JULIAN MERCER

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Special Education Teacher with 7+ years supporting students with learning disabilities, autism, and emotional needs in inclusion and resource settings. Writes compliant IEPs, adapts instruction using evidence-based methods, and works closely with families, therapists, and general educators.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Special Education Teacher, Resource Room Aug 2020 - Present
Fairfax County Public Schools, Fairfax, VA

- Case-manage 18 students in grades 3 to 5, writing and updating IEP goals, accommodations, and progress reports on district timelines.
- Deliver small-group reading and math instruction, using progress monitoring every two weeks to adjust supports and pacing.
- Co-teach with general education teachers in three classrooms, adapting materials and modelling strategies for inclusive instruction.
- Lead IEP meetings with parents, therapists, and administrators, explaining evaluation results and goals in plain language.
- Maintain on-time compliance for annual reviews and re-evaluations, completing every deadline for the year without extension.
- Train instructional assistants on behaviour plans and accommodations, supporting consistent routines throughout the day.
- Review monthly progress data with the school psychologist and speech therapist, adjusting services for students who are not meeting goals.

Special Education Teacher, Self-Contained Aug 2017 - Jun 2020
Montgomery County Public Schools, Rockville, MD

- Taught a self-contained class of eight students with autism, using visual schedules, structured work systems, and communication supports.
- Wrote behaviour intervention plans with the school psychologist, reducing classroom incidents by roughly a third over the year.
- Taught functional life and social skills, including community-based lessons that built independence and confidence.
- Collected daily data on goals and communicated progress to families through weekly notes and quarterly conferences.
- Coordinated with speech and occupational therapists to embed therapy strategies directly into classroom routines.

Special Education Paraprofessional Aug 2015 - Jun 2017
Prince George's County Public Schools, Upper Marlboro, MD

- Supported students with learning disabilities in inclusion classrooms, reinforcing lessons and accommodations one-on-one.
- Recorded behaviour and academic data for teachers, helping the team spot patterns and adjust supports sooner.
- Finished a master's program in the evenings while working full time and earned a state special education licence.

CORE SKILLS

IEP development | Case management | Differentiated instruction | Progress monitoring | Co-teaching | Behaviour intervention plans | Autism support | Visual supports | Special education law | Family communication | Reading intervention | Assistive technology | Data collection | Team collaboration

EDUCATION

M.Ed. in Special Education, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

CERTIFICATIONS

Virginia Special Education General Curriculum Endorsement, state teaching licence | Maryland Special Education Certification | Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Nonviolent Crisis Intervention