Assignment 1B: Ed Specialist CAL TPA, Cycle 1-Part A

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Terms	Sources of Information
Class Demographics	In the district I work in, the classroom demographics can be found in the LROIX system. In this system educators can easily find the specific demographics of the class, course history, gpa history, district/state tests, ell levels, attendance rate, student information (disability, counselor, school of residence, placement, home language), parent contact and student siblings. Also can view discipline and conferences as students have run into in the past. Special ed information sheet, special education goal tracker, immunizations. The AT-promise/interventions. Another system educators use is Synergy and here students can view IEPs and 504 plans for the specific students.
Percentage of 2nd Language Learners	In the LROIX, you can view ELL levels. LBUSD is rolling out a new ELLevation system this year, and it contains very detailed ELL data and strategies. Teachers are currently just learning about the system. Here a teacher can access a full class demographic that breaks down the number of students that are english only, EL's, and RFEPs (monitored), RFEPs (fully exited), as well as LTELs. It gives strategies, writing levels and speaking levels as a whole.
Class Diagnosed disabilities	The LROIX and Synergy systems both provide the class diagnosed disabilities information to the educators.
Accommodations/modifications	Accommodations and Modifications can both be found on the Synergy system under the linked IEPs and 504s.
Cultural Impacts on Learning	Information on the students' culture can be accessed on the LROIX system under student information. It is also helpful to view information posted on LROIX that document previous IEP meetings and evaluations and interactions with parents/guardians. School counselors who have worked with students would have some insight. Contacting the parent to gain more information is also an option. Talking to the student and watching the student in class or around school would give insight as well.

Asset based instruction	To best provide asset based instruction to the students, teachers can interact with their students to get to know them better. This could be done with conversations or to create activities and lessons that facilitate getting to know the students and their strengths. Being well aware of the diverse demographics of the class can allow teachers to utilize said diversity to add to the classroom environment and instruction.
KWL	In LROIX systems teachers can access course history, gpa history, district/state tests, ell levels to better understand what students currently know. Teachers can also utilize previous assignments and tests they have assigned to understand where the students are at with material. They can also utilize their observations from when students participate in class to see where students currently are as well as what they want to learn. Administering exams can also be an effective way for both teachers and the students to assess what they learned.
Class behavior plan	Individual behavior plans can be seen on a student's IEP on the Synergy system. Teachers can use and integrate all of the students behavior plan data to create a class behavior plan that caters best to the success of all students in the class.

Reflection

Teachers who take the time and effort to get to know their students prior to and when developing classroom materials and lessons can better ensure that the students will retain the material. Being familiar with each of the segments above for class and case load is crucial to planning lessons for the course.

Class demographics are helpful and significant in planning as they aid the teacher in fully understanding the general "audience" of students who they are crafting the lesson towards. This allows teachers to understand the present level of performance for their students and where they are at academically to teach them at their instructional level. It is very important to meet students where they are at both academically, socially, and emotionally so they can resonate with the teacher and feel seen. A teacher who is aware of the general background of the class that they are with can better connect with the students and this connection can help students feel encouraged and empowered when they show up to class and complete assignments.

The data for percentage of second language learners is helpful as the teacher can account for having to take extra measures during the lesson to ensure that the students will understand the material. An example of this might be the teacher primes the class on certain vocabulary that might be difficult for ELL students to understand. The teacher can also use visuals to help explain the vocabulary and what something is.

Understanding the diagnosed disabilities of the class is crucial to teaching the class at the appropriate academic level. It also helps the teacher to understand why there might be certain behaviors present in class and how to account for that when planning lessons. Along with understanding diagnosed disabilities, it is very crucial for teachers to be aware of the accommodations and modifications they have to provide for their students. This might be as simple as providing printed notes for a particular student or having particular words highlighted. They can plan for the appropriate technology needed as well. The teacher can offer the student a sentence starter on an assignment so they do not get stumped at the very beginning. Integrating opportunities to share with their peers (think, pair, share) could be helpful for students with ELL and particular disabilities.

Teachers can also plan lessons through a very aware cultural lense using the cultural impacts of learning for their students by identifying what students can relate to, grasp onto, and connect with to be included in lessons. The teacher can provide opportunity for the students to reflect on their cultural lens and can also bring in real world issues into the classroom. This could help students better grasp concepts that might be more difficult if they can connect it with something they already understand. Asset based instruction is also a vital part to the planning process. This allows the teacher to create activities and lessons that facilitate getting to know the students and their strengths. Being well aware of the diverse demographics of the class can allow teachers to utilize said diversity to add to the classroom environment and instruction. Teachers who focus on the strengths of the class and do not view assets as deficits cultivate diversity in the classroom that adds to their lessons. A teacher might ensure that feedback is delivered in a 3:1 ratio for positive feedback to negative feedback to empower their student.

Utilizing KWL in the classroom to plan is significant because it ensures that the lesson will be efficient and deliver proper material to the students. The teacher can take what they know they know their students are strong at and can build upon their current level. They can use data from after a lesson and observe what the students really understood and can seek to improve parts of the lesson where students might not have grasped the material as well.

Knowing the specific behavior plans of the students can allow teachers to plan lessons that will mitigate the likelihood of a student's behavior to harm the success of the lesson. They could also utilize goals in behavior plans of the class to plan lessons that give students an opportunity to practice skills that will aid in lessening the behaviors that they are trying to avoid. When they are aware of problem behaviors they can shape a lesson that avoids the problem behaviors so they do not disrupt the learning taking place.

References

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. (2018). *CalTPA Performance Assessment Guide.* Retrieved October 28, 2022, From https://www.csusm.edu/soe/currentstudents/caltpa_c1_assessmentguide_ms.pdf

California Department of Education. (n.d.). *English Language Development Standards.* Retrieved October 28, 2022. From https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/er/eldstandards.asp