

PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

Jessica Cohen is a Baltimore native and a Baltimore City Public Schools special education teacher. She graduated from the Catholic High School of Baltimore in 1996. Jessica earned her B.S. in education from Towson University in 2001, her M.Ed. from Loyola University in 2011, and her Primary Diploma from the Association Montessori Internationale in 2011.

Jessica started her teaching career with Baltimore County Public Schools where she taught third grade. After some time home starting her family, she went back to teaching with the Archdiocese of Baltimore. While teaching in the Archdiocese, she taught second grade, taught primary Montessori, hosted after school clubs for students, participated in curriculum writing for English Language Arts and volunteered for fundraising events. Jessica served as assistant principal for one year before staying home again with her youngest son.

In 2018, Jessica began teaching special education in Baltimore City. As a special educator, along with teaching she also administers formal and informal academic tests, writes academic assessment reports, writes individual education plans, and ensures that those plans are followed. Jessica is a part of the STEM Achievement in Baltimore Elementary Schools Program where she is a teaching coach for her fellow science teachers.

Resume

Jessica Cohen

A. Education

Master of Science: Education

Association Montessori Internationale: Primary Diploma

Loyola University Maryland - 8890 McGaw Road, Maryland 21045 2011

Bachelor of Science: Elementary Education

Towson University - 8000 York Road, Towson, Maryland 21252 2001

B. Certifications

Maryland SPC II (Standard Professional II)

Elementary Education 1-6 & Middle School

Generic Special Education Infant-3/1-8/6-Adult

C. Prior Teaching Assignments, to include Length of Each Assignment

Special Education Teacher

Mt. Royal Elementary Middle School- Baltimore, MD 07/2020-Present

Special Education Teacher

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary Middle School - Baltimore, MD 08/2018 – 06/2020
Assistant Principal

St. Pius X School – 6428 York Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21212 06/2015-07/2016
Primary Montessori Teacher

St. Pius X School - 6428 York Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21212 08/2011 - 07/2016
Second Grade Teacher

St. Clare School - 716 Myrth Avenue, Essex, Maryland 21221 01/2009 - 06/2010
Third Grade Teacher

Fort Garrison Elementary - 3310 Woodvalley Drive, Pikesville, Maryland 21208 08/2002 - 12/2006

D. Leadership and Community Involvement

STEM Achievement in Baltimore Elementary Schools Program Coach 08/2019-Present

E. Awards/Other Recognition

Mt. Royal Elementary Middle Schools Teacher of the Month 09/2021

Personal Statement

By: Jessica Cohen

I am seeking to be elected for the teacher seat on the Maryland State Board of Education. I believe that I am the right person for this position because I have over 14 years of teaching experience in three different school systems teaching grades prek-3 up to eighth grade. My experiences have provided me the knowledge of what all children need to be successful in school. Teaching special education through the pandemic has strengthened my belief in the importance of schools and families working together to meet the needs of students. I plan to help ensure decisions are made to increase educational opportunities are for students as well as for their families.

I have been eager throughout my career to be as closely involved with continuing professional development initiatives as possible. For the last 3 years, I have participated in the STEM Achievement in Baltimore Elementary Classrooms Program. This year, I am serving as a coach for my fellow science teachers. In Baltimore City Public Schools teachers can apply for Model Teacher by creating a "model profile" of artifacts that correlate to the candidate's mastery in four domains including, learner achievement, instruction/support services, developing as a professional, and leadership. I earned Model status in the spring of 2020 and this year I served as a domain session presenter to guide Model candidates as they navigate the Model process, internalize the requirements, and use the Model guidance documents and tools to reflect on their practice. I believe that my current involvement in professional development demonstrates that I would carry out the mission of the State Board to "ensure educator and administrator effectiveness."

Assisting students to realize their full potential has been my passion for as long as I can remember. I have always worked to create a culture of a family within every classroom I have taught in over the years. I dedicate time to creating an environment where children feel safe, comfortable, supported, loved, and respected. It is in this type of environment that true learning happens and where students are willing to take risks to try new challenges. As the teacher member of the board, I would be able to bring this passion into decision making to help ensure that ALL students have access to a world class education.

Serving as the teacher member of the State Board would be a huge honor and I would carry out the responsibilities to the best of my ability.

January 8, 2022

Dear Sir/Madame;

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I submit this letter of recommendation on behalf of Mrs. Jessica Cohen. As principal of Dr. Martin L. King EM School, I have supervised Mrs. Cohen for over 3 years and witnessed her accomplishments both in and out of the classroom. During this time, she has successfully improved the learning experience for scholars with disabilities and contributed to building the capacity of her colleagues. I am inspired by Mrs. Cohen's passion for teaching; as she is always looking for ways to increase academic achievement and support the learning program.

Mrs. Cohen's strengths lie in developing innovative learning experiences and inspiring others to want to learn. She strategically plans lessons to meet the unique needs and interests of her scholars. Opportunities for critical thinking, collaboration and intervention are incorporated to help them master the required skills and ultimately have a positive impact on achievement. Mrs. Cohen is very mindful and strategic about supporting the social emotional learning of her scholars. They have been positively impacted by her patience, innovative techniques and impeccable teaching skills. In fact, Mrs. Cohen's weakness is her inability to turn away from a challenge. She is always willing to take on a new role or additional responsibilities to improve the learning program. She collaborates with her colleagues across grade levels and shares best practices during professional development and planning sessions. Our scholars and staff have benefited greatly from her passion to teach.

In working with Mrs. Cohen, I have observed that she brings a high level of energy and urgency to her work. She is very committed to the vision of the school and continuously fulfills the responsibilities of her role. Mrs. Cohen is very receptive of feedback and immediately adjusts her practice when needed. There is no doubt in my mind that she will exceed the expectations of your agency.

I enthusiastically support Mrs. Cohen's interest in pursuing a seat on the Maryland Board of Education. She is a competent instructional leader and effective planner who aspires to improve education for all students. Mrs. Cohen is a pleasure to work with and would be an asset to the board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel Brunson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rachel Brunson

Principal

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary Middle School #254

January 10, 2022
To Whom it May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Jessica Cohen for the Teacher Seat on the Maryland Board of Education. I am a third year teacher with the Baltimore City Public School district. I came to know Jessica during my first year when we taught at the same school. Jessica immediately took to me—helping me improve my instruction, navigate the school system, and enhance my classroom management and relationship building skills.

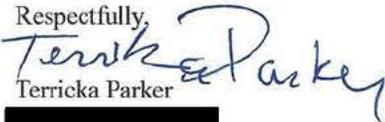
Overall, Jessica is highly intelligent, has great leadership skills, and possesses a great number of admirable qualities. Her work as a special educator demonstrates her ability to connect with students and use data to guide instruction and improve student learning. Her passion for equity in education is very apparent in her classroom as she does her best to provide students with the education they deserve. She holds her students to high expectations, meets them where they are, and encourages them to take responsible risks. These acts of empowerment flow over into her peer relationships as well. She genuinely wants everyone to succeed and will go out of her way to ensure that success.

Additionally, Jessica is of sound character; she is compassionate, creative, optimistic, patient, persistent, resilient, sincere, and has a great sense of ambition. Over the course of these past two years, I have witnessed tremendous growth in Jessica's adaptability and problem-solving. I am certain these cultivated skills will allow her to excel and there is no doubt in my mind that Jessica will be an excellent Board Member.

At a personal level, Jessica is a well-disciplined, industrious teacher with a pleasant personality. She consistently goes well beyond the requirements of her job. Throughout these past two years, Jessica has demonstrated great perseverance and initiative. Not only was she interested in, excited about, and motivated to continue impacting her students while virtual, but she also put great work into ensuring that her students would be able to succeed once back in the classroom. Jessica has all the qualities of a great leader and I am positive that with these skills and character traits would translate well into becoming a valuable board member.

If I can be of any further assistance, or provide you with any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,


Terricka Parker

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From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter of Recommendation
Date: Jan 23, 2022 at 8:18:21 PM
To: [REDACTED]

Jacqueline D. Greeff



Jan, 21,2022

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of recommendation for Mrs. Jessica Cohen-Knight to the State Board of Education as a Teacher Member.

I have known Mrs. Cohen for almost 10 years now and she was my daughter's Pre-K teacher at St. Pius X School. As new parents back then, my husband and I found it difficult to leave our 3 year old at school for the first time but after meeting Mrs. Cohen and talking at length with her, we immediately knew our daughter was in great hands and all our fears and concerns quickly disappeared. She is a caring, trustworthy and a wonderful teacher and we feel very fortunate that she serves in this profession. Mrs. Cohen is genuinely committed to providing high quality education to students and supports their full development. She is focused on serving the school and ensures that every decision and action reflects the best interests of every student. Mrs. Cohen is loved and well respected not just by all parents, but her peers as well. All these great qualities are evidenced by the fact that she was the Model Teacher of Baltimore City Public Schools in June 2021 and Teacher of the Month in October 2021. These are not easy designations to achieve but knowing how dedicated and hard working Mrs. Cohen-Knight is, these awards are well deserved.

Mrs. Cohen will definitely be a valuable Member of the State Board of Education. I trust she will work diligently for each and every student in our school system.

Respectfully,
Jacqueline Greeff