

Andrea Messina
Florida School Board Association

I am submitting this letter of extreme interest for the position of Superintendent of Okeechobee County Schools in Okeechobee, Florida. I am currently serving as the Superintendent of Lincoln County for the past 8 3/4 years.

I have been a Superintendent of Schools for nineteen years in Illinois and Georgia. Students are the most important part of any school system. In a small community, this fact is amplified by the individual attention that each student should receive. I am a very involved, hands-on leader that enjoys the personal interaction a small community expects from their leaders.

I am searching for a new challenge in the Superintendent position. My current school district is not aware of this search. Please do not reveal my interest until I am selected as a finalist for the position of superintendent.

Sincerely,



Samuel P. Light, Ed. D.
Superintendent

SAMUEL P. LIGHT

4525 Georgia Hwy. 220 W
Lincolnton, GA 30817
(309) 397-4972

Objective To be employed by an innovative school system, on the cutting edge of curriculum and technology, interested in providing a challenging and positive education to all students.

Professional Experiences

Lincoln County Schools, '15- Present
Increase Reading scores on Milestones by 12 points
Increased Graduation Rate by 12.70 percent
Reached financial goals of + 20% in reserve in 3 years
GSSA Mentor for 3 current Superintendents
GSSA Board of Directors
President's Award from GSSA 2023
Annual Comprehensive Needs Assessment with Community
Community Partnerships Board
Earned over 3 million dollars in grants
Created Mental Health Counseling center
Established Dual Enrollment
Created Prime Time afterschool program
HVAC contract for \$800,000 in High School
Flooring Contract for \$550,000 for entire Elementary School

Sherrard Community Unit School District #200, '14- '15
Superintendent of Schools
Math Night for parents
Negotiated Union Contract for Teachers and Non-Certificated employees
Created Drivers' Education Program

Illini Bluffs Community Unit School District #327, '08- '14
Superintendent of Schools
Bright Star Award of Excellence 2010 & 2012
Purchased Smart Boards for every classroom in the district
Established AIMS Web as a data solution for RTI
Reduced student special education referrals by 45%
Increase reserve fund balance by 3.3 million
Establish Strategic Planning Committee involving community members

Elbert County Public Schools, '05- '08
Superintendent of Schools
Created a Vision, Mission, and 5 years System Improvement Plan
Elbert County Model of Community and School Improvement
Increase Graduation Rate by 6% overall
Reduced Drop out Rate by 9%
Increase first time pass rate by 30% on GHSGT
Middle School removed from Needs Improvement List
GSSA Board Member
Consortium Board Member

Savannah Chatham County Public Schools, '01- '05
Associate Superintendent of Accountability and Assessment
Standards & Grading Committee Member State Department
Student Information System Advisory Committee Member State Department
College Board Partnership Created in Savannah
Largest percentile increases on a Norm Reference Test in history of the district

Duval County Public Schools

Alden Road Exceptional Student Center, Principal, '96- '01
Palm Avenue Exceptional Student Center, Principal, '97- '99
Terry Parker High School, Assistant Principal, '92- '96
Alden Road Exceptional Student Center, Printing Instructor, '88- '92
Arlington Junior High School, Metals Instructor, '86- '88

Education **Nova Southeastern University**, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33329
Ed. D. Educational Leadership: K-12

Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, FL 32211
M.A.T. Educational Leadership: Curriculum Concentration

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL 61920
B. S. Technology Education with Teaching Certification

Limestone High School, Bartonville, IL 61607

Community Parent University
Involvement Rotarian, Fellowship Committee
Adult Sunday School Instructor



Dr. Debbie Alexander
Executive Director

4683 Augusta Hwy., S.E.
Dearing, Georgia 30808
Phone: (706) 556-6225
Fax: (706) 556-8891
www.csraresa.net

A Regional Educational Service Agency for the schools of

BURKE COUNTY
COLUMBIA COUNTY
EMANUEL COUNTY
GLASCOCK COUNTY
JEFFERSON COUNTY
JENKINS COUNTY
LINCOLN COUNTY
MCDUFFIE COUNTY
RICHMOND COUNTY
TALIAFERRO COUNTY
WARREN COUNTY
WILKES COUNTY

4/26/24

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this letter of recommendation for Dr. Samuel Light for Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Light has been the Superintendent of Lincoln County Schools, Lincolnton, GA since 2015. He was formerly Superintendent of the Illini Bluffs Community Unit School District no. 327 in Glasford, Ill., Superintendent of Elbert County Schools, Elberton, GA., and was the Associate Superintendent for Savannah Chatham County Public Schools. Dr. Light's varied leadership experience and training as a principal and an assistant principal at several schools in the Duval County Public School System in Jacksonville, Fl., and educational background in Technology Leadership has allowed him to lead Lincoln County to maintain high student achievement and build positive relationships with community and workforce development to support the advancement of students. This varied experience makes him uniquely qualified to lead your school system and to continue to make student achievement and academic excellence a priority for student success.

Under the leadership of Dr. Light, Lincoln County Schools has achieved grade level reading above the state average with more than 50% of 3rd -8th graders scoring at or above grade level in reading on the Georgia Milestones State Assessments. 42% of seniors earned accelerated learning credits and the district has a 92% graduation rate. In 2020, 45% of graduates enrolled in colleges, and by 2021 college enrollment increased to 66%. With an emphasis on excellence in education, Lincoln County High School was recently named Title I Reward School. Dr. Light has identified excellent district and school level leaders who lead with intention and purpose to support student success across the district. Excellence is his core belief and will guide his work with your students, teachers and leaders if he is selected as your Superintendent.

Dr. Light is a valued member of the CSRA RESA Board of Control, serving as a past Board Chair, and currently chairing the Personnel Committee. CSRA RESA is one of 16 Regional Educational Service Agencies serving the East Region of Georgia where Lincoln County is located. Dr. Light serves as a mentor for our newest superintendents and represents our RESA on the State level to ensure legislation and governmental responsibility to schools. Dr. Light is knowledgeable about school law, and other business acumen, which supports his fellow Superintendents and our agency with his expertise in educational policy and procedures. More importantly, Dr. Light is a man of integrity, holding himself to a high standard of excellence. He is a man of faith, giving of his time and resources to serve his local church, and to missions to serve others in foreign counties. He is a man with a good sense of humor, bringing a smile to others around him. It is my great privilege to recommend Dr. Samuel Light to serve as your Superintendent in your school system. He has served Lincoln County and the CSRA well and will do the same to increase student achievement and successful outcomes for students and families in your school system.

If I can be of further assistance please contact me at 803-215-7868.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Debbie Alexander'.

Dr. Debbie Alexander

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Dr. Samuel Light as a candidate for Superintendent of your school district. I had the pleasure of meeting and working with Dr. Light while I was serving as an officer on the Sherrard School Board. During this time, I not only saw his talents as an administrator, but also his genuine concern for all aspects of the district.

Dr. Light has a remarkable work ethic. Even while under pressure, he kept his spirits up and worked to increase the moral of the district. Dr. Light handles the delicate district relationships with utmost care and empathy and always ensures that all stake holders are informed and treated with respect. Dr. Light is a reliable individual with outstanding loyalty and integrity. He showed this reaching far beyond the requirements of his job. He was always interested in recent developments in our district and kept up-to-date with current events. I have found Dr. Light to be diligent and more than willing to stand up to any challenge he has to face.

If Dr. Light's performance in our district is a good indication of his future performance, he would be an extremely valuable asset to your school district as well. If I can provide you with any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Art Meyers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Art" and last name "Meyers" clearly distinguishable.

Art Meyers
Secretary
Sherrard School Board
309-781-3470
ameyers422@aol.com

March 13, 2013

To whom it may concern:

I have been asked by Dr. Light to write a letter of recommendation for him as he pursues advancement in his career. My name is Dennis M. Brown and I have served on the Illini Bluffs Board of Education for eight years. During those eight years as a board member I have served as the board president for six years. Prior to my being elected to the board I served as the high school principal for ten years in the Illini Bluffs School district.

Dr. Light came to our district from Georgia and in essence was coming back home. His parents lived in Bartonville and he wanted to move closer to them. Oddly when he arrived here to be closer to them they started going to Florida and thus their relationship once again became one necessitating travel.

When Dr. Light began working for Illini Bluffs he came with knowledge of how the schools in Georgia operated especially in the areas of finance and student achievement. Dr. Light immediately began networking and studying how this state handles (or should I say mishandles) its financial assets for public schools. He attended workshops, reached out to neighboring school district superintendents, and contacted the State Board of Education all in an effort to improve his knowledge of Illinois school finance. Dr. Light has done an excellent job of mastering (if that's possible in Illinois) the art of budget construction, establishing the levy, and bringing the school district to solvency while building up our reserves.

Our school district encompasses roughly sixty-three square miles and has a student population of close to a thousand students. It is not uncommon, while visiting the schools, to see Dr. Light calling a great many of the students by their first name. This is especially true of our high school students who look forward to seeing him in the mornings as he conducts his "walk about" at the beginning of the school day. This has contributed to the improvement of our students in the achievement area. Dr. Light has an interest in their working hard in the classroom, and this interest carries over into their home life. While our test scores still have a ways to go before we are happy with them, Dr. Light has made a positive impact. This impact is especially visible in the scores from the elementary and middle school students.

Dr. Light is very personable and has gotten along very well with the parents and the community. His outgoing manner has made it easy for him to approach anyone and truly no-one seems to be a stranger. His work ethic is beyond reproach as he arrives early and stays late. This is not due to his needing to do this to get his job done. Dr. Light is just a hard worker who is thorough in his job performance.

Dr. Light is a friend, and I wish him well as he pursues options to improve on his career within his chosen field. I tried to keep this recommendation short and not write a great deal for you to read thru. This is not due to any short comings on his part; it is due primarily to the fact that length sometimes diminishes the impact of a letter of recommendation. If there is anything else I can provide for you please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at 309-657-1017, or if you prefer to use my e-mail address it is dcndennis1@att.net .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis M. Brown", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dennis M. Brown, Board President

THE NAME OF THE UNIVERSITY IS PRINTED IN WHITE PRINT ACROSS THE FACE OF THIS 8.5 X 11 INCH TRANSCRIPT



Date Issued: 16-JUN-2010
DEGE Final Degree Transcript

Record of: Samuel P Light
21 Sherry Lane
Bartonville, IL 61607

3301 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7796

Page: 1

Issued To: STUDENT
COMPLIMENTARY COPY

Course Level: Doctorate - Ed/Org Leaders

Primary Curriculum
Doctor of Education

College : Fischler Sch Edu/Hum Serv
Major : Educational Leadership

Comments:

Academic Requirements Completed: 03/15/2010

Degrees Awarded Doctor of Education 31-MAY-2010

Ehrs: 66.00 GPA-Hrs: 54.00 QPts: 216.00 GPA: 4.00

Primary Degree

College : Fischler Sch Edu/Hum Serv
Major : Educational Leadership

SUBJ NO.	COURSE TITLE	CRED GRD	PTS R
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INSTITUTION CREDIT:

Summer I 2005

ARO 8411	Research Design and Methods	3.00 A	12.00
EDL 8481	Leadership Appraisal	3.00 A	12.00
Ehrs: 6.00 GPA-Hrs: 6.00 QPts: 24.00 GPA: 4.00			

Fall 2005

ARO 8413	Program Eval. and Policy Anal.	3.00 A	12.00
ARO 8466	Concept Paper: Seminar 1-DEDL	2.00 P	0.00
EDL 9472	Professional Learn Communities	3.00 A	12.00
Ehrs: 8.00 GPA-Hrs: 6.00 QPts: 24.00 GPA: 4.00			

Winter 2006

ARO 8412	Statistical Methods	3.00 A	12.00
ARO 8467	Seminar 2: Proposal - DEDL	5.00 P	0.00
EDL 8443	Leader Comm: Theory & Practice	3.00 A	12.00
EDL 8472	Human Resource Development	3.00 A	12.00
Ehrs: 14.00 GPA-Hrs: 9.00 QPts: 36.00 GPA: 4.00			

SUBJ NO.	COURSE TITLE	CRED GRD	PTS R
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Institution Information continued:

Summer I 2006

EDL 8304	Technology Trends and Issues	6.00 A	24.00
EDL 8431	School Finance	2.00 A	8.00
EDL 8432	School Policy	2.00 A	8.00
EDL 8434	School Law	2.00 A	8.00
EDL 8442	Ethics & Social Responsibility	3.00 A	12.00
Ehrs: 15.00 GPA-Hrs: 15.00 QPts: 60.00 GPA: 4.00			

Fall 2006

ARO 8414	Measurement Testing Assessment	3.00 A	12.00
EDL 8308	Leading A Learning Org.	6.00 A	24.00
EDL 8441	Leadership & Change	3.00 A	12.00
Ehrs: 12.00 GPA-Hrs: 12.00 QPts: 48.00 GPA: 4.00			

Winter 2007

EDL 9480	Reflection & Vision Portfolio	6.00 A	24.00
Ehrs: 6.00 GPA-Hrs: 6.00 QPts: 24.00 GPA: 4.00			

Summer I 2007

ADS 8090	Applied Dissertation Serv I	0.00 PR	0.00
Ehrs: 0.00 GPA-Hrs: 0.00 QPts: 0.00 GPA: 0.00			

Fall 2007

ADS 8090	Applied Dissertation Serv I	0.00 PR	0.00
Ehrs: 0.00 GPA-Hrs: 0.00 QPts: 0.00 GPA: 0.00			

Winter 2008

ADS 8090	Applied Dissertation Serv I	0.00 PR	0.00
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AN OFFICIAL SIGNATURE IS DARK BLUE WITH A BLUE BACKGROUND REJECT DOCUMENT IF SIGNATURE BELOW IS ALTERED

This officially sealed and signed transcript is printed on blue SCRIP-SAFE® security paper with the name of the university printed in white type across the face of the document. A raised seal is not required. When photocopied the words COPY-VOID and the name of the university should appear. A BLACK ON WHITE OR A COLOR COPY SHOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED!

G. Elaine N. Poff, Director of University Registrar's Office

OFFICIAL
ACADEMIC
TRANSCRIPT





GEORGIA EDUCATOR CERTIFICATE

Georgia Professional Standards Commission
200 Piedmont Avenue, Suite 1716
Atlanta, GA 30334-9032

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission affirms that this individual has met the requirements for a Georgia Educator Certificate as indicated.

Samuel Paul Light

4525 GA HWY 220 W

LINCOLNTON, GA 30817

Certificate Number	Date Printed
442697	11/1/2023
Certificate Level	Effective Date
7	7/1/2010

Title/Type Field

Validity Period

SRL EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP - TIER II [FLD710]

07/01/21 TO 06/30/26

The Standard Professional leadership certificate indicates that all requirements for professional leadership certification have been met, including applicable Special Georgia Requirements. The Standard Professional leadership certificate is issued to Georgia educators completing GaPSC-approved educator preparation programs prior to September 30, 2009. It is also issued to educators who meet reciprocity requirements.

C CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE [FLD694]

07/01/21 TO 06/30/26

The Clearance certificate is issued at the request of a the employing Georgia local unit of administration (LUA) to educators who satisfactorily complete fingerprint and background check requirements and do not have a certificate that is currently revoked or suspended in Georgia or any other state. All educators employed by a Georgia LUA must hold a Clearance certificate. There are no academic requirements necessary to qualify for this certificate. All holders of this certificate are subject to the Georgia Code of Ethics for Educators.

Please see the last page for legends and other information

The holder of this certificate is responsible for being knowledgeable about current and revised rules.

Brian Sirmans
Chair

Any alteration of this certificate will render it void

AUTHORITY

This certificate has been issued by the authority granted to the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-200 and conforms to the published rules of the Commission. The rules of the Commission are on file in the offices of the GaPSC, public school systems, teacher education colleges, Regional Educational Service Agencies, the Office of the Secretary of State, and on the GaPSC web site at www.gapsc.com.

LIMITATIONS

The information shown on this certificate is subject to conditions specified in any previous correspondence, documentation accompanying this certificate, and current rules of the Commission. Certification rules are subject to change. The holder of this certificate is responsible for being knowledgeable about current and revised rules and for securing the appropriate certificate to practice in Georgia.

CORRECTION OF CERTIFICATES

Questions about your certificate should be directed to your employer's personnel officer or to the GaPSC. If there appears to be an error on your certificate, please mail or email a letter of explanation to the GaPSC within forty-five (45) days of issuance. An incorrectly issued certificate may be recalled.

DATING OF CERTIFICATES

Effective Date	The effective date of the certificate LEVEL indicates the earliest date (on or after July 1, 1993) the corresponding certificate level is recognized. The effective date may be determined by the date requirements were completed or the date application materials were received.
Validity Period	A validity period is established for each FIELD of certification and varies according to the conditions of issue.
Print Date	The date the certificate is printed has no effect on the validity period or effective date.

CERTIFICATE LEVEL

Each certificate is assigned a general level. This level applies to all fields held by an individual and indicates the GaPSC-determined equivalent of an individual's level of education. A certificate may also be assigned a leader level. The leader level is only applicable when the certificate holder is working in a leadership position. Generally, the certificate level equates to the education degree level completed as follows:

Level 1 - High School Diploma, GED	Level 5 - Master's degree
Level 2 - Associates degree	Level 6 - Education Specialist, MFA, All But Dissertation,
Level 4 - Bachelor	Level 7 - Ph.D., Ed.D, GaPSC-determined equivalent

FIELDS

The certificate field indicates the educational assignment in which the individual is authorized to practice in Georgia. The unique certification field code is enclosed in square brackets at the end of the field name.

CODES

Certificate codes are specific letters which identify particular types and titles of certificates. For descriptions of these certificates and their qualifications, please visit the GaPSC web site at www.gapsc.com.

AP	Advanced Professional	MB	Military Support Provisional
B	Provisional	MS	Military Support
D	Life	SR	Standard Professional
I1	One-Year Induction	W	Waiver
I3	Three-Year Induction	X	International Exchange
I5	Five-Year Induction	AIDE	Non-Instructional Aide
IN	Induction	C	Clearance Certificate
LP	Lead Professional	EI	Educational Interpreter License
N	Non-Renewable Professional	J	Adjunct
NP	Non-Renewable Performance-Based	L	Leadership
N1	One-Year Non-Renewable Professional	P	Permit
N3	Three-Year Non-Renewable Professional	PARA	Paraprofessional
PR	Performance-Based Professional	S	Service
PS	Pre-Service	SP	Support Personnel
SI	Supplemental Induction	T	Teaching
M	Montessori		

References

Jamie Cox

Lincoln County School Board President

1275 Partridge Town Road

Lincolnton, GA 30817

Office 706-359-3053 Cell 706-318-4083

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Executive Director Georgia School Superintendents Association

9 Jefferson Street

Newnan, GA 30263

Office 678-857-3783 Cell 678-382-3856

Dr. Ricky Edmond

Georgia Association of Educational Leaders

850 College Station Road

Room 122, River's Crossing Building

Athens, GA 30602

Office 706-250-4800 Cell 478-456-8829

Dr. Debra Alexander

Executive Director of CSRA RESA

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