



Erika L. Harris

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I'm a passionate educator and instructional leader with over 20 years of experience working in diverse K–8 classrooms. Curriculum design, student engagement and motivation, and schoolwide leadership are areas of personal strength. Through my experience in education I have been successful at improving student outcomes, engaging families, and contributing to meaningful school improvement efforts. Differentiating instruction, designing and implementing effective behavioral management systems and social emotional learning opportunities, and using data to inform instructional practices are key skills that I value and work to continuously improve upon. I highly enjoy collaboration with all educational stakeholders to support student, school, and system wide success..

WORK EXPERIENCE

DeKalb County School District Substitute Teacher

October 2015 - Present

- Served in elementary and middle school classrooms, including multiple long-term substitute positions requiring full responsibilities for lesson planning, instruction, grading, and school-home communication.
- Implemented differentiated instructional strategies and creative lesson design to support diverse learners and maintain strong classroom engagement.
- Achieved **highest MAP score growth school-wide** during long-term placements at Peachtree Middle (6th grade) and Kingsley Elementary (5th grade).
- Collaborated with teachers and administrators to maintain continuity of instruction and support student academic and social development.

Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District Elementary Teacher

June 2001 - December 2005

- Taught 4th, 5th, and 5th/6th combo self-contained classes in a diverse school community.
- Led students to the **highest 5th Grade STAR test scores district-wide** and strongest individual student growth school-wide.
- Served as **Program Manager** at Nelda Mundy Elementary; responsibilities included leading SIP revision, conducting data walks, coordinating parent/community leadership groups, and managing instructional materials.
- Appointed Teacher Mentor; modeled effective classroom management and differentiated instruction to support teacher growth.

West Contra Costa Unified School District Middle School Teacher

July 2000 - June 2001

- Taught 8th Grade ELA and U.S. History with emphasis on cross-curricular planning and instructional differentiation for ESOL, gifted, ADHD, and autistic students.
- Created and led professional development workshop: “**Classroom Management & Creative Lesson Planning.**”

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Familiar with Canvas and Google Classroom LMS, Microsoft Office Suite, Canva
- Data-Driven Instruction & Assessment (MTSS)
- Creative and PBL Based Curriculum Design & Cross-Curricular Planning

- Evaluating, Developing, & Revising School Improvement Plans
- EL Instruction (CLAD Authorized)
- Strong Classroom Management Skills (PBIS)

EDUCATION

University of Georgia, Mary Frances Early College of Education

M.Ed. Candidate, Educational Psychology (Gifted & Creative Learning), 4.0 GPA

January 2025 – August 2026

Gifted Certified

California State University, Hayward, Cal State Teach

Multiple Subject Teaching Credential (K–12, Self-Contained), 4.0 GPA

CLAD Authorized • Passed RICA on first attempt

August 2001 – May 2003

University of California, San Diego, Warren College

B.A. Political Science

Programs of Concentration: Scientific Perspectives (Emphasis in Physics), American History, Theatre

August 1995 – May 2000

CERTIFICATION

Georgia I3T Elementary Education (P-5)

Expired

Qualified to teach PK-5

- Renewing and updating credential by end of UGA Master's Program (July 2026)

California Multiple Subject Credentialw/ CLAD

Expired

Qualified to teach K-12 Self-Contained Classrooms

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Peachtree Middle School PTSO – President

2020 – 2023

- Built a newly structured PTSO through stakeholder engagement and collaboration with school and district leaders.
- Developed creative community-building and morale initiatives during COVID-19.
- Expanded volunteer opportunities and strengthened parent engagement post-COVID.

Peachtree Charter Middle School Foundation – Chair

2018 – 2020

- Led transition from public charter to traditional school.
- Improved transparency in finances and policy; strengthened communication systems.
- Championed repair of deteriorated “learning cottages,” improving student and staff wellbeing.
- Increased board diversity and supported engagement of non-English-speaking families.

Kingsley Elementary PTO – President

2015 – 2018

- Guided transition from charter to traditional school; rebuilt PTO through collaborative processes.
- Created an inclusive environment to engage non-English speaking families, including intentionally seeking representation on the PTO board.
- Doubled fundraising in the first year to support academic and enrichment programs.
- Improved organizational communication and policy transparency.
- Built Membership Toolkit website and weekly newsletter system.

Additional Volunteer Roles (Selected Highlights)

- Gifted Education Equity Professional Learning & Parent Engagement Series (creator & facilitator, 2026)
- Founder & Manager, Peachtree Middle Flying Patriots Ultimate Frisbee Team (2022–2023)
- Co-Creator, *Lunch-4-Our Bunch* food security initiative serving 2,200 students during COVID-19
- Girl Scout Troop Leader • Dunwoody Baptist Soccer Coach • Kingsley PAC Member
- Multiple DCSD committees including: Strategic Planning, School Assignment Program, and Code of Conduct
- City of Dunwoody Planning Commission (Vice-Chair) and Zoning Board of Appeals Member

REFERENCES

Melanie Pearch

- Position: Former Principal of Kingsley Elementary in DeKalb County and Regional Superintendent for DeKalb County School District
- Phone Number: (770) 256-7044
- Email: [Melanie I Pearch@dekalbschoolsga.org](mailto:Melanie_I_Pearch@dekalbschoolsga.org)
- Worked under Melanie Pearch as a substitute teacher, PTO President, and PAC Member

Michelle Perez

- Position: Former Principal of Peachtree Middle School and Current Principal at Doraville United Elementary School in DeKalb County
- Phone Number: (407) 587-9829
- Email: michelle_perez@dekalbschoolsga.org
- Worked under Michelle Perez as a substitute teacher, PCMS Foundation Chair, and PTSO President.

Lynn Deutch

- Position: Mayor of the City of Dunwoody, GA
- Phone Number: (404) 271-9962
- Email: Lynn.Deutsch@gmail.com
- Worked with Lynn Deutch on creating “Lunch-4-Our-Bunch”, a Covid food-insecurity program for our socio-economically disadvantaged Dunwoody students and served as a Planning Commissioner and Zoning Board of Appeals Member (current position) under her city leadership.

* CLAD Certification: The California Crosscultural, Language, and Academic Development (CLAD) certification authorizes teachers to provide specialized instruction to students whose first language is not English. This includes instruction in English Language Development (ELD), also known as English as a Second Language (ESL) or Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), and Specially Designed Academic Instruction Delivered in English (SDAIE). The CLAD certification is not a teaching credential, but rather a supplement that adds CLAD authorization to a teacher's existing credential.