

Aaron Stables

Endorsement Checklist Essay

My coursework in math, science, language arts, history, and humanities has provided me with a solid foundation in the core subjects that are essential for teaching elementary students. This academic background, paired with my education in social work, has prepared me to address the social and emotional needs of elementary students, communicate effectively with parents, and work collaboratively with the various systems that support the school environment.

Beyond my coursework, my experiences working with youth for over seven years in a variety of settings—schools, non-profit programs, and libraries—have also helped me build a well-rounded skill set for teaching. One experience that stands out is my time working in the Outreach Department at St. Louis County Library. There, I became highly proficient in children's literature. For two and a half years, I ran a bookmobile program that visited elementary schools, preschools, and youth community organizations. This role involved not only recommending books based on students' reading levels, but also creating engaging programming to promote reading. I also developed storytelling sessions for preschool-aged children, which encouraged early literacy.

In addition to my library experience, I have worked as a paraprofessional in schools. During the 2023-2024 school year, I led literacy groups for first and third grade students, using the Readwell curriculum, which emphasizes decoding strategies and both group and individual reading practice to increase fluency. This experience gave me hands-on practice in teaching reading. In the current school year, I am working with a fourth grade reading group, conducting reading assessments, and progress monitoring under the guidance of the school's reading intervention specialist.

In addition to reading groups, I also support elementary classrooms by providing group or one-on-one supplemental instruction in math, writing, science, and social studies, as well as specialty classes such as library, physical education, and music. Along with providing supplementary instruction, I observe certified teachers using a variety of techniques and methods to teach all core subjects. By the time the Masters in Teaching 2025 cohort begins, I will have worked in a school setting for over two full school years as a direct support professional.

My coursework and work experience has given me a strong foundation in order to continue building my knowledge and skills in the Integrated Multilingual Learner Pathway in the Masters in Teaching program. I look forward to growing professionally through the Master's program and student teaching, and I am eager to explore new methods for supporting multilingual learners in the classroom.