**Teacher Professional Growth Plan**

Outlined by the ATA

**Part A: Professional Growth Plan**

**1. My Personal Vision of Teaching and Learning**

**Who am I as a teacher?**

 As an emerging teacher, my relationship to my students will be authentic, as I will work hard to facilitate and nurture all students, their background and abilities, as well as provide meaningful knowledge that they can then take beyond the walls of the school into the real world where they will contribute and be successful, active members of our society. I also believe that my relationship to the curriculum will also be creditable as I will explore and create lesson plans that are of interest of the class while honoring the government curricular standards and expectations. Planning will be a required component in translating the curricular desired outcomes into creative, authentic and properly scaffolded learning opportunities for students. I will strive to interweave these important aspects into learning to deliver successful lessons, foster respectful relationships and develop cognition.

 In my classroom teaching will look very interactive. Different learning moments will require different instructional practices, but I will adapt my lessons to meet the needs of the learners and to guide them in their knowledge acquisition and discovery. I have learned that I believe in constructivism and inquiry teaching methods to optimize most learning opportunities through creative expression, critical thinking, metacognition and hands-on exploration using the teacher as a guide through the knowledge acquisition process. However, I also believe there are moments in the classroom that require direct instruction. It is imperative to teach phonics through direct instruction to ensure students have strong foundational reading skills that will allow students to become lifelong learners. As a language teacher I also think there are moments in teaching grammar, which also require direct instruction for students to have a clear understanding of how to improve common mistakes or while learning complex structures. I will model good citizenship, work ethic and respect at all times to encourage my students to also strive to be their best selves in everyday life as well.

Aspects that distinguish me as a unique educator include my second language background and my extensive travel experiences that have enlightened me to be a more open minded, patient and kind person. I believe these experiences are valuable and I am able to share and pass along knowledge and concepts to others who want to learn Spanish or see the world from other perspectives. I also bring a strong physical activity background into my practice, which I can utilize to support my class and especially students who need kinaesthetic movement frequently throughout the day. My knowledge of different sports and activities can be transferred to teaching my students athletic skills, as well as teaching them how to live a healthy lifestyle. Furthermore, I believe I have experience working as an Educational Assistant, which has given me an appreciation and understanding for EAs and students living with difficult conditions. I believe I have become a very well rounded adult that continuously strives to be a better, more open and knowledgeable person. Learning is a lifelong journey and I thrive on continuously growing mentally, physically and emotionally.

 As a teacher I believe that I am accountable to my students to ensure they receive the education that they deserve. I want to dive deep into the curriculum and make it authentic for students to apply to real world experience. I think parents of my students and my administration also hold me accountable for providing every individual with the unique instruction that they need in order for each student to reach their potential.

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**2. My Professional Development Needs**

**Where am I going as a teacher/learner?**

**Briefly outline your learning goal(s) and the ways in which you might accomplish it (them):**

 As a teacher, I know that this profession can be very challenging at times. My goal as a teacher is to work hard to look for the beauty in every student, every learning moment and every situation, to remain positive and grounded in my everyday practice.

 My goals as a learner include striving to explore my students’ needs by doing research, attending workshops and to constantly working towards gaining more knowledge and insight into how teach to my unique learners. I look forward to continuing on my lifelong learning journey and to always be exploring and acquiring more knowledge. For example, if I have an aboriginal student in my class, I will seek to explore their culture, language, customs, etc. to gain deeper understanding into their learning and expressive processes. I will try and see the world and learning through their eyes and work to accommodate their culture into our classroom community to further acceptance, understanding and identity.

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**3. My Community of Learners**

**Identify three to five colleagues who share your goal(s). These colleagues will become part of your Community of Learners focus group. Meet with your group to explain your goal(s) and how you plan to accomplish it (them). Brainstorm additional ways of accomplishing your goal(s). You group may also help you refine your goal(s).**

 I am apart of a few communities of learners including my CoP for EDUC 455, as well as a Teachers Book Club that I frequently meet with, discuss ideas and grow cognitively.

**Describe the ideas that the group considered:**

 In my Book Club for Teachers we discussed ideas to accomplish my goals including deepening my yoga practice as it has been very successful in keeping me grounded and grateful mentally, as well as giving me strength physically. We researched different Yoga Training Programs that I could explore to deepen my knowledge and health. I could transfer these aspects into my own teaching to allow my students to feel calm, safe, grounded, grateful and healthy in their lives as well.

 In our CoP we discussed taking full advantage of Professional Development days to learn new strategies that could be useful for our students. We also thought as educators we should research and explore in depth any conditions that our students may have to gain a deeper insight into what they are experiencing and what we as teachers can do to help them reach their potential.

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**Select one goal that you will focus on within your Community of Learners Team:**

Remaining positive and grounded through teaching despite the difficult challenges.

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**The reason that I chose this goal is that it (check as many as apply)*:***

* Represents new challenges and learning
* Inspires me to reflect on the teaching and learning process
* Is doable and useful
* Aligns with a standard in the Teaching Quality Standard

**Identify the Knowledge, Skill or Attribute in the Teaching Quality Standard that align with this goal:**

**3K)** Teachers are career-long learners. Teachers engage in ongoing professional development to enhance their: understanding of and ability to analyze the context of teaching; ability to make reasoned judgments and decisions; and, pedagogical knowledge and abilities. They recognize their own professional needs and work with others to meet those needs. They share their professional expertise to the benefit of others in their schools, communities and profession.

Teachers guide their actions by their overall visions of the purpose of teaching. They actively refine and redefine their visions in light of the ever-changing context, new knowledge and understandings, and their experiences. While these visions are dynamic and grow in depth and breadth over teachers’ careers, the visions maintain at their core a commitment to teaching practices through which students can achieve optimum learning.

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**Describe the outcome(s) you expect to achieve this year.**

 Within on year I would like to have completed a 200 hour Yoga Teacher Training program. I will achieve this by financially preparing, enrolling in a program at Nasara Yoga Institute in Costa Rica and by travelling there and by committing my entire being to improve my yoga practice, my mind and my body.

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**Explain how accomplishing this goal will positively affect students:**

 I can bring yoga into the classroom and school to help students feel grounded and strong mentally, physically and emotionally. I believe yoga brings calmness and allows students to feel opened up in a safe environment.

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**4. Professional Development Model**

**How will you support your learning during the next year? (check as many as apply):**

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| **Individually-guided*** Personal study
* Web-based learning
* Anecdotal records
* Reflective journals
* Individual action research
* Log entries
* Other

**Development/Improvement Process*** Project-based
* School visits
* Assessment instruments (surveys, questionnaires)
* Authentic teacher made materials (designing quality work for students)
* Other
 | **Instruction/Workshops*** Technology skill training
* Workshops
* Conference
* Other

**Observation/Assessment*** Peer coaching (peer-to-peer)
* Cognitive coaching (peer-admin)
* Videotaped lessons
* Team teaching
* Other

**Inquiry*** Group action research
* Data collection and analysis
* Study group
* Other
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**5. Documentation:**

**Identify documentation that you intend to use to demonstrate your professional growth.**

* Artefact reflections that give evidence
* Self-assessment that provides insight into professional growth
* Sharing with colleagues
* Certificate of completion
* Other (please describe)

**Part B: Teacher Professional Growth Plan Report**

**I will fill this out once Yoga Training has been completed.**

Summarize your progress in reaching your goal. In doing so, answer such questions as these:

* What worked well in achieving your goal?
* How will this affect your teaching?
* In what ways was this personally meaningful?
* What would you have done differently in achieving your goal and why?
* What recommendations would you make to others on the basis of your findings?
* Based on what you learned, what future studies might you do to help your students learn?

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Include any relevant documentation (see above for types of documentation).