

Philosophy on the Education Department's Mission Statement

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Being an educator is more than presenting information in front of a class of bored, sleeping, and daydreaming students. It is about following specific guidelines and road signs while, at the same time, blazing down a path that has yet to be paved. With all of the contradictions happening in the workplace, it is hard to understand what to teach, when to teach, and how to teach it. A company's mission statement can be just the thing to cure the confusion that is found along the highway.

I believe the Education Department's mission statement on professional characteristics is the most important. However, when the statement exclaims "By engaging in and supporting appropriate professional practices" they do not mention what the appropriate professional methods are. I do not believe there is a plain and simple definition of teaching professionally because everyone's idea of professional is different. People may dress the part or appear like they know what is happening, but they never really know because there is no definition out there for being a professional "correctly." I believe being a professional is taking responsibility for my actions and in the case of education, it is more important to have the students learn and be able to apply the material. Even if I have to use methods different from other teachers, my students will be able to remember and use what I'm teaching them because my techniques are out-of-the-box. Some people might not consider it a professional way to teach, but if I can communicate, plan, and build relationships with my fellow employees and my students, then I would consider it professional no matter how absurd my methods of teaching may be.

By pursuing a degree in Elementary Education, I will gain strong pedagogical content knowledge in different aspects of math, science, history, and much more. While I may have more knowledge than my students, it will mean nothing if I cannot find a way to successfully deliver the content to them. By the time they are finished with my class for the year, my students will be

able to apply my lessons to the real world in preparation for their futures. If a student is not understanding a lesson, I may have to change the way I present the material to them. Perhaps, the students may learn the lesson better if other students teach it. Therefore, I will have days where a student teaches a small portion of the section to the rest of the class. I will also have the students section off into groups and have each individual share his or her own method of learning the new materials I present. There will be times when students learn best when they have a one-on-one lesson with their teacher. I will be able to meet with them in order for those students to grow and acquire the material necessary to advance toward their futures.

Lastly, I will take responsibility for student learning as well as my own teaching practices. Assessment is one key way to determine how well a student is comprehending the material. I will assess my students with different tests, assignments, and projects. However, the tests will show poor results if my students are in an environment that fails to aid them in learning. In my classroom, bullying or anything that belittles any of my students will not be tolerated. Children should be able to learn in friendly, safe, and slightly challenging environments. After each lesson or day I teach, I think it would be beneficial to have my students write reviews about my performance. The reviews will allow me to reflect on my own strategies of teaching. By reflecting on my teaching methods, I can find new ways to educate my students in order for them to receive the full worth of an education.

A company's mission statement is a great way to show what the company is about, but it is an even better way to ensure the fulfillment of their philosophy. Every business needs a mission statement, and having one will allow other businesses to determine if they are doing their jobs properly and according to the company's beliefs. Aside from businesses and departments, individuals need mission statements as well. Teachers especially need their own

mission statements. Without them, educators would have no personal standards to achieve and their students would gain little knowledge on not only the specified content of the teacher, but on ways to become a better person in hopes for a better future.