

# 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](http://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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participation in class	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ability to grasp material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Management of workload	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attention to deadlines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flexibility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relative maturity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relation to adults	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relation to peers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reaction to setbacks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reaction to pressure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reaction to authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sense of humor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Critical thinking</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Self-advocacy</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Responsibility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Independence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consistency in work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acceptance of differences	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name of Course \_\_\_\_\_ Level:  Advanced  Average  Remedial  Untracked

For math only - course recommendation for next school year: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form:

- print and mail to: Admissions Office, Watkinson School, 180 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105
- email to: [admissions\\_info@watkinson.org](mailto:admissions_info@watkinson.org)