Principles of Education

Midland Freshman High School | Academic Year: 2026–2027 | Length of Course: 1 Year
Semester: [S1/S2] **Number of Credit Hours** 1 Full Credit **Prerequisite:** None
Instructor: Lindsey Cook • **Email**: lindsey.cook@midlandisd.net • **Conference Period**: 4th

Course Description

Principles of Education and Training is designed to introduce learners to the various careers available within the Education and Training Career Cluster. Students use self- knowledge as well as educational and career information to analyze various careers within the Education and Training Career Cluster. Students will develop a graduation plan that leads to a specific career choice in the student's interest area.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

Objective 1	Communicate professionally and work effectively in team and educational settings.
Objective 2	Recognize and manage stress while maintaining personal wellness.
Objective 3	Explore and articulate different educational career paths and underlying philosophies.
Objective 4	Apply developmental and instructional theories to support learning diversity.
Objective 5	Leverage digital tools and social media appropriately within educational contexts.

Instructional Materials & Supplies

- **Textbook**: Goodheart-Wilcox. *Teaching* (4th ed., 2024) — State Board of Education–adopted for Principles of Education & Training
- **Online Platform**: iCEV—Principles of Education & Training course (HTML-based), including standards-aligned lessons, assessments, lesson plans, and multimedia content
- **Tech Access:** Google Classroom
- **TAFE:** Teachers of Future Educators- **$40 fee**

Course Outline

Quarter (9 Weeks)	Unit Title	APPROXIMATE TIME	Topics Covered
Q1 (Sem A, Weeks 1–9)	Foundations and Historical Perspective	9 weeks	– Historical foundations of education in the U.S. – Definitions of teaching/training professions – Qualities of effective schools and nontraditional settings – Developing a personal philosophy of education
Q2 (Sem A, Weeks 10–18)	**Learner Development & Learning Processes**	9 weeks	– Theories of human development – Learning theories and instructional practices – Supporting diverse learners, exceptionalities, and special needs – Building rapport and understanding learner strengths
Q3 (Sem B, Weeks 19–27)	**Roles & Environments of Educators**	9 Weeks	– Roles in education & training and ethical behavior – Types of educational settings (urban/rural, public/private, Montessori, etc.) – Factors affecting salaries and career pathways

			– Developing lesson plans and adapting for student needs – Classroom environment: management, routines, positive behavior, technology
Q4 (Sem B, Weeks 28–36)	**Careers & Workforce Preparation in Education**	9 Weeks	– Career options in education (teachers, administrators, trainers, etc.) – Transferable skills and career planning – Labor market and societal trends impacting education professions – Authentic educator experiences: observations, shadowing, materials development – Final projects: personal philosophy, instructional materials, presenting a lesson

Grading Breakdown

Major assignments are those that allow you to demonstrate mastery of the course objectives. Minor assignments include skill checks, quizzes, homework, and other short assessments that contribute to your overall understanding of the course material.

Category	Percentage
Major Assignments(Tests, Projects)	60%
Minor Assignments (Quizzes / Skills Checks)	40%
Semester Exam / Project	15%

Grade Scale: A = 90–100 | B = 80–89 | C = 70–79 | F = < 70

Semester grades include a grade for each of the two nine-week periods and an exam or project that is weighted 15% of the overall semester grade.

Classroom Expectations

- Be on time, prepared, and respectful
- Use tech when instructed
- Ask questions and engage actively

Attendance & Participation

Attendance is mandatory. You must:

- Attend scheduled classes and labs
  Make up missed work with 1 school day allowed for each excused absence

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Late Work & Make-Up Policy

- Students are allowed one day of make-up time for each day of absence
- Late assignment penalties:
  - 1 School Day Late- Maximum Grade of 90
  - 2 School Days Late- Maximum grade of 80
  - 3-5 School Days Late- Maximum grade of 70
- Missed assessments must be rescheduled

Academic Integrity

Cheating or plagiarism is not tolerated. First offense may result in a zero and parent contact. Further violations follow district policy.

Industry-Based Certifications

This course aligns with—and prepares students for—the following credentials:

- **Certification Name: Educational Aide 1 Certification**

  - Offered: Senior year when student turns 18 if they have met previous criteria
  - Required/Optional: 3 credit hours from two or more classes, but one class must be an upper level course in the course sequence
  - Cost: No charge to student
  - Preparation: in-class instruction

Earning credentials enhances employability and may qualify for dual credit or advanced placement.

Career & Technical Student Organization (CTSO) Involvement

Students are encouraged to participate in:

- **Texas Association of Future Educators**– TAFE
  - *Description:* The Texas Association of Future Educators or TAFE (pronounced "taffy") is a co-curricular statewide non-profit (501 c3) student organization created to allow young men and women an opportunity to explore the teaching profession. The organization was created in 1984 to provide the best and brightest high school and middle school students in Texas with the necessary knowledge to make informed decisions about pursuing careers in education.
  - TAFE is sponsored by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals.
  - *Activities:* Students will be involved in attending meetings, participating in community service projects, and participate in Area,State, and National competitions.
  - *Requirements:* Attend & participate in two events per semester.

Safety & Equipment Use

- Always follow safety instructions and wear required PPE
- Report damaged tools/equipment immediately
- Violation of safety protocols may result in removal from lab and disciplinary action

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Parent/Guardian Communication

- Progress reports are sent every 3 weeks if the grade is below 70.
- Grades available in Powerschool
- Please email or call with questions or concerns

Acknowledgment of Understanding

Please return this signed page by August 26, 2025.

Student Name: _____ Signature: _____

Guardian Name: _____ Signature: _____

Preferred Contact (Email/Phone): _____

Please see the Nondiscrimination statement for information regarding the CTE statement of nondiscrimination