

Lee J. Dury
2500 Wood Pointe Drive
Holiday, Florida 34691
(727) 207-4826

June 3, 2011

RAY & ASSOCIATES, INC.
First Avenue SE, Suite 407
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402-3221
(319) 393-3115 ph
(319) 393-4921 (f)

RE: Florida Commissioner of Education Search

Good afternoon. Please accept this letter and the included resume for candidacy as the Florida Commissioner of Education.

With the continued transition to Next Generation SSS & CommonCore Standards, the introduction of End of Course Assessments, efforts to increase school choice with charter schools and virtual education opportunities, and the enactment of Race to the Top, Florida is in a very unique position. Add in continuing budgetary limitations and an increasingly diverse student population and it is understandable that the next 5-10 years and beyond will require clear and experienced leadership.

The person selected as the next Commissioner of Education needs to both lead and support, develop programs & plans, and elicit consensus from a wide audience – including, but not limited to, classroom teachers & school administrators, district personnel, students & parents, local and statewide community & business leaders, legislators, the Governor, and many others. Florida is also poised to increase its profile among all states in terms of educational options, accountability efforts, and preparation for career and college success. The next Commissioner of Education must demonstrate a capacity for creating strong local, state, regional, and national relationships in order to continue the growth and success of Florida's education system.

My experience, as outlined on the enclosed resume, includes time in the classroom as a special education teacher in Pasco County, a project coordinator for assessment initiatives, and consulting/training activities in Florida and across the country. Along the way I have worked in private companies, started my own educational consulting company, and have had the opportunity to interact with educators on many of the key issues facing our students and schools. I believe that I have a strong track record on each of the four main components of the key responsibilities: strategic planning & budget development; assessment & accountability; advocacy & coordination; and general administration. One such example is when I

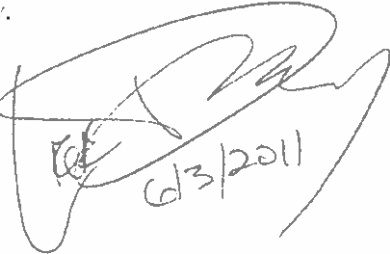


initiated and facilitated the first two School Improvement Team/Student Success Workshops at Chasco Middle School. We spent 4 days each summer reading educational research and literature in order to develop a sense of context for our school planning and then analyzed multiple sets of school data (FCAT, class grades, attendance, clinic visits, discipline referrals, etc) in order to identify the strengths and needs of our school. The strengths were celebrated with the larger school community and the needs became the basis of our school improvement plan. I am still committed to such an exercise by a school community and believe that parents, students, and business leaders should be involved as well.

Another example can be found in my current role as National Director of Educational Partnerships for Penn Foster Virtual High School. This position includes both developing virtual school partnerships and coordinating the implementation with key school and district personnel. I have been committed to working with guidance counselors, district personnel, and also School Board members & Superintendents in order to ensure that students have access to increased options, rigorous courses, and engaging online experiences.

I look forward to speaking with you further about my experiences and ideas. Thank you for this opportunity.

Lee J. Dury

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lee J. Dury', is written over a large, loopy scribble. Below the signature, the date '6/3/2011' is written in a similar cursive style.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Application for the Position of The Commissioner of Education

Name: DURY LEE JOSEPH Date: JUNE 3, 2011
Last First Middle

Address: 2500 WOOD POINTE DR. HOLIDAY FL 34691 E-mail: leejdury@yahoo.com
Street City State Zip

Phone: N/A 727-207-4820 Fax #: N/A
Home Business Cell

EDUCATIONAL RECORD

Name & Location of Institution Attended	Year(s)	Degree	Major(s)	Minor(s)
VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY VILLANOVA, PA	1999-2001	MA	SCHOOL LEADERSHIP	
MOHLENBERG COLLEGE ALLENTOWN, PA	1989-1993	BA	PSYCHOLOGY PHILOSOPHY	
CONESTOGA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL BERWYN, PA	1986-1989	DIPLOMA	COLLEGE PREP	

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

(Indicate relevant leadership responsibilities)

[Signature]
6/3/2011

EXPERIENCE

(List in consecutive order beginning with the next most recent position following the position listed on page 1.)

Dates	Position/Institution/Location	Supervisor's Name & Title	Supervisor's Phone
To: CURRENT	NATIONAL & EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS DIRECTOR	DON KIDD	(Business) 352-212-1395
From: MARCH 2010		GENERAL MANAGER	(Home) -
Reason for leaving (please be specific): CURRENT POSITION → APPLYING TO FL COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION			
To: MARCH 2010	PRES / FOUNDER	SELF EMPLOYED	(Business)
From: JAN. 2009	MORE KNOWLEDGE NOW		(Home)
Reason for leaving (please be specific):			
To: JAN. 2004	DATA + ASSESSMENT SPECIALIST	MARK MURPHY	(Business) 646-792-1070
From: OCT 2007	NEW LEADERS FOR NEW SCHOOLS	ENCL DIRECTOR.	(Home) mmurphy@lns.org
Reason for leaving (please be specific):			
To: OCT 2007	IMPLEMENTATION CONSULTANT	DON KIDD	(Business) 352-212-1395
From: JUL 2005	KAPLAN K12	VP	(Home)
Reason for leaving (please be specific):			

REFERENCES

(Names of four persons who can discuss your experience and qualifications in detail.)

Name	Official Position	Phone Number
MIKE FASANO	FL STATE SENATOR	Business 727-848-5885
		Home
		Cell
JOHN BARKER	DIRECTOR OF REA, MEMPHIS CITY SCHOOLS	Business 901 416 5533
		Home
		Cell barkeryjohnr@mask12.net
CAROL THOMAS	ASSOC. SUP'T PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS	Business 727 588 6000
		Home thomas.c@pcsb.org
		Cell
DAN SHEA	MGR, OFFICE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION DC. PUBLIC SCHOOLS	Business 202 535 1630
		Home daniel.shea@dc.gov
		Cell 202 271 8604

BACKGROUND CHECK AND INFORMATION

In addition to the following information, a thorough background check may be made at the option of the employer.

If "Yes" is selected in response to any question, attach additional sheets and clearly identify as Background Check and Information with a detailed explanation:

"YES" answers to the following questions will not necessarily result in denial of an offer of employment. The employer will consider all the circumstances, including the date and nature of events that have led to the actions described below. Your written explanation will assist the employer in determining your eligibility and suitability for an offer of employment.

1. Have you ever been convicted of, admitted committing, pleaded no contest, or are you awaiting trial for any crime (excluding only minor traffic violations that do not involve any allegations of alcohol, drugs or reckless driving) or have any civil charges previously or pending involving allegations of child abuse or spousal abuse? You must answer "YES" if true, even if the matter was later dismissed, deferred, reversed, or vacated. If you answer "YES" you must provide dates of the proceedings, the name and address of the court where the proceedings occurred, a statement of the accusation against you and the final disposition of the case(s).

No

Yes, attach a separate sheet for explanation

2. Have you ever been dismissed (fired) from any job, or resigned at the request of or pressure from your employer, or left employment while charges against you or an investigation of your behavior was pending or been refused tenure, reappointment or continuing contract from any employer? You must answer "YES" if true, even if the matter was later resolved with any form of settlement or severance agreement, regardless of its terms. If you answer "YES" you must provide the date of termination or resignation and other action concerning tenure reappointment or continuing contract denial and the name, address and telephone number of the employer(s) and a statement of the alleged reasons for termination or resignation.

No

Yes, attach a separate sheet for explanation

3. Have you ever had any license or certificate of any kind (teaching certificate or other professional license) revoked, suspended, or reprimanded, or have you in any way been sanctioned by or is any charge or complaint now pending against you before any licensing, certification or other regulatory agency or body, public or private? If you answer "YES" you must provide the dates of proceedings, name, address and telephone number of the agency or body where proceedings took place, a statement of the accusations against you, the final disposition and/or status of the charge or complaint.

No

Yes, attach a separate sheet for explanation

4. Are you now being investigated for any alleged misconduct or other alleged grounds for discipline by any licensing, certification or other regulatory body (teacher certification or otherwise) or by your current or any previous employer? If you answer "YES" you must provide the name, address and telephone number of the employer or licensing body and statement of the accusation against you.

No

Yes, attach a separate sheet for explanation

5. Have you ever been involved, or are you currently involved, or do you anticipate involvement in litigation either as the plaintiff/complainant or defendant/respondent?

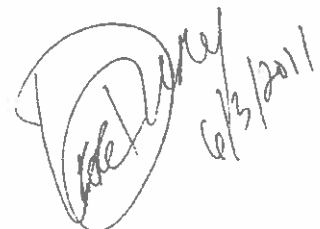
No

Yes, attach a separate sheet for explanation

6. Have you ever filed a grievance/complaint of any kind against an employer?

No

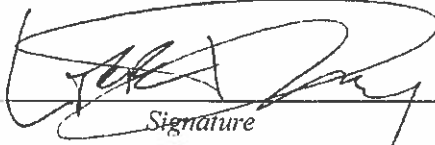
Yes, attach a separate sheet for explanation

A handwritten signature, possibly "T. [unclear]", is written in a circle. To the right of the signature, the date "6/3/2011" is written.

VERIFICATION STATEMENT

(Please read carefully and sign the statement below.)

The information in the Application for Employment is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I certify that I have answered all questions to the best of my ability and I have not withheld any information that would unfavorably affect my application for employment. I acknowledge that any misrepresentation or omission of any fact in my application, resume, or any other materials, or during any interviews, may be the cause for my rejection from employment or may result in my subsequent dismissal if I am hired.



Signature

6/3/2011

Date

APPLICANT'S FILE MUST INCLUDE:

- A letter of application stating personal qualifications, experiences, and reasons for interest in the position.
- A *signed* official application form **and** current resume.
- The names of four persons who will serve as references and can be contacted. *(Include name, title, and telephone numbers for both home and business and a cell phone number, if known.)*
- Several *current* letters of recommendation. **LETTERS WILL BE SENT SEPARATELY**

Please Direct All Inquiries,
Applications and Supporting Materials To:

Ray and Associates, Inc.

4403 First Avenue SE, Suite 407
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402-3221
319/393-3115 Phone
319/393-4931 Fax
E-mail: glr@rayassoc.com
Website: www.rayassoc.com

**DO NOT CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OR BOARD DIRECTLY.**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:
MAY 25, 2011**

Neither the Florida Department of Education nor any members of Ray and Associates, Inc. discriminate on the basis of disability, race, religion, sex, national origin, or age in access to, employment in, or in the provision of any programs, benefits or activities.

Lee J. Dury
2500 Wood Pointe Drive
Holiday, Florida 34691
(727) 207 4826
leejdury@yahoo.com

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS:

MA (School Leadership), Villanova University, Villanova, PA
BA (Dual Degree in Psychology & Philosophy), Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA
State of Florida Educational Leadership (K-12) & Exceptional Student Education (All Levels)

EXPERIENCE:

Penn Foster Virtual High School
National Director of Educational Partnerships
Scranton, PA

March 2010 - Current

- National coordination and development of virtual high school partnerships
- Monitor & evaluate program effectiveness/quality
- Conduct education-related research
- Host session at ICLE Model Schools Summer Conference (Online Education & Student Engagement)
- Initiate & complete sales opportunities: responsible for doubling Florida sales

More Knowledge Now, LLC.
President/Founder
Holiday, FL

Jan. 2009 – March 2010

- Educational research
- Virtual educational consulting
- Evaluated & recommended programs to school districts
- Developed Standards-based Assessment Items
- Historical student performance analysis based on FCAT Math

New Leaders for New Schools
Data & Assessment Specialist,
New York City, NY

Oct. 2007 – January 2009

- National oversight of principals and leadership teams in using data-driven instructional practices (based in New Leaders' DDI Rubric)
- Trained City Specialists in data-driven instructional practices
- Designed data-driven instruction scenarios for Principal Intern Summer Institute
- Created DDI Handbook with activities and resources for national staff
- Coordinated & Hosted 3 day training event for national staff

Lee J. Dury
2500 Wood Pointe Drive
Holiday, Florida 34691
(727) 207 4826
leejdury@yahoo.com

**Kaplan K12 Learning Services
Implementation Consultant,
New York City, NY**

July 2005 – October 2007

- Lead the Kaplan K12/Pinellas County School District Partnership (65 schools)
- Coordinated 10 member professional development team
- Created & delivered training sessions: student performance results, data analysis, and differentiated instruction
- Hosted session at FASA Summer Leadership Institute (Assessment & Student Performance Data)
- Developed & Conducted training in 6 additional Kaplan K12 partnerships in Florida

**Chasco Middle School
Special Education Teacher,
Port Richey, Florida**

October 2001 – July 2005

- Developed lesson plans for special education classrooms (Math, Language Arts, Science)
- Supported student academic and social development according to IEPs
- Conducted annual special education re-evaluations and IEP meetings (includes partnering with parents and students to increase ownership of educational goals)
- Chair School Climate/Discipline Committee
- Developed & facilitated Student Success Workshop
- Attended District Committee meetings
- Substitute administrator/principal

Additional Work Experience and References Available upon request.

Heidi Ann Long

From: Ray and Associates
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2011 2:26 PM
To: Heidi Ann Long
Subject: FW: in support of Lee Dury

Heidi Cordes
Executive Administrative Assistant
Ray and Associates, Inc.
Ph: 319-393-3115 Fax: 319-393-4931

-----Original Message-----

From: John R Barker/Admin/Avery/MCS [mailto:BarkerJohnR@mcsk12.net]
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2011 12:23 PM
To: Ray and Associates
Subject: in support of Lee Dury

To the review committee,

I write in support of my friend and colleague Lee Dury and his application for the Florida State Commissioner of Education. I understand that the deadline for recommendations is Monday, but my schedule is completely booked making a formal letter impossible.

Mr. Dury's application is worthy of your review and I encourage you to consider his materials.

With thanks --

JB

John R. Barker, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Research, Evaluation, Assessment, and Student Information (REASI) Memphis City Schools
2597 Avery Avenue
Memphis, TN 38112
(901) 416-5533