

Aliyah W. — Special Education Teacher

Bay View Middle School

Howard-Suamico School District

Do you enjoy working with people that have special needs? Do you like working with children? Throughout the last few years I have seen a lot of special education teachers that have worked with one of my best friends. I have found it amazing how they all helped him differently to learn. I have seen how happy he gets when he is with his aides. I think that this job is important because if we had no special education teachers then kids that have special needs wouldn't get the help that they needed.

I became interested in this because when I was in third grade I met a new peer. He had a special need and at first I thought it was kind of weird because I had never seen someone who had a special need. Once I got to know him I realized that he was actually the sweetest and kindest person I had ever met. It took me a while before I realized that when I got older that I wanted my profession to have something to do with kids that have special needs. I decided this because I noticed that when teachers helped children with special needs I saw how happy they became and that made me happy.

I chose this career path because I wanted to help people. I have always wanted to help people but now I know that I want to be a special education teacher. In this job I feel like I would be accomplishing something great. For this job I would need a bachelor's degree in teaching.

Most special education teachers get paid between \$54,700 and \$77,870 a year. If I earned my bachelor's degree in teaching I would have less opportunities than if I achieved my master's degree in education. In this job I would be in a classroom with a small group of children who have different physical and mental limitations teaching them some educational and basic daily skills with the goal of making their lives more manageable.

I know that this won't be an easy job. I'm aware of this because I have already spent a lot of time working in the special education room with lots of different kids and I have seen a lot of different challenges. There are a lot of different careers, but I think that being a special education teacher fits me the best because I love helping people and I love working with children that have special needs.