



# SOUTHERN PLAINS EDUCATION COOPERATIVE

201 East 3<sup>rd</sup> St. \* Fairmont, MN 56031  
Phone (507) 238-1472 \* Fax (507) 238-2361

**Sarah A. Mittelstadt, EdD**  
Executive Director

**Dawn Becker**  
Business Manager

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To Whom It May Concern,

It is an honor and pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Richard Schneider. I have known Mr. Schneider for 3 1/2 years since he started as a principal at Blue Earth Area High School.

Since becoming principal at Blue Earth Area High School, Mr. Schneider has made many important changes. Since he arrived he has guided the staff in important changes including: directing instruction to standards, increasing the use of research-based teaching strategies, and increasing technology in the classroom. Mr. Schneider was able to bring his prior experience and apply it directly within the context that fit for Blue Earth Area High School.

One of the most difficult skills and administrator needs is to be able to determine which changes will make the most impact for students with the least disruption. This is a skill that Mr. Schneider does very well. Although there are many changes Mr. Schneider would like to make, he prioritizes these to make the most impact for students. When there is a change necessary, Mr. Schneider is not afraid to go about addressing these issues directly, yet professionally. I have personally been involved in several situations where he has addressed personnel issues, time management issues, and instructional deficits.

As a leader, Mr. Schneider is able to set high standards and expectations in his role, while articulating the relevance to his staff and the public he serves. He is an exemplary leader who approaches educational leadership with a commitment to innovation and the relevant best practices needed to move the organization forward.

In closing, I recommend Richard Schneider without reservation for any administrative position. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at 507-848-5933.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Mittelstadt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sarah A. Mittelstadt, EdD  
Executive Director