

*Ms. Maria "Sue" Jones*

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To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to serve as a reference for Dr. Marvin H. Jeter, III. For over a decade, I have enjoyed the opportunity to witness his progression in educational administration and leadership. Indeed, he has performed a variety of different roles and has exerted the required effort in each situation to adapt to the expectations and fulfill the responsibilities in remarkable ways.

I began my tenure as superintendent facing one of the longest running desegregation justice decrees in state history. One of my priorities was acquiring funding from the Magnet Schools Assistance Program to support the creation of a bold new program at one of our most challenging sites – Velma Jackson High School. Once we received the grant award, the challenge was to identify someone to lead the program with the academic ability and the public relations skills to make it a reality. Dr. Jeter applied in Madison County School District for administrative employment, and when we interviewed him, it was clear that he was our choice.

While a number of internal issues delayed employment from October, 1998, until April, 1999, once employed, Dr. Jeter had the program back on track in time for the August opening as scheduled. Within the first two months, he had met and finalized floor plans for the major renovations to the facility, completed the bidding process for construction, hired remaining personnel, and ordered all furnishings for three major resource centers aligned to the program – economics, ecology, and eco-culture. Simultaneously, he met frequently with staff and community to begin aligning their efforts and developing the understanding and needs for curriculum and instruction, all while facilitating graduation exercises that included district administration as well as every faculty in regalia for the first time. The energy was contagious, and the community jumped into gear in supportive response to his leadership.

Marvin Jeter has demonstrated similar energy, passion, and focus on improving conditions for learning in every capacity where he has served. He approaches some of the greatest challenges in education with a confidence and fervor that is extremely rare. I have no doubt that he will succeed in every challenge at levels beyond what others may even dream possible, as he is an asset to any organization in which he is involved.

I will gladly be available for any further discussion of Dr. Marvin Jeter's qualifications. Please feel free to contact me should you have questions.

Respectfully,

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