

**Personal Philosophy for Educating Students with Disabilities**

As a teacher for students with special needs, I will be their advocate. I will work selflessly to provide the most quality education for my students in whatever way they need. I owe it to my students to be well-educated, well-trained, and professionally developed in order to provide the most effective strategies and assistance. I will continuously reflect and adjust my teaching practices as I see fit to my students' needs and remind myself to always keep their interest at heart. I want to instill in my students a positive mindset where they feel they can accomplish whatever they set their mind to. My students will leave my classroom focusing on what they can do rather than what they cannot.

I will be a teacher who keeps parents involved, informed, and interested in their child's education. This involves going beyond cultural differences, biases, and whatever obstacles I may encounter that can hinder parent involvement. I will do my best to provide for parents as well as students within the education setting. I also will help general education teachers provide for all of their students through co-teaching or assistance with modifications and adaptations.

My key mission with my students is to prepare them to live as an independent, functional member of society despite any disability they may have. Transitioning students from school to adulthood is a big step that will require much effort on both the teacher and student's behalf. I believe all people are given the opportunity to live a fruitful, happy life and it is their decision whether or not to have the mindset of success. If I can help my student's believe in themselves and increase their self- efficacy, I will have done what I set out to do in the first place.