

January 30, 2024

Dear Hiring Team,

I am pleased to write a letter of recommendation for Abbey McCormack. During the 2023-2024 school year, I had the pleasure and opportunity to supervise Abbey as a practicum school psychologist at Kettle Moraine Middle School (KMMS) in the Kettle Moraine School District.

Even though Abbey has spent less than a semester so far this year at KMMS, she completed a wide range of activities. Abbey completed assessments and participated in multiple special education evaluation meetings, worked directly with students in structured behavioral interventions, and consulted with teachers on academic and behavioral concerns.

Abbey served as a team member on a complex initial evaluation including assessments for academic concerns in writing, attention and behavior concerns, and hand-writing concerns. She collaborated with other members of the evaluation team, completed the progress monitoring, academic testing, and rating scales for the evaluation, communicated with parents throughout the process, prepared a written report and presented her results at an evaluation meeting. While all practicum students practice these skills, Abbey demonstrates a skill and comfort level communicating with parents that sets her apart from other early-career school psychologists. Additionally, Abbey's written communication was consistently excellent, both in her written reports and in everyday communications such as emails.

Abbey also gained experience as a direct service provider. She assisted with a Check-in/Check-out intervention for an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, co-facilitated a Study Skills group for 6<sup>th</sup> graders, and co-facilitated an Emotion Regulation group with our school social worker. Capitalizing on her previous experiences as a program director and substitute teacher, Abbey always appeared at-ease when working directly with students. In the planning stages of these groups, Abbey also gained experience using a socio-emotional screening and reviewing results of the SAEBRs for the purpose of identifying students in need of support and designing interventions. Again, Abbey's previous experience, this time in the area of curriculum development was a great asset in selecting engaging activities while still teaching evidence-based strategies. Our social worker shared that Abbey delivered highly engaging lessons and asked through provoking questions during their discussions. Abbey's work in this area during the 1<sup>st</sup> semester was particularly impressive because she had not yet taken her cognitive-behavior therapy class yet. I am confident that with further instruction in CBT and additional opportunities to work directly with students, Abbey will demonstrate exceptional counseling skills, even in her first year as a school psychologist.

While assessments and direct interventions are an important part of a school psychologist's work, even more than these, a school psychologist has to have the skill of working with teachers, often times in tricky situations. Abbey gained valuable practice in this area; collaborating with multiple teaching teams at KMMS. Abbey took on a highly challenging behavior consultation case with a set of teachers who were reluctant to implement an intervention. Abbey demonstrated a high degree of professionalism throughout the process and successfully juggled the competing needs of providing support for the student while being mindful of the competing demands that teachers face on a daily basis. Abbey's handling of this case makes me confident that she will be a school psychologist who advocates for students while also maintaining positive relationships with her colleagues.

Abbey is positive, thoughtful, and has grown into the role of a school psychologist: wearing "many hats" and adjusting to the ebbs and flows of the workload. Abbey came into her practicum year with a wealth of experience working with children and families. I have seen her apply skills from her previous experiences and steadily evolve as she has adjusted her approach to the role of a school psychologist. I believe that Abbey is well on her way to being able to function independently, and with minimal supervision.

Overall, Abbey will be an enthusiastic school psychologist who actively advocates for students. She will proactively work with families and fellow staff members to meet the needs of students. She is an excellent asset for a school district looking for a strong emerging school psychologist.

Please contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allison Beyerl". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Allison Beyerl, M.S.E., Ed.S.  
School Psychologist  
Kettle Moraine School District