

GOAL SETTING: A KEY TO PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS

by:

Mariquita A. Banal

Biaan Aeta Integrated School Teacher III

In a flash, the world was driven into a catastrophic pandemic crisis caused by COVID-19. It altered traditional educational systems, which had been significantly disrupted due to social distancing and state policies. In these challenging times, the focus of discussions is on how education will look in the future and when it will return to a safe and healthier condition. These difficult times are essential for teachers to keep the spirit alive in terms of setting goals in their teaching profession.

Everyone has goals and desires that they would like to pursue. Goal setting is the best approach to turn someone's goal into a real outcome, whether they wish to develop their career or simply get a better job. Setting professional goals is a way for someone to keep moving from where they are to where they want to be in their career or their life. A key skill to possess is the capability to set and achieve goals. The ability to set and reach goals will have a greater impact on a person's success in life than any other discipline they will ever acquire. Keep in mind that life cannot proceed according to plan if a person does not have a plan.

According to educational research, teachers must develop both professional and personal goals that will help them do their duties more efficiently, avoid burnout, and maintain their motivation to do what they do on a daily basis. Teachers may thrive and continue to dream big for themselves and their students by creating genuinely feasible goals (Burton, 2021). Additionally, studies showed that individuals are more likely to succeed in their goals if they are measurable. People can grow exponentially in the present. They can increase their performance, surpass their expectations, and accomplish their goals at a level that will astound their loved ones (Nikita, 2009).

Here are how teachers can set objectives for their own professional growth and the improvement of the students they deal with. A teacher can create an exceptional academic year by using this technique.

Creating SMART objectives

Using this framework, SMART objectives help teachers in developing a strong framework around their goals, which need not be limited to teaching. They can change their attitude, gain new skills, and much more with the aid of SMART objectives. SMART goals set people up for success from the start rather than establishing nebulous goals that are difficult to assess achievement by. The concept is that teachers would utilize the SMART acronym anytime they set a goal to ensure it ticks the following five adjectives: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-bound.

2. Growing as a teacher and fostering continuous lifelong learning

Leading educators are aware that embracing "lifelong learning" applies to both educators and students. This entails encouraging teachers to continue learning throughout their careers in the classroom through reading, research, workshops for teachers, and other opportunities. Regularly pursuing educator professional development classes and programs is one of the finest methods to keep one's knowledge and abilities up to date. Professional development courses on hundreds of significant subjects are readily available and a fantastic way to stay current with new trends and teaching techniques. Since the majority of instructors are themselves, enthusiastically lifelong learners, they are aware of how crucial it is to develop this philosophy in their learners as well.

Changing one's mindset

Changing one's mindset on teaching is one of the most important adjustments a teacher can make. The way a person experiences their work and whether or not they continue to

develop and succeed are strongly influenced by their mindset. Practicing mindfulness exercises in daily routine can help a person feel less stressed, more purposeful, and more productive. It is beneficial to highlight the advantages of mindfulness practice for teachers, and it may feature a mindfulness curriculum with learners (Gonzales, 2021)

Setting goals is more about choice than timing. Teaching is a tough career. To provide the learners with everything they need to succeed, parents, teachers, and students must all collaborate. A teacher must develop a strategy for how they will conduct themselves in the classroom. To be the best teachers, teachers must learn to set objectives and limitations. As educators, they must consider why they are setting a goal for themselves and how they intend to achieve it. Goals for professional development guide teachers in formulating a plan of action. This will enable them to perform their tasks more effectively and to withstand the difficulties that come with them.

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