**Curriculum Design**

**8th Grade Special Education**

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**Statement of Purpose**

There are many different skills needed in order to be successful in the real world. Many math skills needed in everyday life are not a part of a school’s curriculum. Often times standards that are required to be taught in the classroom limit the teacher’s ability to teach life skills. According to the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Vocational and Adult Education and the National School to Work Office, Contextual Teaching and Learning is a way to help teachers relate subject matter content to real world situations and motivates students to make connections between knowledge and its applications to their lives as family members, citizens, and workers (Chiarelott,2005). The ability to use, balance, and maintain a checkbook is a valuable life skill. Within learning about checking account units many other subject areas can be addressed.

This checkbook curriculum design allows teachers to incorporate the skills that students will need in order to be successful in their adult life. Teachers can incorporate English, reading, math, and history, social as well as life skills. In order for this curriculum to be successful, teachers need to be willing to think outside of the box.

Individual Education Plans are legal documents that are set up to benefit an individual student with a disability. These are individual skills that educators and parents would like to see the child master by the end of the academic school year. This unit allows for real life skills that will encourage independent living skills in the future.