***Statement of Purpose***

**We study mathematics because of its importance to our lives. Math helps teachers relate subject matter to real life world situations. Our school schedule, our trip to the store, the preparation of our meals, gas mileage, and much, much more involve mathematics. Every day brings a chance to find math problems drawn from everyday experiences. Algebra is the basis for all higher-level mathematics in high school. My goal as a special education teacher is to teach Algebra 1 and move them into an inclusion setting so they can be challenged even further. Often special education units never challenge their students or introduce students to the concepts of Algebra. My classroom is centered around the regular education Algebra I curriculum, but modified to my students pace and ability. While teaching different concepts consistent with the Ohio Mathematics Content Standard and preparation for the Ohio Graduation Test, the class will also implement and incorporate a contextual design. “A conception of teaching and learning that helps teachers relate subject matter content to real world situations and motivates students to make connections between knowledge and its applications to their lives and family members, citizens, and workers” (Berns & Erickson, 2001).**

**As you grow and mature into an adult, mathematics will become even more important. Mathematics literacy is needed to make daily decisions. Words such as mean, median, mode, frequency, range, and quartiles need to become familiar to students. These words then need to be applied to lessons that relate to real life activities. By executing this you enhance students overall mathematics awareness as a whole.**

**I propose to enhance the 9th-12th grade special educations students’ curriculum by implementing Algebra 1 content with both traditional classwork and contextual designed classwork. The unit will be centered on analyzing and graphing data. You can use algebra to calculate percent. For example, when you see a price in a store that is a percentage less than normal. This unit also relates to financial information, taxes, market value, and money skills. The unit is designed to prepare student to achieve higher level thinking skills and become better problem-solvers. At the end of the unit students will be able to relate knowledge in the classroom to situations in real life.**