

Watkinson

SCHOOL

inventive learning since 1881



Confidential

Teacher Recommendation

Watkinson's mission is to develop in our students the power to shape their own lives and the world around them.

Watkinson School admits students of any race, color, religion, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its education policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

180 Bloomfield Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105 –1096
t. 860.236.5618
<http://www.watkinson.org>

*Founding Member of the National Center for Independent School Renewal
Named a Lead School by the Coalition of Essential Schools*

What an educator should know about Watkinson:

We are a co-ed, independent day school for grades 6-12, plus post-graduate/gap year.

We support our mission with five essential characteristics.

Watkinson's mission is to help our students gain the power to shape their lives and the world around them. In order to exercise this power, we believe, students must develop five essential characteristics: **critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, commitment, and self-advocacy**. Almost every profession and worthwhile endeavor requires these skills and habits of mind; used in combination, these characteristics (we call them C4S for short; you'll see references to them on the rest of this form) are equally powerful for the scientist and the artist, the citizen and the congressperson, the engineer and the entrepreneur, the teacher and the parent. Most parents site educational philosophy as the primary reason for choosing Watkinson. Understanding that every student learns differently, we believe a commitment to individuality is the key to rigor.

Diversity is one of our core values.

Students come to Watkinson for many different reasons. Some feel lost in a big school. Some aren't being challenged. Some want more opportunities in technology, writing, the arts, or athletics. In our classrooms you will find students from diverse socioeconomic, racial, intellectual, physical, religious, and personal backgrounds; this diversity enriches our lives and is one of our best teaching tools. In 2011-12, 23% of our students were students of color.

We are one of only five independent schools nationwide to be named a "Lead School" by the Coalition of Essential Schools.

The Coalition, founded by Ted Sizer when he was at Brown University, has over one thousand associated schools. Watkinson is one of only 50 (only five of them independent) to be designated a "model school"; the distinction recognizes that we have put Coalition principles to work in effective and far-reaching ways. Our teachers guide, inform, correct, criticize, encourage and evaluate; but it is the students who demonstrate how well they own the material.

We're grateful for your help.

Your comments on this form will help us identify the students who would thrive here. Thank you for your time and attention.

We'd love to show you around.

We're proud of what we do and welcome visitors. Please contact us if you are interested in seeing our school.

Please detach and return the completed recommendation to Watkinson. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call the admissions office at (860) 236-5618, or check out our website at www.watkinson.org.

Thank you.

Watkinson Teacher Recommendation *Confidential*

Subject: Mathematics English Other _____

To the Teacher: Thank you for taking the time to evaluate this candidate. Please feel free to call our admissions office at (860) 236-5618 in place of, or in addition to, filling out this form.

Candidate's Name _____ Grade _____

Academic Evaluation

1. Does the student have specific strengths in your course?
2. Are the student's grades a reflection of his/her ability?
3. How would you describe this student's learning style?
4. What's the best way to motivate this student academically?
5. Is the student's presence in class a help or a hindrance to the other students?
6. Does the student understand and follow directions?
7. Describe how the student works in group situations.
8. Describe a recent situation in which the student demonstrated **creativity** in his or her approach to academic work.
9. Does the student receive any additional enrichment, support, or modification?
10. List six words that come to mind when you think of the student (e.g. conscientious, unmotivated, industrious, etc.).
11. What else should we know about this student?
12. Approximately how frequently is this student absent from or tardy to class? Are absences primarily excused or unexcused?
13. Would you want to work with this student again?
14. Please comment on parental involvement.

Please complete the chart below:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor
Student's... Attentiveness in class					
Participation in class					
Ability to grasp material					
Management of workload					
Attention to deadlines					
Flexibility					
Relative maturity					
Relation to adults					
Relation to peers					
Reaction to setbacks					
Reaction to pressure					
Reaction to authority					
Sense of humor					
Critical thinking					
Self-advocacy					
Responsibility					
Independence					
Leadership					
Consistency in work					
Acceptance of differences					

Name of Course _____ Level: Advanced Average Remedial Untracked

Teacher's Name (please print) _____ Please add me to your mailing list

Signature _____ Date _____

School Name _____ Phone _____

School Address _____

E-mail _____

Please detach and return this form:

- by mail — Admissions Office, Watkinson School, 180 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105
- by email — admissions_info@watkinson.org