



**EDUCATION CABINET
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Ernie Fletcher
Governor

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Gene Wilhoit
Commissioner of Education

To Whom It May Concern:

I have worked very closely with Armando Arrastia at the Kentucky Department of Education for the past 12 years. Our Offices worked together and jointly provided a variety of successful large scale and highly visible services to school districts. During that time I have seen Armando, as a division director, successfully lead and manage several complex and sensitive projects from the conceptual through the implementation and operational stages.

Armando is widely recognized in our organization as a highly professional leader who is able to build consensus through collaboration. He gets results while running a humane shop. He sets high expectations for his staff (and others), then allows them the freedom to meet those expectations. He quickly adds value to any effort and gains the respect on those working with him.

I have every confidence that Armando will do well in most any capacity. He has super interpersonal skills, is a self starter and has a solid inner drive that is so necessary in today's diverse work environment, as well as the leadership and operational skills to carry projects and programs through to successful completion. And by the way he is very smart, logical, balanced, ethical and passionate about his work.

I am honored to write this letter, and would be pleased to talk with you about other traits that make Armando a viable candidate for so many senior management positions. Please feel free to contact me at 502-564-2020 ext 229 for that purpose.

Sincerely,

David Couch
CIO and Associate Commissioner
KY Department of Education