



Universal Education in My Classroom

Standard 1(j) of the *Professional Standards for Michigan Teachers* states that teachers must:

“Understand and respect individual differences, including the differences identified within the State Board of Education (SBE) Universal Education Vision and Principles.”

The State Board of Education’s **Vision of Universal Education** states that universal education:

- Builds a community that values diversity among all stakeholders and students, birth through adulthood.
- Engages broad-based working partnerships in removing all barriers that interfere, impede and/or prohibit access to the full range of learning opportunities.
- Recognizes and supports the critical, essential role that families/primary caregivers, in all of their diversity, play in the development and education of their children.”

Assignment:

In an essay of at least 500 words, describe what types of broad-based partnerships you expect to work within and what types of barriers to education you expect to deal with as a classroom teacher. How will you bring these issues forward within the school, and within the community?

Complete the essay with at least one paragraph describing your personal beliefs about the role of families in the education of the students you will teach. Explain how your beliefs align with or differ from what is stated in the Vision of Universal Education and the Michigan standards.