

# West Kearns Elementary School

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Heidi Ceballos, I have been a public elementary educator for 14 years in the Salt Lake area of Utah. I had the privilege of having Jenna Smith as a student teacher in my classroom for the fall of 2022. As her mentor teacher, I am delighted to offer my recommendation and endorsement of Jenna for graduate school programs or an education career.

From the first days that Jenna entered my classroom, she has shown exceptional professionalism and care for my students and her personal growth. Every time I was teaching lessons, Jenna always went the extra mile to help with struggling students and give feedback and support to whoever needed it. She very quickly developed strong positive relationships with my students, and my students know that Jenna cares and respects them. Her strong rapport and care have helped foster a positive and safe environment for all students. There have even been times that I have seen Jenna respond to difficult students in a more patient and constructive way that I think I would have done, and I have learned from her.

I have been especially impressed with how thorough and thoughtful she has been in her preparation for instruction. During her time in my classroom, she planned and completed a full science unit and multiple units in math, social studies, English language arts, and Spanish language arts. She always had fully prepared lessons with all necessary materials ready, as well as complete lesson plans for each lesson to give to her supervisor. Jenna has done a wonderful job with keeping in mind effective engagement strategies, questioning, assessments, and language development in her planning. Her instruction is of the highest quality, and I have given her my full support and trust to teach with the knowledge that my students will achieve proficiency of the required standards. When her regional supervisor came to observe her teaching in Spanish, she told me that it felt like she was watching an experienced teacher, and that Jenna's engagement made it fun to watch how the students were responding and learning.

One of Jenna's greatest strengths, in my opinion, is her professionalism and commitment to her education. It has been very clear from the beginning that Jenna did not only want to complete her assignments to graduate, but she has a strong intrinsic desire to improve her skills as an educator and continually develop and improve. She has been very thoughtful and reflective in her progress, and I have seen her being very intentional in setting goals for herself and improving. It was very easy for me to give her feedback after her instruction; she always listened openly and applied any suggestions or feedback that I shared. She took all our professional developments seriously and with the objective to learn from others. I absolutely believe that Jenna's growth mindset in her career puts her miles ahead of many current teachers, as she is always willing to learn and makes very concrete and evident progress. She also has been outstanding at arriving on time every day and attending other necessary meetings or events outside of contract time.

I know that Jenna will very quickly become an asset and leader in any position she accepts, and that she will work well with other teachers, administrators, and coaches. I fully recommend Jenna for future graduate school programs or teaching positions, and I look forward to seeing what she accomplishes in her future.

Sincerely,  
Heidi Ceballos  
West Kearns Elementary School

