

January 3, 2012

To Whom it May Concern
Re: Elizabeth Hooper

I write to highly recommend Elizabeth Hooper as a teacher of people with special needs or learning disabilities. Ms. Hooper worked with our daughter from kindergarten through second grade at Jefferson Elementary School in Berkeley, CA. At all times, we found Ms. Hooper to be a naturally gifted teacher who offered her students exceptionally skilled and caring support and approached her tasks with diligence and intelligence. She made astute diagnostic observations about our daughter's learning issues and came up with individualized tools and adapted assignments to enhance our child's motivation and ability to learn efficiently. When tools did not exist, she created them. When paths appeared blocked by bureaucratic priorities, Ms. Hooper smoothed the way

Ms. Hooper has a beautiful singing voice that kept our daughter entertained while learning. She really felt Ms. Hooper's warmth and kind spirit. Her energy and genuine care led to building our daughter's self-esteem, independence and self-confidence. Our son, who often had the opportunity to observe Ms. Hooper and other teachers who worked with our daughter, put it this way. Ms. Hooper stands out as a teacher because she not only tells the child that they can do something, she believes it!

Our daughter continues to rely on the alphabet and phonic building blocks that Ms. Hooper designed specifically for her individual style of learning. Her behavior issues at school were significantly improved by Ms. Hooper's tracking of negative behavior triggers and proposal for avoiding antecedents. We still rely on those suggestions at school and at home.

Ms. Hooper sets high expectations for students and their families. She engages in collaborative decision-making to determine the focus of individual needs and priority for development. She uses positive research-based best practices. In short, Ms. Hooper has the training, experience, skill and natural aptitude to help people reach their potential.

Feel free to contact me with any questions. (510) 524-5949.

Sincerely,


Michele Mack Liedeker and Micah J. Liedeker

Berkeley Unified School District

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May 12, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with a mixture of sadness and pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Beth Hooper ~ sadness in the loss of a splendid, caring, teacher and pleasure in the opportunity to share with her a tiny bit of the value she has brought to our district and the Full Inclusion Program. I have had the pleasure of working with Beth for the past three school years in her capacity as a full inclusion teacher at two different school sites and case manager for students with significant needs. Beth's attention to individual student needs, the family component and her collaboration with staff and families have made her an invaluable asset to this program.

Beth has a sense of purpose that is driven by a value system placing collaboration, accountability and community at the forefront of each interaction I have had with her. She has been an accommodating, thoughtful trainer of adult aides in learning the skills needed to work with specific students and their individual needs. She works to incorporate each new person into the fabric the whole school and away from student dependency. Beth works to guide students and staff to operate as a team not merely individual students with individual instructional assistants. Her basic philosophy never varied. Clearly the dignity and respect of the individual has been of utmost importance. When working with a non-public agency, Beth works diligently, faithfully, willingly and successfully with that agency to incorporate the new staff into the school community, while maintaining her authority over the program. Beth also works to address District goals in terms of efficient use of resources always with an eye to student achievement.

The students Beth works with have significant needs – social, behavioral and emotional, not to mention academic challenges. Beth's superb organization, quiet caring and calm acceptance of students as individuals while monitoring and correcting inappropriate behaviors, enable students to progress on all fronts. Furthermore, Beth's skill and sensitivity, coupled with her high expectations for students with challenges, make a remarkable difference between dignified accommodation and punitive discipline. Beth's high academic expectations serve to alert parents and students to capitalize on abilities and help students strive for their potential.

Beth is a kind, caring, flexible teacher who will work to ensure success for all students, even in the face of adversity. Furthermore, she will do it willingly and graciously. Beth Hooper is, above all, a team player – and her team encompasses staff, students and peers. She is a team player who is not afraid or unwilling to discuss hard questions at a conference, IEP or staff meeting. Beth works to develop equity and teamwork. Her respect for student differences and challenges is borne out in her development of lesson plans, modifications and accommodations. Her understanding and accommodation of students with a variety of special needs allows for equitable performance and pride of accomplishment in students who have frequently experienced failure and lowered academic expectations.

Beth is a professional who searches for solutions and is not afraid to ask questions. When given a difficult situation, such as a litigious parent, she will address the situation with dignity and respect and with an eye to solutions and collaborative problem-solving, not complaining.

Beth is open to constructive criticism and enthusiastically engages in discussions about the handling of specific situations and options for alternative actions and reactions. Beth Hooper will be a valuable asset to any team with the foresight to hire her. Beth Hooper has my wholehearted recommendation for any teaching or teacher-leader position she applies for.

If you have any further questions, or if I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elaine M. Eger".

Elaine M. Eger, M.S.

Program Supervisor

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BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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PRINCIPAL
Kristin Collins

SUPERINTENDENT
William Huyett

May 20, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Beth Hooper has worked at Berkeley Arts Magnet School during the 2010-2011 school year as education specialist (moderate-severe). During her time at BAM, Ms. Hooper has demonstrated exceptional professionalism as an educator. She excels in all areas of the California Standards for the Teaching Profession. She has collaborated with classroom teachers to provide the best full inclusion practices, and she has accelerated implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention Supports at our school. I am dismayed that she is leaving Berkeley next year.

Ms. Hooper has effectively supported students in both the classroom setting and in the Learning Center. Ms. Hooper consistently establishes IEP goals for students that align with standards; sets measureable objectives; develops appropriate learning activities to help students meet the objectives; and uses valid assessment tools to measure progress. In addition, she is collaborative with teachers, and partners effectively with them to support students in the general education classroom.

Ms. Hooper is an excellent coordinator of services and personnel. Teachers, families and para-professional staff respect and like her, and she has maximized our limited resources through creative and systematic planning. As a result, students, families and staff are supported and student learning is improved. She has built positive relationships with many of our families who previously did not feel trust with the school.

She has been a valued resource for developing behavior interventions across the school. I can count on Ms. Hooper to analyze presenting behaviors, and support adults to understand and implement more effective responses to those behaviors. She has helped us develop many behavior plans that are simple and effective. She

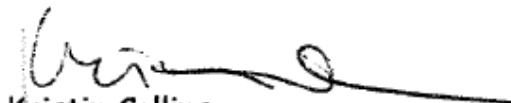
has done this quietly and efficiently, and teachers feel supported by her as they see positive outcomes for their students.

Ms. Hooper has made a significant contribution to my own understanding of the social-emotional needs of students, and as a result, has helped me be a better principal for our school.

Ms. Hooper is a pleasure to work with. She adapts well to changes and surprises, remains calm and effective even in times of great stress, focuses on outcomes for students, and maintains accurate documentation of her work. She is a "can do" person - the kind of person you want on your staff.

She will be an asset to any school, and I only wish that she was remaining at Berkeley Arts Magnet School next year.

Sincerely yours,



Kristin Collins