



# HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

October 16, 2025

Scholarship Selection Committee  
National Association of Black School Educators

Dear Selection Committee Members,

With great enthusiasm I write in support of Tamesha Webb's application for the National Alliance of Black School Educators' scholarship. I have had the pleasure of knowing, teaching, and mentoring Tamesha since 2017. She was an excellent graduate student in the School Leadership Program where she earned the Intellectual Contribution Award at graduation.

Currently, she is an outstanding student in our Doctor of Education Leadership (EdLD) Program. She will earn her doctorate in May 2026.

As an HGSE Teaching Fellow for the Massachusetts Secretary of Education she worked with HGSE graduate students as they acquired the essential skills, abilities, and perspectives to earn principal licensure.

Tamesha devotes her career, practice, and scholarship to advancing equity, inclusion, and academic success for all students. Her work demonstrates her talent, intelligence, drive, and capability. She is particularly guided by a deep-rooted commitment to creating educational environments in which all children—and particularly those historically marginalized—can thrive. Her philosophy is grounded in the belief that every student deserves robust learning experiences that develop leadership, critical thinking, and a sense of purpose. This conviction animates her every action.

What distinguishes Tamesha is her warm personality, vision, and impact. As a Superintendent Fellow in Chelsea Public Schools and the Superintendent Doctoral Resident in Uniondale Union Free School District, Tamesha's ambitious initiatives are to reimagine schools as truly student-centered, student-driven environments. She develops systems that center student agency and achieve measurable academic and social-emotional outcomes.

Her ability to bring diverse stakeholders together, even during challenging moments, reflects an approach rooted in dignity, respect, and a rigorous sense of accountability. As

Head of the Elementary School at Orchards Gardens in Boston Public Schools, she maintained 100% lead teacher retention while transforming school culture, enhancing programs, and prioritizing culturally relevant pedagogy.

Through her national leadership with the Student Leadership Network, she advanced opportunities for girls and young women of color far beyond her own direct reach.

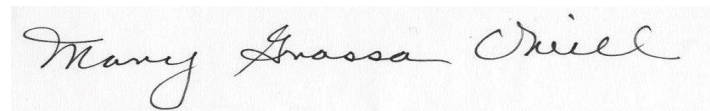
Tamesha's approach mirrors that of the educational leaders who inspired her—most notably Dr. Constance Clark-Snead, her own childhood superintendent. With a similar blend of boldness, authenticity, and empathy, Tamesha models what it means to lead with both heart and mind. Her leadership is characterized by regular reflection, an openness to feedback, and an extraordinary persistence in pursuit of equity. She chooses research, teaching, and service experiences that directly support students and school communities to advance anti-racist practice.

Beyond her formal roles, Tamesha gives generously of her expertise through mentorship, consulting, and service to numerous educational organizations. She founded Promising Pearls, LLC to support schools and nonprofits in pursuing instructional and cultural excellence. Her tireless dedication to building pipelines for current and future educators of color is evident throughout her work.

Tamesha exemplifies the values of the National Alliance of Black School Educators. She will continue to enrich the field of education with her wisdom, experience, and collaborative spirit, while also drawing vital inspiration and networks to continue her transformational work. I wholeheartedly recommend her to you for the NABSE Scholarship.

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Grassa O'Neill". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Mary Grassa O'Neill, Ed.D.  
Senior Lecturer on Education  
Faculty Lead, ELOE School Leadership Pathway  
Faculty Lead, HGSE/HBS Certificate in School Management and Leadership