

October 23, 2025

National Alliance of Black School Education
ATTN: NABSE Scholarship Committee

Dear Members of the Doctoral Scholarship Committee,

It is with great pride and confidence that I write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Ms. Jessica Brister in support of her application for your esteemed doctoral scholarship program. As the current Executive Director for Academics in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System, and having known Ms. Brister both professionally and personally for the majority of my career, I can unequivocally attest to her exceptional character, work ethic, and leadership in the field of education.

Throughout her tenure with the East Baton Rouge Parish School System, Ms. Brister has consistently demonstrated integrity, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to educational excellence. Her professional journey spans a wide spectrum—from classroom teacher and school leader to district-level administrator—giving her a unique and comprehensive perspective on the educational landscape.

Jessica is widely recognized across our district as a transformational leader. One of her most notable achievements was turning around one of the district's lowest-performing elementary schools, elevating it to a high-performing, distinguished campus. She sustained that success through a relentless focus on high-quality instruction, targeted professional development, and strategic leadership cultivation. Her ability to identify, mentor, and empower emerging school leaders is a testament to her belief in building capacity from within.

In addition to her instructional leadership, Ms. Brister has played a critical role in district-wide planning and crisis response, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her leadership helped guide over 4,000 employees and 40,000 students through a time of uncertainty by developing structured communication systems, consistent guidance, and a clear path forward. Her operational foresight and ability to implement scalable systems have made a lasting impact on the district.

She continues to mentor current and aspiring leaders and is often sought after to support multiple campuses simultaneously—further evidence of her ability to lead at scale. Jessica is not only a strategic thinker but also an empathetic, dependable, and results-driven leader who balances innovation with the practical demands of school systems.

Ms. Brister has proven herself to be an invaluable asset at every level of education, and I have no doubt that she will bring the same level of excellence to her doctoral studies. Her pursuit of advanced academic credentials is a natural next step in a career defined by vision, effectiveness, and service.

It is my distinct pleasure to recommend Ms. Jessica Brister without reservation. Should you have any questions, I would be happy to provide further information.

Sincerely,

Claudette Jackson

Dr. Claudette Jackson, Ph.D.

Executive Director for Academics

East Baton Rouge Parish School System

[Phone Number]

[Email Address]