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To Whom It May Concern:

With pleasure I recommend Jessica Bilello to teach secondary English in your district. I enjoyed working with Jessica as her student teaching supervisor as she interned at Fleetwood Middle School and Wilson High School during this past semester. During that time I have noted her strong preparation and content knowledge, rapport with students, and her dedication to professional growth.

Because of her innate intelligence, substantial content knowledge, and strong work ethic, Jessica conscientiously prepared logically structured lessons which she scripted in detail and executed with poise. She paces lessons well and learned to prepare extra activities to extend a lesson if class discussion varied in length from class to class. Enterprising enough to incorporate outside resources, she researched cultural practices during England's Regency period to extend her students' understanding of *Pride and Prejudice*, even including a UTube video of contemporary teens dancing the cotillion, a Regency period dance.

At both the middle school and high school, Jessica extended herself to build rapport with students. I usually saw her engaging a student or small group in conversation before or after class, seizing those few minutes to learn more about the students and build connections. By doing this, and also by maintaining a calm demeanor and sense of humor, she won students' favor, preempting some discipline problems student teachers typically have.

Because Jessica has a passion to teach and desire to grow, she is very coachable. When her cooperating teacher and I asked her to move out of her comfort zone of "tried-and-true" lesson plan templates, she strove to do that, producing lessons that incorporated interactive PowerPoint presentation, student interpretation of theme through writing, drawing, or charting, followed by the students' presentation of their work to the class, and use of internet video as illustration. Achieving success with new ideas increased her self-confidence. Jessica always received constructive criticism willingly and used it to improve her practice.

Jessica is a friendly, likable young woman who demonstrates impeccable professionalism, a positive attitude, and integrity. Her passion to teach will catalyze her growth in the art and science of teaching throughout her career. I wholeheartedly recommend her. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at 610-927-9953 or [cwit125@comcast.net](mailto:cwit125@comcast.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Witmer Yocum".

Cheryl Witmer Yocum, Ed. D.  
Supervisor of Student Teachers