



All children regardless of learning differences, race, gender, and socioeconomic status deserve an excellent education.

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Greetings Future School District,

Please consider me as a candidate for the position you have available as a Special Education Teacher. As a University of Michigan Alumni, it is my goal to provide an individualized education that nurtures the whole child. I have experience teaching all types of disabilities and have run cross categorical resource rooms and done push in support for all students with disabilities. I am passionate about teaching using hands on activities and technology to provide differentiated instruction so that all children may reach their full potential. I always use best mathematical practice for example concrete, semi concrete and abstract to help all children learn. I utilize best reading practices, use high quality literature, sight words, phonics and fluency to create growth in reading.

I believe in using multiple points of data to increase growth. I have used Number's World, MBSP, Dibbles, GAINS, NWEA, GLAD, Scantron Performance Benchmark Assessments, and Aims Webs scores to progress monitor and scaffold interventions. I have also revitalized a title one program including implementing all the new progress monitoring requirements; sought donations and created parent to home kits complete with books and activities. For example, a book on bats and all the precut materials to create a bat house, spearheaded and trained the teachers on how to use the Lexia reading program.

As a previous Special Education Coordinator, I have created a whole special education program from the ground up including technology, and secured programs such as: Smarty Ant, Failure Free Reading, Khan Academy, National Teacher Council of Mathematics Illuminations and AbleNet Equals. I created the child find process, scheduled IEPs for 42 students while directly serving 24, managed 4 ancillary staff and held behavior manifestation meetings.

As a team player, I have always encouraged the speech therapist, occupational therapist and physical therapist to push into my resource room so I can best see how to support their goals in the general education classroom. I have kept open communications with general education teacher and parents. My strengths are organization, compliance with IDEA laws, utilizing visual aids, creating student ownership in their work, using hands on methods to teach and research based methods that are proven to raise test scores. As a self-directed leader and team player, I take initiative to seek out additional community supports and training for my students, meet with parents and communicate to all team members.

As a lifelong learner, I have attended teaching the traumatized child, Aspire Autism training, teaching the Michigan model for health at the middle school level, START Autism training for early childhood and Capturing Kids Heart Training. I have attended the State of Michigan Transition conference, Mission Literacy writing workshops and Singapore Math training. I have done the level one Glasser Psychology Choice Theory Training and I am Crisis Prevention Intervention trained. Future goals are to complete my masters, get a therapy dog, and recertify in Orton Gillingham Phonics.. Currently I am learning about Lucy Calkins readers and writers workshop.

Respectfully,
Amber Mahaffy