

Letter of Recommendation

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pride and full confidence that I write this letter of recommendation for [REDACTED] as she applies for the position of Superintendent of Education. I have had the privilege of knowing [REDACTED] throughout her life through a close family relationship, and I can speak personally to the strength of her character, her leadership qualities, and her unwavering commitment to integrity and service.

From an early age, [REDACTED] has displayed an exceptional sense of responsibility, compassion, and purpose. Her natural leadership is matched by her ability to listen, reflect, and act with wisdom — qualities that are essential for anyone entrusted with the oversight and advancement of an educational system. She carries herself with professionalism and grace, treating others with respect while holding herself to the highest standards.

While I may not have worked directly with [REDACTED] in a professional capacity, I have witnessed her dedication to education and her passion for making a difference in the lives of students, educators, and the broader community. She is both principled and practical — someone who leads by example and inspires those around her.

I believe that [REDACTED] would bring vision, integrity, and a deep sense of purpose to the role of Superintendent of Education. She has my highest personal recommendation.

Sincerely,
Joy Grimmer

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ed.S., M.S.
Bilingual Educational Leader | Former CCSD Principal
[REDACTED]

July 6, 2025

Lisa Ford
Interim Deputy Superintendent, Student Achievement Division
Nevada Department of Education
700 E. Fifth Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Ms. Ford,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic interest in serving as Nevada's next **State Superintendent of Public Instruction**. As a long-time Nevadan, a CCSD principal, and a conservative education reformer, I have spent 26 years turning bold ideas into measurable gains for students. Governor Lombardo's **Nevada Accountability in Education Act** and the Board's **STIP 2030** targets demand an executive who understands the urgency of our moment and the uniqueness of "the Nevada Way." I am that leader.

Throughout my career I have:

- Driven **double-digit proficiency growth** by coupling the science of reading with real-time data analytics.
- Closed teacher-vacancy gaps through **Grow-Your-Own** residencies, licensure fast-tracking, and incentive stipends aligned to the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan (PCFP).
- Believed in championing **parental choice**—partnering with charter, magnet, homeschool, and virtual-school leaders to ensure every family can find the right fit.
- Managed more than **\$3 million** in federal and state grants with clean audits and transparent dashboards that taxpayers can trust.

Nevada is poised to leap forward: historic funding, bipartisan momentum, and a governor who shares my conviction that **student outcomes—not systems—come first**. I would welcome the opportunity to lead the Department in delivering on that promise.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to discussing my candidacy.

Respectfully,

Stephanie T. Auclair, Ed.S., M.S.

Mindy Pretner
Former CCSD Administrator / Parent

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

July, 5th 2025

Search Committee
Nevada Department of Education
700 E. Fifth Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Members of the Search Committee:

I am writing to offer my strongest and most enthusiastic recommendation for [REDACTED] Auclair for the position of State Superintendent of Schools for Nevada. I have known and collaborated with [REDACTED] in multiple capacities—as a parent of a gifted child, as a fellow school administrator, and in my role in the central office. Across all these perspectives, she has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, instructional insight, and heartfelt advocacy for children and educators.

As a parent of a highly gifted learner, [REDACTED] was both resourceful and committed. My child thrived under her guidance—through differentiated learning plans, creative classroom challenges, and compassionate support. [REDACTED] proactive approach ensured that intellectually advanced students were engaged, inspired, and given opportunities to push their academic limits.

In her role as a school administrator and colleague, [REDACTED] was a beacon of collaboration and best practice. She routinely shared innovative instructional strategies, mentored teachers, and fostered a culture of reflective teaching. Her influence was evident in elevated teacher performance, more dynamic classroom instruction, and an environment where educators felt motivated to continually improve.

From a central office perspective, [REDACTED] stood out as a tireless advocate for special education students. She challenged systems to be more equitable, working diligently to ensure individualized instruction and appropriate supports were in place. [REDACTED] consistently prioritized access—encouraging stakeholders to view special education not merely as a program, but as a fundamental component of educational excellence.

Additionally, [REDACTED] background as a licensed marriage and family therapist brings an

invaluable lens to her leadership. She is attuned to the mental-health needs of both students and staff, and integrates trauma-informed practices into her approach. Her ability to foster wellness, build trust, and support resilience makes her uniquely qualified to guide our state's schools through increasingly complex emotional and psychological challenges.

In summary, [REDACTED] embodies the qualities Nevada needs in its next State Superintendent: visionary leadership, unwavering advocacy for equity, deep instructional knowledge, and a compassionate, mental-health informed approach. I wholeheartedly recommend her for this position and am confident she will make a profound impact on education statewide.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or for further discussion.

Warm regards,

Mindy Pretner
Former CCSD Administrator / Parent

[REDACTED] Ed.S., M.S.
Bilingual Educational Leader | Former CCSD Principal | Marriage-&Family Therapist
[REDACTED]

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Battle-born educator with 26 years of K-12 leadership and classroom experience in Nevada, including three years as an elementary principal and 13 years as an assistant principal in urban Title I schools. Proven record of closing achievement gaps, managing multi-million-dollar budgets, and building cross-sector coalitions that advance school choice, early literacy, and workforce-ready pathways. Knowledge of Nevada statutes, Pupil-Centered Funding Plan, federal programs, and the newly adopted STIP 2030 roadmap.

CORE LEADERSHIP COMPETENCIES

- Systems-Level Strategic Planning • Data Dashboards & Accountability
- Educator Pipeline (Grow-Your-Own), Fast-Track Licensure) • Early Literacy & Multilingual Learners
- Budget & Grant Stewardship (ESSER, Title I, IDEA) • Crisis-Ready Safety / SEL-MTSS
- Community & Legislative Relations; Expert Public Testimony

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

- **18 % drop in teacher vacancies** at Warren ES by creating UNLV Grow-Your-Own residency + bilingual para bridge (2021-23).
- Implemented academic and literacy programs. Increased **Gr 3 ELA 7 pts** in two years across three high-needs campuses.
- Managed **\$3 M+** in strategic & relief funds; redirected \$750 K to high-dosage tutoring, cutting chronic absenteeism 32 → 23 %.
- Built **Title I** tech & PD budgets—\$70 K (Fine ES) and \$120 K (Neal ES)—to modernize instruction district-wide.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Principal, Warren ES, CCSD | 2021-2023

Led 110 staff / 680 students; Utilized data cycles moved campus ★★ → ★★★. Launched attendance nudges + tele-health counseling, dropping absenteeism 9 pts.

Assistant Principal, CCSD (Fine, Neal, Frias, Hayes ES) | 2008-2021

Oversaw curriculum, Title I budgets, safety; mentored 60+ novice teachers—15 advanced to admin roles.

Literacy & GATE Specialist & Teacher, Roger Bryan ES | 1997-2008

CCSD “Teacher of Excellence” (2004); piloted Singapore Math & Reading Recovery.

Marriage & Family Therapist Intern, Live Happy Counseling | 2018-2021, 2023-Present

Deliver tele-health therapy; design trauma-informed practices applicable to school settings.

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

Ed.S., Educational Leadership — Nova SE University | M.S., Marriage & Family Therapy — UNLV
M.Ed., Curriculum & Instruction (Math) — UNLV | B.S., Education — Univ. of Houston-Clear Lake
Nevada Professional Administrator License | K-8 & K-12 Literacy, GATE, EL Teacher Licenses

Battle Born & Future-Ready: A Four-Pillar Vision Plan for Nevada's Public Schools (2025-2030)

1 | Literacy by Grade 3 — Every Child on Track

- Expand **science-of-reading** coaching statewide and embed “read-to-succeed” routines in every K-3 room.
- Deploy **AI progress-monitoring** so teachers close skill gaps within 48 hours.
- **Target:** lift Grade-3 ELA proficiency from $\approx 43\%$ $\rightarrow \geq 55\%$ by 2030.

2 | Great Educators in Every Classroom

- Drive teacher vacancies **below 3 %** by 2028 through Grow-Your-Own residencies, fast-track reciprocity and stipends pegged to impact, not tenure.
- Increase use of **Nevada Teacher Corps** to help fill vacancies and spread best practice across urban, rural and virtual settings.

3 | Choice, Accountability & Transparent Results

- **Right-size CCSD:** convene a 2025 task force to craft 2027 legislation splitting Clark County into **3–5 regional districts** (≤ 100 K students) that share back-office services but answer to local boards—mirroring gains in Memphis-area municipal districts and Louisiana’s Zachary Community Schools, which vaulted into the state’s top five after breaking away.
- Roll out **SB 460 dashboards** linking every education dollar to student growth and letting families compare district, charter, magnet and virtual options in one click.
- **Turnaround clock:** schools rated ★/★★ two straight years get intensive support; if metrics stall, governance, staffing or model must change.
- **Parent & student responsibility:** enforce Nevada truancy law—habitual truancy triggers $\leq \$100$ fine & service; repeat offenses climb to \$200 and possible misdemeanor charges—and apply a zero-tolerance anti-bullying code with investigations launched within 24 hrs and mandatory consequences for repeat aggression toward peers or staff.

4 | Portrait of a Nevada Learner — College, Career & Civic Ready

- Align **CTE pathways** with Nevada’s growth sectors (advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, hospitality tech).
- Require every high-schooler to complete a **Career-Readiness Milestone** (industry credential, apprenticeship or dual credit).
- Integrate financial literacy, **AI ethics** and constitutional civics throughout K-12.

Cross-Cutting Enablers

- **Data & AI:** Modernize the statewide longitudinal data system and give families live dashboards for attendance, grades, and per-pupil spending.
- **Family Compacts:** Establish city–school attendance pacts supported by business-sponsorships and faith-based tutoring corps.
- **Fiscal ROI:** Tie every new education dollar to a STIP-2030 metric and publish quarterly public ROI scorecards.

Uniting rigorous academics, empowered educators, true local control and clear lines of responsibility will ensure **every Nevada student—regardless of ZIP code—graduates Battle Born and globally prepared. I am ready to lead that charge.**