



July 3, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of the Curriculum Leadership Institute (CLI).

Our district has worked with CLI for over four years to connect with district leaders and teachers at the elementary, junior high, and secondary levels to implement a system of aligning curriculum, instruction and assessment. This work began with the development of a district curriculum community council and a long-range plan. The work then merged into the creation of subject area committees which allowed representatives from various grade levels to have a voice in the decisions impacting their classrooms. We have experienced many celebrations along the way to include the alignment of curriculum, improved academic culture and increased student performance.

Initially, the development of a long range plan guided many actions within in our district and was utilized as a communication tool for stakeholders. Through this document, we were able to guide teachers through visualizing the long term plan for each content area in addition to knowing when resources would be allocated and assessments developed. Our plan focused on supporting our highest areas of need and were aligned to state reviewed standards so that all processes were in sync. Department directors and administrators also commented that they had a clear vision of being able to support the implementation whether it was at the financial level or the building level.

Through the success of this endeavor during our first year, we invited CLI back a second year to support the district roll-out of these same instructional processes with additional content areas. We began to notice that as a district, staff were having common conversations and planning lessons aligned to their standards. Having a transient student population, this work was especially critical in keeping all components aligned whether it was the map, pacing guides or assessments to measure proficiency. In addition, this work directly impacted the culture of our district which is now focused on a viable curriculum with shared knowledge from classroom to classroom.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that all of these efforts led to increased student proficiency within our district! During the timeframe that CLI has supported our district, we saw double-digit increases on state assessment scores and teachers noted their efficacy in teaching these skills had improved. Our teachers continue to utilize their curriculum maps and create assessments to measure students' proficiency and we are excited to see our students achieve new levels.

Curriculum Leadership Institute is a key factor in the successful development of an aligned system which connects curriculum, instruction and assessment. It provides a voice for stakeholders with a clear vision for moving through the complexities of changing standards. We continue to celebrate the successes of an aligned curriculum, improved academic culture and increased student performance. I would highly recommend Curriculum Leadership Institute as an organization to accomplish these tasks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Wanda Maloney'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wanda Maloney
Chief Academic Officer
Sweetwater County School District #1