



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Thomas R. Bice
 State Superintendent of Education

November 12, 2015

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To Whom It May Concern:

As the Alabama State Department of Education Facilitator for the Alabama Chess in Schools Initiative (ACIS), I was responsible for hiring Jerry Nash to train the teachers for the ACIS pilot schools. I had previously received some training from him as a chess novice; and from that moment, I knew he was the only person who could provide the kind of training we needed for our pilot school teachers. He engages his audiences, is extremely interesting, and has many anecdotal stories to tell, making his trainings a real treat. He is unique as a chess trainer because he makes curricular, personal, ethical, critical thinking, and many other connections with chess, reminding us that chess is not just a game. He is also very talented at putting anxious teachers who do not know how to play chess at ease. Everyone leaves his training feeling smarter and more capable than when they began. Jerry is an inspiration to both the chess world and the world of education!

Nancy J. Johnson

Alabama Chess in Schools Initiative Facilitator
 Alabama State Department of Education