



April 6, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Sarah Ake, and I am an Adjunct Instructor and Field Experience Supervisor for the College of Education. It is with great pleasure that I recommend Sophie for an elementary teaching position. I have supervised Sophie throughout the 2025-2026 academic year as she progressed through our educator candidate program in elementary and early childhood education. Sophie was placed at an elementary school in central Pennsylvania for a wrap-around teacher preparatory experience. She attended her field experience placement in a fourth grade classroom for two days per week in the fall semester and then on a full-time basis in the spring semester of 2026.

A particular area of strength for Sophie is related to assessment and data-driven instruction. She actively worked to deepen her understanding of how to use pre-, formative and summative assessments to guide her teaching. Through thoughtful analysis of student data, she made informed instructional decisions, adjusting her lessons to better meet the diverse needs of her students. This was evident in her design and implementation of multiple unit projects in science, math, and ELA.

Additionally, Sophie demonstrated a strong ability to dive deeply into new curricula. She worked closely with her mentor teacher to carefully review materials and teacher manuals to design effective, standards-aligned lessons that were responsive to student needs. Her planning reflected both attention to detail and a genuine desire to make learning accessible and engaging for all students.

Throughout her experience, she showed meaningful growth in her self-reflection skills. She was open to receiving feedback and learned how to consistently demonstrate a willingness to implement suggestions into her practice. This growth mindset allowed her to refine her instruction and strengthen her professionalism over time. I recommend Sophie for an elementary teaching position within your school system. I believe she will be an asset to your students and staff. Please contact me directly if you have any further questions, sjd5073@psu.edu or 570-850-6440.

Best regards,

Sarah Ake
Adjunct Instructor and Field Experience Supervisor
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