

A LETTER FROM ALISHA JENKINS
A 2022 ESTHER H. STRICKLAND GRANT RECIPIENT

ADSOEF members,

Thank you again for allowing me to receive Esther H. Strickland Student Teaching Grant. It is because of this grant that I was able to complete my student teaching experience. Without this grant, I would have had the stress of working 25 hours or more a week while also maintaining the responsibilities of student teaching. For my student teaching experience, I was placed in a 6th grade math and science classroom. This was a great placement as I also had an inclusion class which I learned a lot from.

While having an inclusion classroom, I had the opportunity to work one on one with an intervention specialist. The intervention specialist also co-taught periodically with me for a 50/50 time, creating a seamless teaching interaction for the students. At any given time, the students could not tell who the classroom teacher was. Working with these students was also beneficial as each student had a different learning need. Differentiation was crucial to the learning environment, and I spent a lot of time researching various ways to help my Autistic students. This was a valuable experience that was made possible by this grant. I am very thankful for this experience, and I am a better teacher because of it.

As I graduate and move into my teaching career at a local district, this will be an experience that I can take into my classroom with me. Working with students that had an SLD, ED, or were Autistic was challenging yet valuable as a student-teacher. I spent most of my time at my placement learning from this experience and growing as a teacher and advocate. This experience would not have been possible without this grant. I am grateful for receiving this grant and the many opportunities that it has provided me. As I move forward into my future, I have accepted a teaching position in an 8th grade science classroom and am excited to see where this career choice takes me.

Thank you again!

Very respectfully,

Alisha Jenkins