Special Education Content Standard #3: Individual Learning Differences

Special educators understand the effects that an exceptional condition\(^2\) can have on an individual’s learning in school and throughout life. Special educators understand that the beliefs, traditions, and values across and within cultures can affect relationships among and between students, their families, and the school community. Moreover, special educators are active and resourceful in seeking to understand how primary language, culture, and familial backgrounds interact with the individual’s exceptional condition to impact the individual’s academic and social abilities, attitudes, values, interests, and career options. The understanding of these learning differences and their possible interactions provides the foundation upon which special educators individualize instruction to provide meaningful and challenging learning for individuals with ELN.

Beginning special educators demonstrate their mastery of this standard through the mastery of the CEC Common Core Knowledge and Skills, as well as through the appropriate CEC Specialty Area(s) Knowledge and Skills for which the program is preparing candidates.

1. **What is this artifact?**

This is a comprehensive case study on a student with mental retardation, emotional or learning disabilities.

2. **How does it relate to the standard above?**

This case study which provides an opportunity to observe students with mild disabilities leads to a better understanding of the learning differences and the implications of a disability on an individual’s learning. This case study either allows the observation of actual students (or review of a comprehensive vignette) which provides a better foundation of understanding the effects of individualized instruction in special education settings.