



BRISTOL EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL

632 KING STREET
BRISTOL, CONNECTICUT 06010
TELEPHONE: (860) 584-7876 FAX: (860) 584-4886

Mr. Michael Higgins

Principal

Mr. Jeremy Gervais

Assistant Principal

Mrs. Melanie Vetrano

Assistant Principal

March 21, 2022

To the TEAM Coordinating Committee:

My name is Rebecca McElwee and I currently teach English at Bristol Eastern High School. While I have taught various electives and levels in my eighteen years at BEHS, I currently instruct Accelerated English 3 and AP Language and Composition students. I write to you today because I wish to be trained as a TEAM mentor and cooperating teacher so that I can support the next generation of aspiring teachers.

Approximately nine years ago, I received TEAM training, which enabled me to mentor two student-teachers, one of whom was hired by the district and is currently teaching at Bristol Eastern. Unfortunately, I did not attend refresher training because my teaching assignment was not conducive to hosting a student teacher. I regret not maintaining my certification as a TEAM mentor, however, as I believe I can offer burgeoning educators the support they need to progress in the profession.

Any mentee would benefit from my nearly two decades worth of experience, as well as from my hard-working example. My professional evaluations have never earned below proficient (in some years I have even earned exemplary ratings) and I have been invited to share instructional practices during professional development sessions at various points in my career. Furthermore, I have garnered a reputation for being meticulous in my practice because I regularly self-assess and improve upon my instruction, never teaching the same novel in the same way two years in a row. These habits have prompted me to volunteer for curriculum revision work with the Office of Teaching and Learning on numerous occasions, both in the past when Connecticut adopted Common Core and in the present as we are undergoing a paradigm shift in the humanities. Therefore, I would be able to facilitate reflective practices for any teacher or student-teacher placed under my guidance. My work on committees preparing professional development for teachers this past summer coupled with my current work with the school's culture and climate team would also inform my work with any mentee, allowing me to lead new teachers to consider not only the way they deliver the curriculum but the way they promote social emotional learning.

Overall, I feel that my previous experience as cooperating teacher, my professional reputation, and my participation in various district endeavors qualify me for TEAM training. Please accept my application and allow me to give back to the teaching profession.

Sincerely,
Rebecca McElwee