

Hollister School District

Lonna Martinez, Director Educational Services

2690 Cienega Rd., Hollister, CA 95023
831 630-6324 | martinez@hesd.org

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To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Joy Wenke as she seeks to share her educational expertise through professional development opportunities. I am currently the Director of Educational Services in Hollister School District. Joy has been our trainer in Thinking Maps® and Path to Proficiency for English Learners®, as well as other ELD best practices, for the past 5 years. She has trained close to 300 teachers and administrators in our district. Joy has also facilitated our teachers' understanding of the new CA ELD Standards and how they help with the differentiation of instruction. At Principals' requests, she has worked with bilingual parent groups. I have worked closely with Joy over these years, and have been personally able to observe her knowledge of the subject matter, her ability to connect with her audience, and her ability to make the content relevant for each and every teacher, administrator and parent that is in attendance.

Joy's years of classroom experience in various grades serve her well. Many of our teachers have remarked on her ability to bring the topic at hand to their particular grade levels and make it practicable. Our Kindergarten teachers have especially valued Joy's knowledge around the development of early literacy and learning skills. She has worked with our Peer Coaches in the use of Thinking Maps to ensure effective support.

Joy has a wide network of districts with which she has worked, and has facilitated opportunities for collaboration between Hollister staff and staff from other districts. Many teachers and administrators from HSD have visited other schools to see best strategies in action, and have shared training opportunities at the coaching and leadership levels.

As Joy's resumé shows that she has a wealth of knowledge, experience and skills that make her a well-rounded candidate for a consultant position. Her ability to work with others is apparent in her rapport with staff, and her communication skills in English and Spanish allow her to reach more parents. Joy's passion for equity in education for English Learners is evident. She is undoubtedly a qualified candidate as a consultant in the area of educational professional development. For further reference or clarification, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lonna Martinez

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