating teacher for Bristol Public Schools. I know how important my mentor was to me as a new teacher and the support I was given was immensely helpful in shaping me into the educator I am today. I wish to support new educators/student teachers as I have been supported. I feel that this program is vital to creating strong, successful Bristol educators and I can't wait to work collaboratively. After reviewing the job summary and discussing with other Bristol TEAM mentors, I believe I am a qualified candidate.

I have taught in Bristol for 8 years and believe that I am qualified to aid educators in being successful in their new career. I have worked closely with multiple student interns and supported them in accomplishing their goal of becoming an educator. I have also supported multiple teammates in navigating their new roles as educators. I strive to be both a leader and a cooperative teammate within my third grade team. I am on the South Side SLT and work closely with my administration to provide professional development for my school on equity and engagement.

I am a lifelong learner and have recently received my graduate degree in Literacy Instruction. I am always willing to engage in continuous professional learning to impact instruction and student growth. For example, I implemented a new educational practice using vertical learning spaces and randomized grouping to optimize student discourse and collaboration between peers during IM lessons. I then worked with my team to help them implement this new learning in their classrooms.

I am able to offer years of experience in both third and fifth grade, as well as working with students across the school in Enrichment and science activities. I am the school Enrichment coach and the science leader. I work closely with the Enrichment students running the Odyssey of the Mind program, Chess Club, and Invention Convention. Each year I lead the South Side STEAM Day committee where I work closely with a team of staff members to provide STEAM Day activities and lessons for the entire school.

In addition to the above qualifications, I have an excellent combination of communication and listening skills to support new teachers as they traverse their role as an educator (or student teacher) in Bristol. I am confident that I will be able to provide a student or beginning teacher with the knowledge and skills to be successful in this career.

Thank you for considering my application as a TEAM mentor teacher.

Leandra Ferony South Side School Third Grade