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My Philosophy of Inclusion Paper

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Introduction

Every legal citizen born in the United States is entitled to the same rights as the person sitting next to them. The physical abilities, mental capacity, and other learning impairments that they might have should not be taken into account when determining the proper education for students. I believe inclusion is an important aspect in education and when properly used can be an effective tool to educate both students with disabilities and those without. In this paper I hope to provide a better view of my opinions on inclusion, my goals in my classroom, and my future plans as a teacher. Inclusion is crucial to fostering a more accepting and well rounded student body.

Description of Self

A lot of people struggle with what they want to be when they grow up and change their mind multiple times, I on the other hand have known what I want to be since second grade. I choose to become a teacher because I was bullied when I was a child for being obese. To this day I have not forgotten the tormenting I received in Elementary School and because of this I want to ensure that none of my students ever have to experience this same kind of experiences that I had. As a teacher it is important to make students feel comfortable and ensure that they have a safe and supportive learning environment. By being a teacher you can help ensure that students have a rewarding experience and actually gain something from their learning. Every day you can influence so many people's lives by being a positive role model, and teaching them good character traits along with their education. My ideal teaching job would be in the second grade in a suburb outside of Dallas, much like the school district I grew up in.

Personal Beliefs

I believe the main purpose of education is to help develop students so that they can gain the knowledge and skills they will need to be a productive member of society. To accomplish these beliefs I think it is important to allow students to work with one another to develop social skills, as well as relate their education back to real life situations so that they can apply that in future endeavors. In order to teach properly I believe it is important to address every student's different needs and learning styles so that everyone benefits from lessons and no one falls behind. It is important to ensure that everyone feels included in classroom activities and by teaching to different styles and levels you can help make sure that this occurs. IDEA law helps make sure that children that require special services get the care and help that they need no matter what age that they are. I completely agree with this law, special education and services should be offered to all students that qualify.

Personal Position on Inclusion and Rationale

Inclusion is crucial to helping students gain a better understanding of the real world and properly prepare them for their future. In Kindergarten, my best friend had cerebral palsy and was permanently in a wheelchair. Everyone in my class loved helping out Zachary with whatever he needed. Being the outspoken Kindergartner that I was, I even tried to motivate him to walk, even though for him that was physically impossible. It was by knowing Zachary that I gained a better understanding of physical impairments and I would not have met him had he not been in my classroom. For students with special needs, inclusion is a way of gaining experiences they can actually use later on in life. "A 1989 study found that over a fifteen year period, the employment rate for high school graduates with special needs who had been in segregated programs was 53%. But for special needs graduates from integrated programs the employment rate was 73%"(Piuma,1989). This shows that inclusion helps boost the overall goal of education,

which is helping ensure students find jobs and are productive functioning members of society. There is still much to learn on the affects of inclusion but the exposure it provides for students in my opinion far out weighs any negative thoughts. For example, a student at my high school, Euseff, had down syndrome and did a lot of socially unacceptable things during class and in the hallways. We all learned to accept him for who he was and tried to help him out if he was struggling. Had we not been exposed to him we would not only have lost those interpersonal skills, but we would not know how to deal with those kinds of situations later on in life. Inclusion can bring so much to a classroom, and just like the students in Sean's Story, my personal experiences have brought me knowledge about students with disabilities that I would not have if I had not been in the classroom with them.

Personal Beliefs Regarding Role of Education

Education is the building block to the future and it is important that it is taken seriously. It is the teacher's job to inspire students to want to excel at something. If a student is passionate about one thing, then that passion can be the thing that they become later on in life. The student has to put forth effort in order to get anything out of education. If the student does not try, then no matter how good the teacher is, nothing will come across to them. It is important to make students feel comfortable in the classroom to help foster the best learning outcomes. You can do this by multiple means of presentation of lessons, or decorations around the classroom, no matter what it is important to accommodate to all of your students needs. After my teaching career, I wish to be remembered for making being a positive, upbeat force in my student's lives and I hope to inspire as many students as possible.

Conclusion

Inclusion is a necessary tool that schools should adopt in order to ensure that their students are exposed to experiences and people that can not only change their life, but help shape them into well rounded adults. As a teacher it is my duty to ensure that every student gets the best education that they possibly can and to provide the proper accommodations and environment for them to do so. Teaching is a rewarding career because you have the opportunity to touch so many lives and I hope to be the best that I can be.

Bibliography

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