

March 3, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great and positive feelings that I can recommend to you ABC Phonetic Reading School, Inc. for its excellent help in not only assisting my students to become better phonetic readers but also for being instrumental in turning the staff of my school to a more "tuned in" and cohesive unit in the area of reading. The alternative schools, where I principal, serve some 32 distinct ethnicities and languages with an average reading level of 3.9. Our school serves Yolo County's highest AFDC rate and we have a food stamp and reduced lunch capacity of 94%. Students are highly mobile and in some cases education, much less reading, is not on their minds.

Previously I had the privilege of engaging ABC Phonetic Reading Schools on a trial basis upon winning a competitive grant. As principal, I chose ABC because of their integrity and prior track record. It was one of the better choices I ever made. Because of their high expectation of students, their internal integrity, well-developed curricula and a cohesive, motivated and trained staff, my students began to obtain successful and personal achievement that they had not known before.

ABC's staff was very sensitive to our students in their class structure presentation. They assisted each student to feel that he or she belonged to a successful group. Attendance increased and because of the logic of "Time On Task" as well as the ability to finally decode, scores went up. During the next eight weeks of the grant the staff of ABC provided such quality expectations that the teachers on our own staff began to take interest and be more creative and pro student in their own classrooms. This was enhanced by the fact that ABC, Inc. met regularly with our staff and provided feedback about each student so that the regular teachers began to feel more in tune with their own charges. Our students flourished.

The management style of the teachers of ABC, Inc. and their CEO, Mr. Cahal, was exemplary in that they set high expectations for the students and most important, involved the student's families. This in turn helped us get more parental involvement. Our particular population is very difficult when it comes to parental involvement.

It soon became a good thing to read because none of the students felt embarrassed. They could decode. They belonged. Now they came to school.

I would highly recommend ABC without any conditions, reservation or hesitation to any school or organization. If I possessed the funding I would hire ABC and their staff of dedicated professionals on the spot for work now.

As a side note, since their service to us, my school staff has made reading a priority and set our standards at 10th grade ability. Because of this fact, the military now openly recruits on our campus. Our students can read and can handle the technical manuals needed in our military. I will always appreciate the positive and solid lessons learned by our association with ABC Phonetic Reading School, Inc.

Thank you for your time and attention to these matters. If you need further information, please feel free to contact me at (916) 375-7740.

Sincerely,

Dean Gaumer, Principal