



Success for Students, Inc.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Dr. Scott Rudes. I have had the pleasure of knowing Scott for the past 15 years and watching him work with students, teachers, parents and the broader community as he collaboratively seeks to improve student outcomes.

Dr. Rudes is a product of Hillsborough County Public Schools. Born in Tampa, he attended schools at all three levels and is a proud graduate of Bloomingdale High School. After completing his undergraduate degree, he returned to Bloomingdale where he served as Director of Orchestras and Assistant Director of Bands for eight years. In 2004, he was appointed to the position of Assistant Principal for Student Affairs at Bloomingdale.

I came to know Scott during his time at East Bay High School as Assistant Principal for Curriculum in 2006. He was instrumental in moving the school from a letter rating of "D" to "B" in one school year. After two years in this position, I selected him to lead the magnet program at Howard W. Blake High School in Tampa. Following success in this position, I was pleased to recommend him for the principalship at Orange Grove Middle Magnet School of the Arts.

During his time at Orange Grove, Scott led several curricular initiatives. Over his three years as principal, the school piloted the Literary Design Collaborative, an innovative approach to teaching critical thinking through reading and writing. His school adopted the AVID program and assisted many first-generation college students on their journey to post-secondary success. He was also recognized by the Broadway Educator League for his commitment to an arts-integrated approach to learning.

Since that time, Scott has continued to impact the education of young people as principal of the renowned Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas, TX. Over the last decade, he has continued to implement curriculum redesign for his school. As President of the International Arts Schools Network, Scott has leveraged his experience and leadership to impact schools on a global scale.

In my role as his former superintendent as well as a board member for the MagnetSchools of America, I am proud of what he does for students each and every day.



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While it was difficult to see him leave his hometown of Tampa, I never questioned that he would go on to do great things. I am pleased that he is currently pursuing higher levels of leadership, as we are desperately in need of the next generation of leaders to think boldly and creatively about the challenges we are facing in education today.

Scott's experience in rural, suburban, and urban settings in two of the largest school districts in the country make him an ideal candidate for your position. I give him my highest recommendation. Please reach out to me with any questions about this outstanding educator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "MaryEllen Elia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "MaryEllen" on the first line and "Elia" on the second line, which ends with a short horizontal line.

MaryEllen Elia