



June 10, 2024

Dear Search Committee,

I am pleased to provide this letter of recommendation for my colleague, Dr. Scott Rudes. Dr. Rudes and I have served in Dallas ISD since our very first day in the district in 2013. It has been a pleasure to watch him grow as a leader and witness the impact he has on our students each and every day.

I had the opportunity to work with Scott as a principal colleague during my years as the principal of the School for the Talented and Gifted in Dallas ISD. I found him to be an exceptional principal, deeply committed to improving outcomes for all students and willing to tackle the hard problems. He was a leader and influencer among our group of principals and willingly gave his time and talents to help develop others. His creative approach to problem solving and ability to bring together different groups of stakeholders to support our kids is inspiring and served to push us all to a higher level of achievement.

In 2019, I became a Dallas ISD Trustee and, in this new role, I have continued to be impressed by Scott's courage and leadership during challenging times. He created a "Closing the Opportunity Gap" program at his school to open new pathways for students to pursue their aspirations in the arts. His commitment to our students was clearly evident when he traveled over 1500 miles during an 8-day period to hand deliver diplomas to the Class of 2020 during COVID. Scott is a visionary leader who never loses sight of our purpose in education – the well-being and success of our students. All our students.

As an Executive Director in Academic Services, Dr. Rudes has dedicated himself to pursuing new outcomes for our students in the areas of JROTC, Computer Science and Technology, and the Visual & Performing Arts. His work around programmatic equity has led to shifting resources in these areas to support the work where it is critically needed in our district. We have been fortunate to have his expertise in the department during a critical time of transition.

I am confident that Dr. Rudes will serve your students well and continue to lead with vision, dedication, and compassion. I will be deeply saddened to see him leave Dallas, but any district that is lucky enough to get Dr. Rudes, will be thankful! Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions concerning this outstanding educational leader.

Best,

Ben Mackey  
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Former Principal, School for the Talented & Gifted  
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