



How to Reach & Teach ALL Students, Simplified

by Elizabeth Breaux. Larchmont, NY: Eye on Education. 2007. 133 pages. ISBN: 978-1-59667-042-6.

Reviewed by Sharon Riley Ordu

Diverse populations of students exist in all educational settings, including urban, suburban, and rural school districts. In *How to Reach & Teach ALL Students, Simplified*, Eliza-

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beth Breaux provides practical ideas, suggestions, and greatly needed strategies for teachers to reach *all* students.

Every chapter opens with poems or writings that the author herself composed. Some have unique titles, such as "If I Could Teach My Students" and "Help Me Please!" She even offers a "Teacher's Oath," which can be compared to the Hippocratic Oath for doctors. These whimsical collections of writing add variety and humor to a book about a very serious issue.

This book is divided into two parts. Part I focuses on the topic of "How to Reach All Students." Part II contains information on "How to Teach All Students." Each part of the book includes a summary with a list of key points. The book's introduction begins with a bulleted list outlining what the author has learned about teaching. Then the author gives readers information on how to use the book and what the book will do for them. Every chapter has an interesting and catchy title and provides any teacher, whether new or veteran, with a wealth of information on every subject, from making a first impression with students to serving as a role model.

According to Breaux, "Whenever we choose to place ourselves in positions of authority, we choose to become role models" (71). She talks

about the fact that children watch our every move and, as adults, we must be careful about our words and actions.

Most impressive about Breaux's book is that at the end of each chapter she provides sections with the headings "Situation," "What Works," and "What Doesn't Work." She then summarizes the key ideas that the reader should take away from the chapter. Each scenario provided illustrates the key focus of the chapter and is followed by an analysis of the situation that depicts what works and what does not work. This practical approach really helps teachers understand how to reach and teach all students!

The topic of Chapter 7 is avoiding power struggles between teachers and students. Breaux says, "It's really quite simple—in theory, anyway. If an issue is nonnegotiable, don't negotiate. If a situation is negotiable, do it in private" (57). This is an example of the advice and guidance teachers can expect from this book.

The book is an extremely useful resource for new teachers, veteran teachers, and even administrators. Administrators can use the book to support professional study groups with learning communities of teachers in their schools or as a source of professional learning for struggling teachers. Each chapter is succinct, but very informative. ■