

# Roosevelt School District Staff Development Department



6401 S. 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85042  
ritamartinez1018@gmail.com  
Office: 602.243.2602  
Cell: 480.430.6096

Dr. Jackie Jackson  
SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Jeanne Koba  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Rita R. Martinez  
Staff Development Coach

Debora Moncayo  
Director, Teacher Effectiveness

Mr. Joseph Ortiz  
Director of Community Relations

October 28, 2012

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of reference for ABC Phonetic Reading School (ABCPRS). ABCPRS was a Supplemental Educational Services (SES) provider in the Cartwright School District when I was the principal at Harris Elementary School from 2006-2010. ABCPRS was very motivated to provide an environment for our students to learn essential skills that they missed in their schooling. This tutoring service has an excellent process of assessing students and placing them at their appropriate reading and math level to build their skill base in these areas.

I believe that the most important ingredient in student achievement is the expertise of the teacher—expertise in a myriad of teaching strategies. ABCPRS works diligently to provide its tutors with the best possible reading and math training. ABCPRS willingly assumes responsibility for every child in their care. ABCPRS is an exceptional record keeper and provided us with detailed individual attendance and progress reports for the students in their care. Because of our additional SES support, our school moved from underperforming to performing in the first year its tutors were on our campus. ABCPRS coordinated the tutoring of over 290 students in kindergarten through fifth grade and students make gains of one year or more with this additional support. Our school was 91% poverty and 56% English Language Learners, so we faced many challenges. Harris received a commendation from the Arizona Department of Education for having the most improved reading scores of all K-6 schools in the state of Arizona during the time that ABCPRS was helping us to improve our reading achievement. During subsequent years, our school continued to move up the continuum of improvement due, in large part, to the many students who received tutoring from this school. I studied the results of other vendors, and ABCPRS outperformed the rest. If I had a concern about new enrollees to our school, I knew that ABCPRS would be able to test them and get them in the SES program quickly.

While I was the principal at Harris, we had the services of over 18 other SES providers and ABCPRS was superior to any of these other vendors. ABCPRS is well administered and tends to the needs of those in its care. Their primary focus has always been student achievement and their staff reaches those goals by creating small, manageable groups to assess and meet the needs of below grade level students. Other vendors didn't come close to the level of success ABCPRS tutors made with our students. The administration of this program was exceptional. Students were never found wandering around the campus who were enrolled in this school.

In summary, I would have to say that ABCPRS is very dedicated to student achievement. ABCPRS was an enthusiastic contributor to the success of our after school program, knowledgeable about the teaching/learning process, reflective and articulate concerning educational issues, especially those related to the basics in reading and math. If you have any further questions about ABCPRS, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With warmest regards,

Rita R. Martinez, Ph.D.

**CHARACTER COUNTS**  
RESPECT-RESPONSIBILITY-TRUSTWORTHINESS-FAIRNESS-CARING-CITIZENSHIP