



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Elizabeth Public Schools Professional Learning Community,

Education is a labor of love. Those who enter the field of education often cite the desire to make a difference in the lives of a community's youth. They want to serve as role models who guide children towards a successful future by instilling character values such as respect, empathy, commitment, determination, and resiliency. They devote themselves to directly imparting skills and knowledge to students or support the important work of teaching and learning to ensure students enter the world prepared to succeed in all areas of their lives.

As we honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a nation in the observance of his birthday, we are reminded of his unwavering commitment to love and nonviolence. In his speech "Where Do We Go From Here?", delivered at the 11th Convention of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference on August 16, 1967 in Atlanta, GA., Dr. King said:

"I'm concerned about a better world. I'm concerned about justice; I'm concerned about brotherhood; I'm concerned about truth. And when one is concerned about that, he can never advocate violence... And I say to you, I have also decided to stick with love, for I know that love is ultimately the only answer to mankind's problems. And I'm going to talk about it everywhere I go... I have decided to love. If you are seeking the highest good, I think you can find it through love."

I believe that education is love and one of the "highest goods". With education, there is knowledge. With knowledge, there is hope. With hope, there is opportunity. At the root of all those things is love. Through our work of teaching and learning, we empower our students with the skills and knowledge, hope, and opportunity to accomplish anything their hearts desire, their minds dream, and their lives pursue.

With gratitude and appreciation, I thank you all for the love you bring to our school community each day. Your commitment and passion toward the education of our students makes it possible for them to embrace learning, overcome obstacles, and achieve excellence.

Sincerely,

Olga Hugelmeyer

Office of the Superintendent of Schools