

## Goal Reflection Essay

Upon entering the Masters of Educational Technology (MAET) Program at Michigan State University, I set goals for myself. I set these goals at the end of my first year of teaching. Here are the both the personal and professional goals.

### Personal Goals

1. Learn about myself as an educator, gain more self-awareness and evolve my teaching philosophy
2. Earn over a 3.5 GPA in the program

I believe that I have met both of my personal goals over the past two years. The program, along with gaining more experience in the classroom, has helped me to learn what type of teacher I would like to be. My first course reacquainted me with educational psychology and how learning occurs, which was much needed now that I am in the field. My course in assessment opened my eyes to the true purpose of assessment and which type of assessments work best for different situations. My courses for the technology certificate allowed me to discover how best to integrate technology and why this works in the classroom. My research course made me more acclimated to reading and interpreting research, these skills I will continue to use. I also had the opportunity to design an online class and discover the best learning management systems. Lastly, I am learning how to become a technology leader at my school. All of these skills have combined to elevate me to and make decisions that are best for my students. As a lifelong learner, I know I will continue to evolve this philosophy while gaining more skills. In the process, I have also met my GPA goal. This took a lot of hard work, time management, and less free time, but it has worked out and I hope to graduate with a 4.0 in the program!

### Professional Goals

1. Become certified in Educational Technology
2. Become a technology leader at my school

When I first applied to the MAET program, I was thinking about getting an endorsement in technology through the state of Michigan. For now, I am content with my Master's degree and the Graduate Certificate in Educational Technology. I will be able to apply everything I have learned in my current role as a 4th-grade teacher. I also hope to become a technology coach at my school. This goal I have not fulfilled yet. I would consider myself a technology support for other teachers and staff at my school, but I do not hold that position formally. I will be applying for this leadership role when it becomes available for the next school year.

Looking forward, I hope to continue learning, trying new things, and evolving my teaching philosophy. It is important to me to change my practices in the classroom as time goes on to keep improving and provide students with what they need to be successful. I do not view completing the MAET program as an ending, but as a new beginning for me as I continue to learn and grow.