

Philosophy of Education

My understanding toward education focuses on two facets. First, is my belief that every child should be given the possibility to achieve and better him/herself through public education regardless of where or what situation they were born into. America's history shows that education is the great equalizer in an inherently unequal society, and the only pure answer to most of the country's ailments. Every person should be enabled and encouraged through education to reach their full potential - and nothing less. This requires a concerted effort by parents, educators and communities. This effort is never perfect, and I am convinced to be an effective educator one must learn to overcome this. I have been told by a teacher of my own, when faced with a doorway and immovable box blocking your path through the doorway, one can form complex arguments about the many reasons why it was placed there and whose responsibility it is to move it, or one can discover a way to climb over the box and get through the door. In the complex imperfect educational process that exists in our classrooms, I believe this analogy works perfectly.

The second facet of my philosophy on education is my personal teaching process. Good teachers possess the instructional skills to teach, but it is the ability to motivate and inspire that will make children lifelong learners. Teachers are only given 45 minutes a day to maximize learning. In this time, I hope to reach all my students through the pedagogical strategies I have been trained in and those I will continually seek to acquire. However, the authentic learning comes outside of the school day when a child is motivated and inquisitive enough to actively take education into his or her hands. I believe educators have a responsibility to not simply increase student outcomes, but to be empathetic and relate to their students in order that we may find the key to motivate students into becoming the designers of their own education. I have been fortunate enough to have great parents, teachers, and coaches throughout my life who have motivated me to pursue learning and push the boundaries of my potential. They have taught me to not just seek out answers, but ask new questions. I have confidence I can do this as well. I can be part of the equation that ultimately inspires students to become lifelong learners and expand their potential in ways they do not even know.