

TIANA BATISTE-WADDELL

Educational Strategist, Consultant, and Advocate

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LINKS

LeAja Consulting, LLC, JAX Aspire Foundation

PROFILE

Dynamic educational leader and paralegal candidate with 25 years of experience driving instructional excellence, supporting school operations, and ensuring compliance with board policy and state and federal law. Skilled in professional learning, high-impact instructional strategies, and implementing equitable frameworks that improve teaching and student outcomes. Committed to inclusive practices, restorative approaches, and multi-tiered supports that create meaningful, student-centered free and appropriate learning environments.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- ❖ **Instructional Coach, #TEACH, LLC** Oct 2024 — Present
Plymouth, MI
 - Provides individualized virtual coaching to alternative certification teachers across multiple states, improving instructional effectiveness and classroom confidence.
 - Utilized digital platforms (e.g., Zoom, Google Meets, Teams, CRM) to deliver timely, actionable feedback and model best instructional practices.
 - Facilitated online professional learning communities (PLCs) and webinars focused on high-impact teaching strategies.
- ❖ **Executive Director, JAX Aspire Foundation** Oct 2022 — Present
South Bend, IN
 - Setting and articulating the organization's strategic direction, goals, and vision to align all staff and board members.
 - Overseeing the budget, ensuring financial health through sound fiscal management, and demonstrating competence with financial documents.
 - Guiding the creation and evaluation of programs to ensure they are effective and fulfill the organization's mission.
 - Improving day-to-day operations, ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, and managing technology and resources.
- ❖ **Chief Academic Officer, Benton Harbor Area Schools** Mar 2022 — Jun 2024
Benton Harbor, MI
 - Led the development and implementation of comprehensive instructional frameworks, aligning curriculum, assessment, and professional learning to state standards.
 - Spearheaded the adoption of high-quality, standards-aligned curriculum in Math and Social Studies, improving access to quality curriculum and textbooks for students.
 - Collaborated with finance and operations teams to align academic goals with resource allocation, ensuring equitable funding and measurable ROI.
- ❖ **Edifier, Edifying Teacher's Network** Jul 2022 — Present
Baltimore, Maryland
 - Provides culturally responsive individualized virtual coaching to alternative certification teachers across Baltimore, Maryland, improving instructional effectiveness and classroom confidence.
 - Utilized digital platforms (e.g., Zoom, Google Meets, Teams, Edifier App) to deliver timely, actionable feedback and model best instructional practices.

- Facilitate coaching sessions with mentees focused on high impact strategies.

- ❖ **School Principal, South Bend Community School Corporation** Jun 2011 — Jan 2022
South Bend, IN
 - Launched instructional coaching cycles and PLC structures that improved teacher effectiveness, classroom rigor, and student proficiency in ELA and Mathematics by 10%.
 - Developed and implemented multi-tiered systems of supports (MTSS) that reduced achievement gaps among student subgroups.
 - Introduced restorative practices and SEL initiatives to strengthen relationships and student engagement.

EDUCATION

- ❖ **Purdue Global** Mar 2025 — Jan 2026
Paralegal Certification West Lafayette, IN

- Graduated with High Honors, 4.0

- ❖ **Indiana University - South Bend** Aug 2007 — May 2010
Masters of Science in Educational Leadership South Bend, IN

- Graduated with High Honors, 4.0

- ❖ **Indiana University - South Bend** Jan 2000 — May 2003
Bachelor's of Science in Elementary Education South Bend, IN

- Grade Point Average, 3.0

SKILLS

School Operations	<i>Expert</i>	Educational Content Creator	<i>Experienced</i>
Professional Learning Facilitator	<i>Expert</i>	Restorative Justice Circle Keeper	<i>Expert</i>
Legal Researcher	<i>Beginner</i>	Intercultural Development Inventory Qualifier	<i>Expert</i>

REFERENCES

- ❖ **Robyn Kubsch** 260-243-0606
robynkubsch@gmail.com
- ❖ **Kristi Domrase** 989-370-8253
Flint Community Schools kdomrase@yahoo.com
- ❖ **Heather Mueller** 2692352554
Benton Harbor Area Schools heatherjmueller@gmail.com