# Beth Hankoff

**Student-Centered Educator/Facilitator · Homeschool and Neurodiversity Specialist**
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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Student-centered educator with 30+ years of experience supporting homeschool, neurodivergent, and learning-challenged students. I design learning experiences that fit how each student thinks and feels, focusing on self-directed education, customized ELA curricula, and trauma-informed environments that center student autonomy. I'm especially drawn to students who have been considered "difficult" or "behind," and I help them rebuild a sense of safety and competence around learning.

## EXPERIENCE

**Encourage Education Services, San Jose — Founder/Facilitator**
AUGUST 2017 – PRESENT

- Design and facilitate long-term, individualized learning plans for English language learners, neurodivergent students, and students with learning disabilities. I prioritize emotional safety and regulation as foundations for academic and personal growth.
- Develop flexible ELA and integrated projects that shift as students' interests change. Instead of tests, I use work samples, written reflections, and conversations so students can see and talk about their own growth.
- I created "The ELA Alcove," a suite of English Language Arts scaffolds and tools to support differentiated reading and writing instruction.
- Work closely with families transitioning from traditional school to homeschooling, walking them through deschooling, planning learning together, and showing them how to support choice and collaboration at home.
- Help students who struggled in traditional settings re-engage with learning. Many go from avoiding writing to completing full paragraphs and short essays within their first semester.
- Support English language learners in making rapid progress. Multiple students have tested English Language Proficient after one year. Guided a 10th-grade student with multiple disabilities to improve by three grade levels in one year, and she ultimately graduated from high school with honors.

**Ocean Grove Charter School, Santa Clara County — Education Specialist**
AUGUST 2011 – JUNE 2016

- Served as teacher of record for K–12 homeschool families, creating monthly standards-aligned learning records and semester portfolios for each student.
- Collaborated with families to select curricula, adapt materials, and design learning experiences that honored student interests and learning profiles.
- Ensured timely submission of work samples and compliance with charter and state requirements.

**Liber Community School, Los Gatos — Love of Learning & Mathematics Mentor Teacher**
AUGUST 2008 – MAY 2009

- Facilitated hands-on, mixed-age math instruction for K-8th grade students.
- Led a 3rd–6th-grade cohort with project-based, integrated language arts and U.S. history.
- Provided 1:1 mentoring and assessed through portfolios, presentations, and narrative feedback.

## SKILLS

- **Neurodiversity & Inclusion:** Create supportive environments for learners with ADHD, autism, and diverse learning profiles.
- **Self-Directed Education (SDE):** Guide child-led inquiry and self-paced learning, and help students set their own meaningful goals.
- **Customized Curriculum:** Co-create project-based learning paths grounded in student interests and strengths.
- **Partnership-Based Mentoring:** Build collaborative relationships that honor student voice and agency.
- **Technology Integration:** Leverage Google Workspace, Canva, and AI tools to enrich learning and support creative expression.
- **English Language Arts Specialist:** Expert literature and writing teacher who meets students where they are and supports steady, self-paced growth.
- **Positive Discipline & Conflict Resolution:** Expert in Positive Discipline, conflict resolution, and Collaborative & Proactive Solutions, including training parents, staff, and students.

## AWARDS

**Influential Women Recognition, 2026 — *Influential Women***
Recognized for leadership and contributions in education and advocacy.
**Advocator of the Month, 2022 — *Lives in the Balance***
Honored in the Lives in the Balance newsletter for contributions as California Lead Advocator, supporting efforts to end punitive practices in schools.
**Vision Award: Maximum Use of Resources, 2007 — *Oak Grove School District***
Awarded for co-creating The Indigo Program, a progressive, parent-participation K–8 public program.

## EDUCATION

***San Jose State University*, San Jose, CA — Teacher Preparation Program**
DECEMBER 1993
Completed preparation program for a Multiple Subject Elementary Credential.
***California Institute of the Arts*, Valencia, CA — BFA, Music (Composition Emphasis)**
DECEMBER 1990
Emphasis in music composition; additional study in Indonesian and African traditional music, creative writing, foreign languages, and drama interpretation.

## RELEVANT TRAINING & CREDENTIALS

**The Art of Facilitating Growth, *Evolving Education* — Certificate of Completion**, Jan 2026
Training in facilitation skills for self-directed and student-centered learning communities.
**Introduction to Self-Determination Theory, *University of Rochester* — Certificate of Completion,** Jul 2025
Coursework in motivation science and autonomy-supportive educational practices.
**Certified Handwriting Specialist, *Learning Without Tears*,** Aug 2017
**Cross-cultural Language Acquisition and Development Certificate, *CA Commission on Teacher Credentialing*,** Jul 1994
**Multiple Subject Teaching Credential with Supplementary Authorization in Music, *CA Commission on Teacher Credentialing*,** Jan 1994

## VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

**Lives in the Balance — California Lead Advocate (2020–2024)**
Served as California Lead Advocate for Lives in the Balance, a national organization working to end punitive practices in schools.
**Parents for Change — Contributing Member (2018–2022)**
Participated in the advocacy arm of Parents Helping Parents, a resource center for families of children with disabilities.
**The Indigo Program — Co-founding Parent (2004–2008)**
Co-founded The Indigo Program, a public, progressive, parent-participation K–8 program in the Oak Grove School District. Collaborated with district leadership to design and sustain the program. Served on the Parent Board, provided Positive Discipline training, and authored the original discipline plan.