

# Giselle Lowe

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June 11, 2023

Chair Monroe-Moreno, Vice Chair Dondero Loop, and Esteemed Legislative Members of the Interim Finance Committee:

As a CCSD support staff member who, with the vital support services of the PEF Teacher Pathway program, has achieved a placement in the UNLV Paraprofessionals Pathway Program (PPP); I wholeheartedly endorse PEF's request for \$466,662 of T-Mobile settlement funds to support future classroom teachers through PEF's Teacher Pathway program.

Like so many of my paraprofessional colleagues, I have worked for a number of years with CCSD students in pursuit of productive academic, behavioral, and social-emotional goals. The PEF Teacher Pathway is a unique program specifically targeting the home-grown talent of paraprofessionals; many of whom like myself wish to become licensed educators but face significant hurdles, including academic criteria and economic factors. Without the professional and financial assistance offered by the Pathway program, I would have been unable to consider pursuing a Bachelor's degree necessary for licensure.

By drawing from the wealth of professional experience, range of backgrounds, and the high proportion of diversity present amongst our school district's support staff; the PEF Teacher Pathway program offers a unique and affirming strategy to address the teacher shortage and increasingly reflect the communities our schools serve.

I am incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to be a participant of the Pathway program and earnestly encourage the Committee's support of the program. I appreciate your dedicated work and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "G Lowe".

Giselle Lowe

PEF Teacher Pathway program participant (2022-23)