



To whom it may concern:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Derrick Hopkins for the general education position he is seeking in your district. I have had the pleasure of working with Derrick in different capacities in the 15 years I have known him. Personally, and professionally, I can tell you that Derrick is a reliable and valued teacher.

Derrick has exceptional work ethic. Derrick has excellent classroom management skills and thoroughly enjoys teaching. He has a creative mind and thinks outside the box. He has an outgoing, upbeat personality and develops rapport with students, colleagues and parents that is characterized by mutual respect. I have observed him in many school meetings, and extra-curricular activities and I am always impressed by his flexible and positive approach to parents and students.

Derrick possesses many special skills that are necessary for teaching children and adults of different age and ability levels. He is energetic, dedicated and continually goes the extra mile for all students. He is organized, communicates effectively with his colleagues, and provides quality instruction to students. Derrick embraces technology and currently runs his districts I-Ready program. I have enjoyed working with him in my new role of providing professional development and technical assistance to Willsboro.

Derrick was an ELA instructional coach for CVES when Common Core was originally rolled out. He worked with 6 districts to provide support and technical assistance to these districts about Common Core Standards and instruction. He was a go-to for so many teachers (including me) and administrators. This position also provided access to a large amount of professional development around teaching and instruction which Derrick turn-keyed to other teachers and districts.

Derrick is a team player who works well with others to get the job done. His easy smile and sense of humor help him make connections with students and families appreciate his sincere warm approach.

Anyone who has attended community theater or school productions will know Derrick as a director and actor. Derrick and I work together on the Board of Directors for Artistry Community Theatre group that is based out of Keeseville. I am not sure how he balances work, family and extra curriculars but somehow, he does it all with ease.

In closing, Derrick is a talented professional with a diverse set of skills that make him a good match for any work place, and it is an honor for me to recommend him. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at 518-420-4921.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Abby Seymour".

Abby Seymour
Special Education Training Specialist
NYSED OSE North Country Regional Partnership