

## Professional Goal Statement

My professional goal is to become a highly accomplished special education teacher who will ensure students with special needs achieve their utmost potential. Continuing my education by pursuing a Masters of Arts in Education degree from one of the top special education programs in the country will help me achieve my professional goal.

I graduated from Michigan State University in 2011 with an undergraduate degree in Special Education, K-12 Learning Disabilities. After graduation, I accepted a teaching position at the Endeavor Charter School in Raleigh, North Carolina. I am currently in my second year as a special education teacher working with fourth, fifth, and sixth grade special education students. My caseload consists of 22 children diagnosed with Learning Disabilities, ADHD/ADD, or Autism, and my responsibilities include implementing the children's educational plans and providing specialized instruction and remediation services. I am accountable for hosting IEP meetings, writing my students' IEP paperwork, and collaborating with the general education teachers.

Pursuing a master's degree from Michigan State will allow me to take additional special education and literacy courses to further enhance my teaching skills. During my internship year at Michigan State, I was able to take four special education post-graduate level courses. Having the opportunity to take classes enhanced my teaching experience. With the continuous changes and growth in the field of education, I was able to learn new education methods and apply those methods within the classroom. By pursuing the additional coursework to obtain my master's degree, I am confident that I will continue to learn

additional education methods and approaches that will greatly enhance my teaching abilities.

Short term, I expect the master's degree coursework to improve my ability to meet my student's academic and behavioral needs. Being a second year teacher, I am continuously reflecting on my classroom management approach and altering my teaching style to meet the needs of my students. Additional courses in Special Education will help me learn new methods to meet my student's behavioral needs. My school meets the needs of special education students by following an inclusion model. Taking additional courses on behavior management in the inclusive classroom will further strengthen my expertise while teaching in the general education setting. Courses in literacy education will expand my abilities to implement techniques and enhance my students' potential to achieve their IEP goals. Through additional literacy and writing courses, I will acquire new methods to increase students' decoding and comprehension skills, and learn new ways to teach the writing process and strengthen overall writing abilities. Learning additional methods to assess my students' writing and reading skills through a literacy concentration will also be beneficial when tracking my students' growth.

Long term, the knowledge obtained through pursuing a master's degree will enhance my ability to be a collaborative member and asset to my school. I intend to continue to build positive relationships with staff members and collaborate on ways to improve students' success. A large part of special education involves having to deal with, and act quickly in, challenging situations. One of my strengths as an educator is that I am able to communicate effectively, open-mindedly, and respectfully with others. I see myself being able to further

develop additional ways to apply these strengths within my school. I hope to learn from the master's program additional ways to strengthen my communication skills and take more of a leadership role within my school. I would like to become a resource and a mentor for my colleagues to seek guidance when they are faced with difficult students and situations.

Lastly, the online learning environment offered by Michigan State's online program will help strengthen my technological knowledge and skills as applied to teaching. Technology is continuously becoming more prominent in the field of education. Being able to effectively incorporate technology into my lessons will facilitate my students learning. In addition, an online learning format best meets my learning style. I am a visual learner who always enjoyed learning independently throughout college. I enjoy having the opportunity and freedom to explore areas of interest hands on. The flexibility of online learning will also enable me to continue working while simultaneously taking classes.

I am extremely excited about the opportunity to continue my education in Special Education by pursuing a Masters of Arts in Education degree from Michigan State. Go Green!