

## Reflection on TPE 8 Learning about Students

Candidates for a Teaching Credential draw upon an understanding of patterns of child and adolescent development to understand their students. Using formal and informal methods, they assess students' prior mastery of academic language abilities, content knowledge, and skills, and maximize learning opportunities for all students.

*Candidates for Teaching Credential know that the prior knowledge of students and their home-culture influences their learning, their attendance, their interpretation of the lessons as well as their sense of organization and ability to respond to the instructions. The prior knowledge assessment helps teachers define different possible strategies for every or some individuals with special needs.*

Through interpersonal interactions, they learn about students' abilities, ideas, interests and aspirations.

*Candidates for Teaching Credential know that sometimes they need to take further steps beyond regular methods of prior knowledge assessment. Some of these steps include interpersonal interactions.*

They encourage parents to become involved and support their efforts to improve student learning. They understand how multiple factors, including gender and health, can influence students' behavior, and understand the connections between students' health and their ability to learn. Based on assessment data, classroom observation, reflection and consultation, they identify students needing specialized instruction, including students whose physical disabilities, learning disabilities, or health status require instructional adaptations, and students who are gifted.

*Candidates for Teaching Credential know that creating an environment that is welcoming parents to get involved in their children's education is very essential for their success. Therefore they try to organize conferences or performances that parents can attend and learn more about their children's learning process. Teachers can later give direct feedback to them and also ideas about how they can get more involved in supporting their children.*

*There are many different ways to help special need students increase their level of progress. Some of these ways include:*

- *peer tutoring*
- *supplemental instruction*
- *academic counseling*
- *walk-in and individual tutoring*

- *information on:*
- *note-taking*
- *time-management*
- *exam preparation*
- *stress management*