

Over the course of my experience in schools, I have developed a deep understanding of the significance of early learning in students' development. K-8 education is not only critical for providing students with foundational academic skills, but also for equipping them with the tools to foster sustainable social connections. In my role as a student success coach, I saw firsthand how social-emotional learning plays a crucial role in a student's overall well-being and academic achievement. These experiences have shaped my belief that teaching students to navigate the complex world of social interactions—both in person and online—is a fundamental aspect of their education. With the growing influence of technology and social media, it is more important than ever that we provide young learners with the skills to distinguish between meaningful, real-life interactions and those mediated through screens. I believe one of the best places to influence this social learning is in the elementary classroom.

Elementary education offers a level of versatility that few other endorsements provide. I am drawn to the opportunity to teach and connect with students across all core subjects, which will allow me to contribute to their academic growth in a well-rounded and meaningful way. The opportunity to be a part of shaping a child's early academic journey, across subjects like math, reading, science, and social studies, excites me because it lays the groundwork for a lifetime of learning and curiosity.

I believe I am well-suited for the elementary education endorsement because of my diverse and extensive experience working with children of various ages. I have had the privilege of working with children from 6 months to 14 years old in different educational settings. In my current role as a paraeducator, I have the opportunity to tutor students in various subjects, providing additional support in areas where they may be struggling. This hands-on experience allows me to directly assist students in their academic journey, reinforcing concepts and helping them build confidence in their abilities.

As a student success coach with City Year, I designed and facilitated individualized tutoring sessions in Math and Reading for students who were falling behind in their classes. I've seen how personalized support can make a tangible difference in student outcomes, particularly in elementary education. This role helped me develop not only my academic teaching skills but also my ability to build strong, trusting relationships with students and create a classroom environment where they feel supported and valued.

In addition to my practical experience, my passion for helping children succeed in both academics and life drives my desire to pursue the elementary education endorsement. I am dedicated to continuously improving my teaching methods and strategies to meet the needs of diverse learners, and I'm eager to create a nurturing and engaging learning environment for my students.

With my experience, dedication, and passion for teaching, I am confident in my ability to make a positive impact as an elementary educator and help guide students on their educational journeys.