

Standard 3

Educators understand and apply knowledge of student growth and development.

As a teacher, I will feel very privileged to have the opportunity to assist students in their growth and development. I feel as though teaching is very rewarding since we are able to collaborate with students on their journey to reaching their full potential as learners, athletes, and ultimately, as people. However, in order to assist these students, I have to be knowledgeable about how children develop as learners and as social beings.

Every student has their own experiences that shape their identity and each identity is unique to the individual. When working with students in a professional context, it is important to keep this fundamental concept in mind. This means that I need to remember that no student or situation is the same. If I can value this uniqueness, then it is a step in the right direction towards encouraging innovation and originality in my classroom. Furthermore, fostering individuality in the classroom allows students to make a stronger connection with the topic discussed and makes learning more meaningful and engaging. It also encourages a classroom full of perspectivism, which takes a step back from the egocentric lens that is permeating society as of late.

Ultimately, understanding and applying knowledge of student growth and development will allow me to have a holistic approach to teaching in my classroom where empathy and collaboration are encouraged. I can use this knowledge in order to make important decisions about curriculum, instruction, assessment and classroom management.

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