



January 23, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in support and endorsement of Dr. Gregory Ross to be selected as Fayette County Public School's next superintendent and lead servant learner. Dr. Ross has demonstrated extraordinary successes in the classroom, at the school administrative level, and as a district/state leader. He exemplifies **leadership empowerment** through his quiet actions and influential voice, which is instilled within his staff members and ultimately represented in each of his student leaders.

I had the great pleasure of first meeting Dr. Ross at the Kentucky Department of Education where he served as the director of next generation professionals and I as a task force member. I was enamored by his ability to lead principals and superintendents in in-depth conversations on professional growth effectiveness and systematic supports that best target educator leadership learning needs. His ability to facilitate on-point discussions and move the outcomes of those discussions to navigate through policy supports and revisions is certainly a honed in skill and gift of his. He valued each of our contributions and had quickly established an environment of leaders who engaged with one another with respect and total focus on the work at hand. Since that opportunity at KDE, Dr. Ross had followed up with me and the work that was taking place at my school – how he was truly “**in the moment**” when he visited and processed:

- what students and teachers were invested to build;
- how the community was engaged in the learning processes;
- where program efforts could be supported by industry and post-secondary ed; and
- how he was going *to serve and best endorse* “the work” to be “systems owned” and scaled.

Who wouldn't value and seek this example of leadership?

As a school leader, Dr. Ross has a wealth of student and teacher data/artifacts that substantiate his impacts. He is a humbled, well-spoken man who loves his profession, but does not see the successes that he's been able to achieve as a lone effort. I have never heard Dr. Ross take credit, or highlight his obvious achievements. He is truly a champion of those who dedicate themselves to serving children, especially children who are disadvantaged, or have fallen through the cracks — in providing them with individualized supports that empower each student to *own their own learning*.

During this time of tremendous challenges within our country and throughout the world, I know that Dr. Ross is equipped to lead, assemble a high-functioning leadership team, partner with the community (not with just surface *get to know you* pleasantries), empower school building leaders and their respective staffs, and ultimately transform the school district in best preparing students to take on headstrong these challenges. It is one of your very own who I believe can take over the helm. Dr. Gregory Ross has the necessary experiences, skills, intellect, faith and know-how to lead Fayette County Public Schools into becoming a school system that has every student and educator value their learning opportunities while broadening their scope of work to impact greater global communities. It comes with no reservation that I highly recommend Dr. Ross to be your next superintendent.

Sincerely,

Ron Chi, Ed.D