

Stephanie Skinner
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Online MAED Application

Professional Goals Statement

Professionally, I have begun my teaching career with the right steps. I attended Michigan State University for my undergraduate and received my bachelor's degree in elementary education in 2008, and followed with my teacher certification year in Okemos, Michigan. Through these learning experiences, I grew as a beginning educator and interviewed across the state of Michigan until I was lucky enough to be hired at Grand Blanc Community Schools in 2009. Working in a district that prides itself on excellence and encourages teachers to work on advanced degrees has influenced me in my decision to begin working on my own advanced degree.

One of my professional goals is to continue learning and processing the material I have to teach to my students. Being a beginning teacher can be difficult, especially when changing grade levels between my first and second years. It has been a challenge to learn one curriculum, and then switch to a different one. However, with studying and planning ahead of time, I have been able to keep up with it the best I can. Another professional goal that I have is to have a better understanding of teaching reading and writing to my students. I have been attending professional development opportunities throughout the past two years, such as MLPP training and Lucy Calkins Writers' Workshop for Grades 3-5 training, and I know I have grown in teaching these concepts. However, I believe that another way to pursue this goal is through taking graduate courses so I can apply what I have learned and see its effects in my teaching. One more professional goal I have for myself in the field of teaching is to become a more confident and well-rounded educator. As a young, new teacher, I have experienced times when parents doubt my abilities. Questions may come up about something my students are working on, or a grading practice, and it has shaken my confidence at times. I have been lucky to have a supportive group of teachers and a wonderful principal who have backed me up in my decisions for my own classroom, but I strongly feel that working on and achieving an advanced degree will help me to feel like I have earned the confidence that I project.

I feel that the online program through MSU is the best choice for me at this time because I will be taking the courses while working full-time in Grand Blanc. Taking courses online will allow me flexibility in getting my work finished. I am familiar with online work through my undergraduate work at MSU with ANGEL and other websites professors used in their instruction. I also keep a class website through my district's SchoolFusion website, where I write a daily blog entry and list important announcements. Accessible files are also available for parents and students. I feel that online learning is very useful because of its ease from home, and because it is something that I want to get a better feel for, now that we are in a time where our students are going to be learning in perhaps the same way.