

Matthew Morris, Ed.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

PROFILE SUMMARY

Education professional with a proven track record of building relationships and achieving goals to meet the needs of students. Experienced in conducting professional development sessions, managing budgets, building capacity in colleagues, executing plans to assist in meeting long-term goals, coordinating and directing academic programming, conducting educational assessments, and analyzing data to monitor the effectiveness of special education programs. My core beliefs include doing what is best for students, removing barriers for students and staff, and achieving the goals of LEAs and communities.

SKILLS

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Assessment & Evaluation | Professional Development | Mentoring & Coaching | Budget Management
Excellent Communication | Academic Intervention | Process Improvement | Strategic Planning
Curriculum Development | Virtual Instruction | Process Improvement | Relationship Building

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Frontline Education | eSchool SIS | Aeries SIS | Eduphoria | Google Workspace | Canvas LMS
Blackboard LMS | Matrix LMS | MS Teams | Laserfiche | MS Office | TSDS | ASCEND | C-SEP | X-BASS

WORK EXPERIENCE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Mesquite ISD | Mesquite, Texas | 2025 - Present

- Provide oversight and administer the special education program for the district
- Administer the Regional Day School Program for the Deaf (RDSPD)
- Develop and administer the budget for the special education department
- Serve as the primary contact between Mesquite ISD and the special education division of Region 10 Education Service Center and the Texas Education Agency
- Assist principals and personnel administrators in screening, interviewing and hiring special education personnel
- Serve as the primary contact person between the Mesquite ISD and agencies contracting special education services
- Keep special education staff current in trends and new methods in education
- Serve as building administrator for the Student Support Center
- Facilitate mediation and due process hearings
- Collaborate with the business office on staffing, SHARS, and federal grants

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Keller ISD | Keller, Texas | 2023 - 2025

- Analyzed campus-based and itinerant staffing needs to make recommendations for the appropriate allocation of personnel
- Assisted Director of Data Compliance in the submission of special education staffing information to the Texas Education Agency
- Reviewed special education staffing information, and assisted Human Resources with updating Position Control as needed
- Provided training and technical assistance to staff to ensure compliance with IDEA
- Monitored student performance and program effectiveness collaboratively with the leadership team
- Attended IEP meetings and staffings to support campus staff in navigating complex situations
- Worked closely with assistant superintendents to effectively support 42 campuses across the district
- Collaborated with the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction regarding the general education curriculum needs of special education teachers and students
- Provided guidance and advice in the interpretation of special education regulation, law, and rule
- Developed and revised processes and procedures to ensure compliance with all state, federal, and local requirements
- Assisted in budget development and management of local and federal funds
- Provided direct oversight of Child Find, specially designed instruction, state assessment, SHARS, dyslexia/dysgraphia, as well as provided advocate and attorney support for Due Process and Special Education Complaints
- Collaborated with the special education leadership team in completing State Performance Plan activities

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- Led and supported special education staff to achieve the goals of the district and department
- Evaluated job performance of assigned staff, and developed action plans for staff when needed
- Developed and executed Corrective Action Plans when required, and worked with Texas Education Agency staff to ensure compliance

EDUCATIONAL DIAGNOSTICIAN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR

Region 10 ESC | Richardson, Texas | 2023 – 2025

(Part-Time)

- Delivered presentations and provided instruction of norm-referenced assessments, evaluation report writing, and best practices for student intervention
- Served as a field supervisor for practicum candidates and interns

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

East Texas A&M University | Commerce, Texas | 2022 – Present

(Part-Time)

- Co-developed training for use in all university educator certification programs in order to comply with Texas Education Agency requirements
- Teach graduate-level students and provide learning opportunities to enable them to grow as assessment professionals
- Courses taught include PSY/SPED 572 Psychological Assessment/Measurement, PSY/SPED 573 Intellectual Assessment, and SPED 574 Principles of Psycho-Educational Assessment

PROGRAM COORDINATOR/CONSULTANT

Region 10 ESC | Richardson, Texas | 2021 - 2023

- Communicated with Texas Education Agency staff to ensure program compliance
- Designed and delivered presentations and provided instruction of norm-referenced assessments, evaluation report writing, and best practices for student intervention
- Developed relationships across service areas to maximize center resources and vet course curriculum to ensure coursework was aligned to Texas state standards and competencies
- Assisted in the development and management of program budget
- Promoted certification program and continually recruited candidates via social media and other platforms to maintain and build program participation
- Provided leadership, mentoring, and coaching to program staff, aspiring educational diagnosticians, and mentors in local education agencies across Texas
- Worked with LEAs and education service center staff to recruit and support education professionals
- Developed curriculum, policies, and procedures to effectively facilitate the development of educational diagnostician candidates

EDUCATIONAL DIAGNOSTICIAN

Magnolia ISD | Magnolia, Texas | 2018 - 2021

- Worked closely with campus personnel to implement district policies and procedures regarding special programs to ensure a continuum of services were provided to students
- Analyzed data and provided information to assist in determining placement and/or programming decisions for IEP development
- Performed educational evaluations for students suspected of having a disability
- Provided staff development to assist school personnel in working with students with disabilities
- Provided research-based recommendations regarding best practices to support student success
- Served as mentor for educational diagnostician interns/practicum students

EDUCATIONAL DIAGNOSTICIAN

Frisco ISD | Frisco, Texas | 2017 - 2018

- Facilitated the admission, review, and dismissal process for assigned campuses
 - Provided research-based recommendations regarding best practices to support student success
 - Provided support to campus staff for students participating in centralized programs
 - Collaborated with campus personnel to ensure students were receiving appropriate services
 - Provided consultation for IEP development
 - Conducted psychoeducational evaluations for students suspected of having a disability
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DIRECTOR/COORDINATOR OF ACADEMIC SERVICES

Southeastern Oklahoma State University | Durant, Oklahoma | 2014 - 2017

- Devised and implemented a strategic plan which resulted in a significant increase of students enrolled in university programs
- Managed the daily operations of programs offered by Southeastern at Grayson College, including the yearly budget
- Coordinated and directed academic programming
- Assisted Dean and Director of Educational Outreach in accreditation process
- Served on hiring committees
- Served on President's Advisory Committee for Recruitment-Enrollment
- Developed relationships with community colleges to create transfer agreements for recruitment initiatives

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

Grayson College | Denison, Texas | 2015 – 2017

(Part-Time)

- Taught EDUC/PSYC 1300 Learning Frameworks via face-to-face, hybrid, and online formats
- Developed lessons that provided opportunities for students to identify resources and a network of support to promote success in college and life
- Assessed student learning outcomes

ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR

Southeastern Oklahoma State University | Durant, Oklahoma | 2014 – 2015

(Part-Time)

- Taught EDUC 3313 Technology Integration for the Classroom
- Explained the social, ethical, legal, and human issues surrounding the use of technology
- Provided opportunities for students to plan and design effective learning environments supported by technology that enhanced productivity and professional practice

ELEMENTARY TEACHER

Sherman ISD | Sherman, Texas | 2012 - 2014

- Developed lessons and differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all students in a predominantly low-income school

CERTIFICATIONS

Texas

Educational Diagnostician EC-12 | Principal EC-12 | Special Education Supplemental EC-12
Generalist EC-6 | Generalist 4-8 | Technology Applications EC-12 | English as a Second Language
Supplemental EC-12

Oklahoma

School Psychometrist | Elementary Principal | Middle Level Principal | Secondary Principal
Mild-Moderate Disabilities | Elementary Education | Early Childhood Education
English as a Second Language

EDUCATION

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION | University of Houston, Houston, Texas

2019 - 2021

Professional Leadership

EDUCATIONAL DIAGNOSTICIAN CERTIFICATION | Dallas Baptist University, Dallas, Texas

2016 - 2017

Certification Program

MASTER OF EDUCATION | Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, Oklahoma

2012 - 2013

School Administration

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE | Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, Oklahoma

2007 - 2011

Elementary Education – Cum Laude
