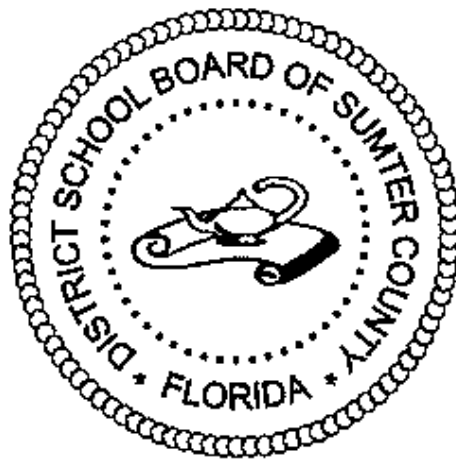


SUMTER COUNTY SCHOOLS FRAMEWORK FOR TEACHING

Rubric for Classroom Teachers

-Based on Charlotte Danielson's Evaluation Instrument-



*"Of all the factors that contribute to student learning, the **quality of teaching** is the single most important. This research validates what every parent (and many students) already knows: if they want to really understand complex subject matter, or to find it interesting and engaging, there is no substitute for high-quality teaching. Furthermore, the one system in place in most schools to ensure the quality of teaching is the teacher evaluation system."*

-Charlotte Danielson, 2006

Sumter's 11 Essential Components

(There are 22 components in the full Danielson rubric)

DOMAIN 1

1e: Designing Coherent Instruction

DOMAIN 2

2a: Creating an Environment of Respect and Rapport

2b: Establishing a Culture for Learning

2c: Managing Classroom Procedures

2d: Managing Student Behavior

DOMAIN 3

3a: Communicating with Students

3b: Using Questioning and Discussion Techniques

3c: Engaging Students in Learning

3d: Using Assessment in Instruction

DOMAIN 4

4e: Growing and Developing Professionally

4f: Demonstrating Professionalism

Domain 1e: Designing Coherent Instruction

Designing coherent instruction is the heart of planning, reflecting the teacher's knowledge of content and of the students in the class, the intended outcomes of instruction, and the available resources. Such planning requires that educators have a clear understanding of the state, district, and school expectations for student learning and the skill to translate these into a coherent plan.

It also requires that teachers understand the characteristics of the students they teach and the active nature of student learning. Educators must determine how best to sequence instruction in a way that will advance student learning through the required content. Furthermore, such planning requires the thoughtful construction of lessons that contain cognitively engaging learning activities, the incorporation of appropriate resources and materials, and the intentional grouping of students.

Proficient practice in this component recognizes that a well-designed instruction plan addresses the learning needs of various groups of students; one size does not fit all. At the distinguished level, the teacher plans instruction that takes into account the specific learning needs of each student and solicits ideas from students on how best to structure the learning. This plan is then implemented in Domain 3.

Elements of component 1e:

- **Learning activities**- Instruction is designed to engage students and advance them through the content.
- **Instructional materials and resources**- Aids to instruction are appropriate to the learning needs of the students.
- **Instructional groups**- Teachers intentionally organize instructional groups to support student learning.
- **Lesson and unit structure**- Teachers produce clear and sequenced lesson and unit structures to advance student learning.

Indicators of 1e include:

- Lessons that support instructional outcomes and reflect important concepts.
- Instructional maps that indicate relationships prior to learning.
- Activities that represent high-level thinking.
- Opportunities for student choice.
- Use of varied resources.
- Thoughtfully planned learning groups.
- Structured lesson plans.

Domain 1e: Designing Coherent Instruction

	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement/Developing	Effective	Highly Effective
	Learning activities are poorly aligned with the instructional outcomes, do not follow an organized progression, are not designed to engage students in active intellectual activity, and have unrealistic time allocations. Instructional groups are not suitable to the activities and offer no variety.	Some of the learning activities and materials are aligned with the instructional outcomes and represent moderate cognitive challenge, but with no differentiation for different students. Instructional groups partially support the activities, with some variety. The lesson or unit has a recognizable structure; but the progression of activities is uneven, with only some reasonable time allocations.	Most of the learning activities are aligned with the instructional outcomes and follow an organized progression suitable to groups of students. The learning activities have reasonable time allocations; they represent significant cognitive challenge, with some differentiation for different groups of students and varied use of instructional groups.	The sequence of learning activities follows a coherent sequence, is aligned to instructional goals, and is designed to engage students in high-level cognitive activity. These are appropriately differentiated for individual learners. Instructional groups are varied appropriately, with some opportunity for student choice.
CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning activities are boring and/or not well aligned to the instructional goals. Materials are not engaging or do not meet instructional outcomes. Instructional groups do not support learning. Lesson plans are not structured or sequenced and are unrealistic in their expectations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning activities are moderately challenging. Learning resources are suitable, but there is limited variety. Instructional groups are random, or they only partially support objectives. Lesson structure is uneven or may be unrealistic about time expectations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning activities are matched to instructional outcomes. Activities provide opportunity for higher-level thinking. The teacher provides a variety of appropriately challenging materials and resources. Instructional student groups are organized thoughtfully to maximize learning and build on students' strengths. The plan for the lesson or unit is well structured, with reasonable time allocations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities permit student choice. Learning experiences connect to other disciplines. The teacher provides a variety of appropriately challenging resources that are differentiated for students in the class. Lesson plans differentiate for individual student needs.
POSSIBLE EXAMPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After his ninth graders have memorized the parts of the microscope, the teacher plans to have them fill in a worksheet. The teacher plans to use a 15-year-old textbook as the sole resource for a unit on communism. The teacher organizes her class in rows, seating the students alphabetically; she plans to have students work all year in groups of four based on where they are sitting. The teacher's lesson plans are written on sticky notes in his gradebook; they indicate: lecture, activity, or test, along with page numbers in the text. And others... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After a mini-lesson, the teacher plans to have the whole class play a game to reinforce the skill she taught. The teacher finds an atlas to use as a supplemental resource during the geography unit. The teacher always lets students self-select a working group because they behave better when they can choose whom to sit with. The teacher's lesson plans are well formatted, but the timing for many activities is too short to actually cover the concepts thoroughly. The plan for the ELA lesson includes only passing attention to students' citing evidence from the text for their interpretation of the short story. And others... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher reviews her learning activities with a reference to high-level "action verbs" and rewrites some of the activities to increase the challenge level. The teacher creates a list of historical fiction titles that will expand her students' knowledge of the age of exploration. The teacher plans for students to complete a project in small groups; he carefully selects group members by their reading level and learning style. The teacher reviews lesson plans with her principal; they are well structured, with pacing times and activities clearly indicated. The fourth-grade math unit plan focuses on the key concepts for that level. And others... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher's unit on ecosystems lists a variety of challenging activities in a menu; the students choose those that suit their approach to learning. While completing their projects, the students will have access to a wide variety of resources that the teacher has coded by reading level so that students can make the best selections. After the cooperative group lesson, the students will reflect on their participation and make suggestions. The lesson plan clearly indicates the concepts taught in the last few lessons; the teacher plans for his students to link the current lesson outcomes to those they previously learned. The teacher has contributed to a curriculum map that organized the ELA Common Core State Standards in tenth grade into a coherent curriculum. And others...

Domain 2a: Creating an Environment of Respect and Rapport

An essential skill of teaching is managing relationships with students and ensuring that relationships among students are positive and supportive. Teachers create an environment of respect and rapport in their classrooms by the ways they interact with students and by the interactions they encourage and cultivate among students.

An important aspect of respect and rapport relates to how the teacher responds to students and how students are permitted to treat one another. Patterns of interactions are critical to the overall tone of the class. In a respectful environment, all students feel valued, safe and comfortable taking intellectual risks. They do not fear put-downs or ridicule from either the teacher or other students.

Respect shown to the teacher by students should be distinguished from students complying with standards of conduct and behavior. Caring interactions among teachers and students are the hallmark of component 2a (Creating an Environment of Respect and Rapport); while adherence to the established classroom rules characterizes success in component 2d (Managing Student Behavior).

Elements of component 2a:

- **Teacher interactions with students, including both words and actions** - A teacher's interactions with students set the tone for the classroom. Through their interactions, teachers convey that they are interested in and care about their students.
- **Student interactions with other students, including both words and actions** - As important as a teacher's treatment of students is, how students are treated by their classmates is arguably even more important to students. At its worst, poor treatment causes students to feel rejected by their peers. At its best, positive interactions among students are mutually supportive and create an emotionally healthy school environment. Teachers not only model and teach students how to engage in respectful interactions with one another, but also acknowledge such interactions.

Indicators of 2a include:

- Respectful talk, active listening and turn-taking.
- Acknowledgement of students' backgrounds and lives outside the classroom.
- Body language indicative of warmth and caring shown by teacher and students.
- Physical proximity.
- Politeness and encouragement.
- Fairness.

Domain 2a: Creating an Environment of Respect and Rapport

	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement/Developing	Effective	Highly Effective
	Patterns of classroom interactions, both between teacher and students and among students, are mostly negative, inappropriate, or insensitive to students' ages, cultural backgrounds, and developmental levels. Student interactions are characterized by sarcasm, put-downs, or conflict. The teacher does not deal with disrespectful behavior.	Patterns of classroom interactions, both between teacher and students and among students, are generally appropriate but may reflect occasional inconsistencies, favoritism, and disregard for students; ages, cultures, and developmental levels. Students rarely demonstrate disrespect for one another. The teacher attempts to respond to disrespectful behavior, with uneven results. The net result of the interactions is neutral, conveying neither warmth nor conflict.	Teacher-student interactions are friendly and demonstrate general caring and respect. Such interactions are appropriate to the ages, cultures, and developmental levels of the students. Interactions among students are generally polite and respectful, and student's exhibit respect for the teacher. The teacher responds successfully to disrespectful behavior among students. The net result of the interactions is polite, respectful, and businesslike, though students may be somewhat cautious about taking intellectual risks.	Classroom interactions between teacher and students and among students are highly respectful, reflecting genuine warmth, caring, and sensitivity to students as individuals. Students exhibit respect for the teacher and contribute to high levels of civility among all members of the class. The net result is an environment where all students feel valued and are comfortable taking intellectual risks.
CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher is disrespectful toward students or insensitive to students' ages, culture backgrounds, and developmental levels. Student body language indicates feelings of hurt, discomfort, or insecurity. The teacher displays no familiarity with, or caring about, individual students. The teacher disregards disrespectful interactions among students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of interactions between teacher and students, or among students, is uneven, with occasional disrespect or insensitivity. The teacher attempts to respond to disrespectful behavior among students, with uneven results. The teacher attempts to make connections with individual students, but student reactions indicate that these attempts are not entirely successful. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk between teacher and students and among students is uniformly respectful. The teacher successfully responds to disrespectful behavior among students. Students participate willingly, but may be somewhat hesitant to offer their ideas in front of classmates. The teacher makes general connections with individual students. Students exhibit respect for the teacher. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher demonstrates knowledge and caring about individual students' lives beyond the class and school. There is no disrespectful behavior among students. When necessary, students respectfully correct one another. Students participate without fear of put-downs or ridicule from either the teacher or other students. The teacher respects and encourages students' efforts.
POSSIBLE EXAMPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A student slumps in his chair following a comment by the teacher. Students roll their eyes at a classmate's idea; the teacher does not respond. Many students talk when the teacher and other students are talking; the teacher does not correct them. Some students refuse to work with other students. The teacher does not call students by their names. And others... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students attend passively to the teacher, but tend to talk, pass notes, etc. when other students are talking. A few students do not engage with others in the classroom, even when put together in small groups. Students applaud halfheartedly following a classmate's presentation to the class. The teacher says, "Don't talk that way to your classmates," but the student shrugs her shoulders. And others... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher greets students by name as they enter the class or during the lesson. The teacher gets on the same level with students, kneeling, for instance, beside a student working at a desk. Students attend fully to what the teacher is saying. Students wait for classmates to finish speaking before beginning to talk. Students applaud politely following a classmate's presentation to the class. Students help each other and accept help from each other. The teacher and students use courtesies such as "please," "thank you," and "excuse me." The teacher says, "Don't talk that way to your classmates," and the insults stop. And others... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher inquires about a student's soccer game last weekend (or extracurricular activities or hobbies). Student says "Shhh" to classmates who are talking while the teacher or another student is speaking. Students clap enthusiastically for one another's presentations for a job well done. The teacher says, "That's an interesting idea, Josh, but you're forgetting..." A student questions a classmate, "Didn't you mean _____?" and the classmate reflects and responds, "Oh, maybe you are right!" And others...

Domain 2b: Establishing a Culture for Learning

A “culture for learning” refers to the atmosphere in the classroom that reflects the educational importance of the work undertaken by both students and the teacher. It describes the norms that govern the interactions among individuals about the activities and assignments, the value of hard work and perseverance, and the general tone of the class. The classroom is characterized by high cognitive energy, by a sense that what is happening there is important, and by a shared belief that it is essential, and rewarding, to get it right. There are high expectations for all students; the classroom is a place where the teacher and students valued learning and hard work.

Teachers who are successful in creating a culture for learning know that students are, by their nature, intellectually curious, and that one of the many challenges of teaching is to direct the students natural energy toward the content of the curriculum. They also know that students derive great satisfaction, and a sense of genuine power, from mastering challenging content in the same way they experience pride in mastering, for example, a difficult physical skill.

Part of a culture of hard work involves precision in thought and language; teachers whose classrooms display such a culture insist that students use language to express their thoughts clearly. An insistence on precision reflects the importance placed, by both teacher and students, on the quality of thinking; this emphasis conveys that the classroom is a business-like place where important work is being undertaken. The classroom atmosphere may be vibrant, even joyful, but it is not frivolous.

Elements of component 2b:

- **Importance of the content and of learning-** In a classroom with a strong culture for learning, teachers convey the educational value of what the students are learning.
- **Expectations for learning and achievement-** In classrooms with robust cultures for learning, all students receive the message that although the work is challenging, they are capable of achieving it if they are prepared to work hard. A manifestation of teacher's expectations for high student achievement is their insistence on the use of precise language by students.
- **Student pride in work-** When students are convinced of their capabilities, they are willing to devote energy to the task at hand, and they take pride in their accomplishments. This pride is reflected in their interactions with classmates and with the teacher.

Indicators of 2b include:

- Belief in the value of what is being learned.
- High expectations, supported through both verbal and non-verbal behaviors, for both learning and participation
- Expectation of high-quality work on the part of students.
- Expectation and recognition of effort and persistence on the part of students.
- High expectations for expression and work products.

Domain 2b: Establishing a Culture for Learning

	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement/Developing	Effective	Highly Effective
	<p>The classroom culture is characterized by a lack of teacher or student commitment to learning, and/or little or no investment of student energy in the task at hand. Hard work and the precise use of language are not expected or valued. Medium to low expectations for student achievement are the norm, with high expectations for learning reserved for only one or two students.</p>	<p>The classroom culture is characterized by little commitment to learning by the teacher or students. The teacher appears to be only “going through the motions,” and students indicate that they are interested in the completion of a task rather than the quality of the work. The teacher conveys that student success is the result of natural ability rather than hard work, and refers only in passing to the precise use of language. High expectations for learning are reserved for those students thought to have a natural aptitude for the subject.</p>	<p>The classroom culture is a place where learning is valued by all; high expectations for both learning and hard work are the norm for most students. Students understand their role as learners and consistently expend effort to learn. Classroom interactions support learning, hard work, and the precise use of language.</p>	<p>The classroom culture is a cognitively busy place, characterized by a shared belief in the importance of learning. The teacher conveys high expectations for learning for all students and insists on hard work; students assume responsibility for high quality by initiating improvement, making revisions, adding detail, and/or assisting peers in their precise use of language.</p>
CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher conveys that there is little or no purpose for the work, or that the reasons for doing it are due to external factors. • The teacher conveys to at least some students that the work is too challenging for them. • Students exhibit little or no pride in their work. • Students use language incorrectly; the teacher does not correct them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher's energy for the work is neutral, neither indicating a high level of commitment nor ascribing the need to do the work to external forces. • The teacher conveys high expectations for only some students. • Students exhibit a limited commitment to complete the work on their own; many students indicate that they are looking for an “easy path.” • The teacher's primary concern appears to be to complete the task at hand. • The teacher urges, but does not insist, that students use precise language. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher communicates the importance of the content and the conviction that with hard work all students can master the material. • The teacher demonstrates a high regard for students' abilities. • The teacher conveys an expectation of high levels of student effort. • Students expend good effort to complete work of high quality. • The teacher insists on precise use of language by students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher communicates passion for the subject. • The teacher conveys the satisfaction that accompanies a deep understanding of complex content. • Students indicate through their questions and comments a desire to understand the content. • Students assist their classmates in understanding the content. • Students take initiative in improving the quality of their work. • Students correct one another in their use of language.
POSSIBLE EXAMPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The teacher tells students that they're doing a lesson because it's in the book or is district-mandated.</i> • <i>The teacher says to a student, “Why don't you try this easier problem?”</i> • <i>Students turn in sloppy or incomplete work.</i> • <i>Many students don't engage in an assigned task, and yet the teacher ignores their behavior.</i> • <i>Students have not completed their homework; the teacher does not respond.</i> • <i>And others...</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The teacher says, “Let's get through this.”</i> • <i>The teacher says, “I think most of you will be able to do this.”</i> • <i>Students consult with one another to determine how to fill in a worksheet, without challenging one another's thinking.</i> • <i>The teacher does not encourage students who are struggling.</i> • <i>Only some students get right to work after an assignment is given or after entering the room.</i> • <i>And others...</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The teacher says, “This is important; you'll need to speak grammatical English when you apply for a job.”</i> • <i>The teacher says, “This idea is really important! It's central to our understanding of history.”</i> • <i>The teacher says, “Let's work on this together; it's hard, but you all will be able to do it well.”</i> • <i>The teacher hands a paper back to a student, saying “I know you can do a better job on this. “The student accepts it without complaint.</i> • <i>Students get to work right away when an assignment is given or after entering the room.</i> • <i>And others...</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The teacher says, “It's really fun to find the patterns for factoring polynomials.”</i> • <i>A student says, “I don't really understand why it's better to solve this problem that way.”</i> • <i>A student asks a classmate to explain a concept of procedure since he didn't quite follow the teacher's explanation.</i> • <i>Students question one another on answers.</i> • <i>A student asks the teacher for permission to redo a piece of work since she now sees how it could be strengthened.</i> • <i>And others...</i>

Domain 2c: Managing Classroom Procedures

A smoothly functioning classroom is a prerequisite to good instruction and high levels of student engagement. Teachers establish and monitor routines and procedures for the smooth operation of the classroom and the efficient use of time. Hallmarks of a well-managed classroom are that instructional groups are used effectively, non-instructional tasks are completed efficiently, and transitions between activities and management of materials and supplies are skillfully done in order to maintain momentum and maximize instructional time. The establishment of efficient routines, and teaching students to employ them, may be inferred from the sense that the class “runs itself.”

Elements of component 2c:

- **Management of instructional groups**- Teachers help students to develop the skills to work purposefully and cooperatively in groups or independently, with little supervision from the teacher.
- **Management of transitions**- Many lessons engage students in different types of activities: large group, small group, independent work. It's important that little time is lost as students move from one activity to another; students know the “drill” and execute it seamlessly.
- **Management of materials and supplies**- Experienced teachers have all necessary materials at hand and have taught students to implement routines for distribution and collection of materials with a minimum of disruption to the flow of instruction.
- **Performance of classroom routines**- Overall, little instructional time is lost in activities such as: taking attendance, recording the lunch count, or the return of permission slips for a class field trip.

Indicators of 2c include:

- Smooth functioning of all routines.
- Little or no loss of instructional time.
- Students playing an important role in carrying out the routines.
- Students knowing what to do, where to move.

Domain 2c: Managing Classroom Procedures

	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement/Developing	Effective	Highly Effective
	Much instructional time is lost due to inefficient classroom routines and procedures. There is little or no evidence of the teacher's managing instructional groups and transitions and/or handling of materials and supplies effectively. There is little evidence that students know or follow established routines.	Some instructional time is lost due to partially effective classroom routines and procedures. The teacher's management of instructional groups and transitions, or handling of materials and supplies, or both, are inconsistent, leading to some disruption of learning. With regular guidance and prompting, students follow established routines.	There is little loss of instructional time due to effective classroom routines and procedures. The teacher's management of instructional groups and transitions, or handling of materials and supplies, or both, are consistently successful. With minimal guidance and prompting, students follow established classroom routines.	Instructional time is maximized due to efficient and seamless classroom routines and procedures. Students take initiative in the management of instructional groups and transitions, and/or the handling of materials and supplies. Routines are well understood and may be initiated by students.
CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students not working with the teacher are not productively engaged. Transitions are disorganized, with much loss of instructional time. There do not appear to be any established procedures for distributing and collecting materials. A considerable amount of time is spent off task because of unclear procedures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students not working directly with the teacher are only partially engaged. Procedures for transitions seem to have been established, but their operation is not smooth. There appear to be established routines for distribution and collection of materials, but students are confused about how to carry them out. Classroom routines function unevenly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are productively engaged during small-group or independent work. Transitions between large-and small-group activities are smooth. Routines for distribution and collection of materials and supplies work efficiently. Classroom routines function smoothly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With minimal prompting by the teacher, students ensure that their time is used productively. Students take initiative in distributing and collecting materials efficiently. Students themselves ensure that transitions and other routines are accomplished smoothly.
POSSIBLE EXAMPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>When moving into small groups, students ask questions about where they are supposed to go, whether they should take their chairs, etc.</i> <i>There are long lines for materials and supplies.</i> <i>Distributing or collecting supplies is time consuming.</i> <i>Students bump into one another when lining up or sharpening pencils.</i> <i>At the beginning of the lesson, roll-taking consumes much time and students are not working on anything.</i> <i>And others...</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Some students are not working with the teacher are off task.</i> <i>Transition between large-and small-group activities requires five minutes but is accomplished.</i> <i>Students ask what they are to do when materials are being distributed or collected.</i> <i>Students ask clarifying questions about procedures.</i> <i>Taking attendance is not fully routinized; students are idle while the teacher fills out the attendance form.</i> <i>And others...</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>In small-group work, students have established roles; they listen to one another summarizing different views, etc.</i> <i>Students move directly between large-and small-group activities.</i> <i>Students get started on an activity while the teacher takes attendance.</i> <i>The teacher has an established timing device, such as counting down, to signal students to return to their desks.</i> <i>The teacher has an established attention signal, such as raising a hand or dimming the lights.</i> <i>One member of each small group collects materials for the table.</i> <i>There is an established color-coded system indicating where materials should be stored.</i> <i>Cleanup at the end of a lesson is fast and efficient.</i> <i>And others...</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Students redirect classmates in small groups not working directly with the teacher to be more efficient in their work.</i> <i>A student reminds classmates of the roles that they are to play within the group.</i> <i>A student redirects a classmate to the table he should be at following a transition.</i> <i>Students propose an improved attention signal.</i> <i>Students independently check themselves into class on the attendance board.</i> <i>And others...</i>

Domain 2d: Managing Student Behavior

In order for students to be able to engage deeply with content, the classroom environment must be orderly; the atmosphere must feel business-like and productive, without being authoritarian. In a productive classroom, standards of conduct are clear to students; they know what they are permitted to do and what they can expect of their classmates. Even when their behavior is being corrected, students feel respected; their dignity is not undermined. Skilled teachers regard positive student behavior, not as an end in itself, but as a prerequisite to high levels of engagement in content.

Elements of component 2d:

- **Expectations**- It is clear, either from what the teacher says, or by inference from student actions, that expectations for student conduct have been established and that they are being implemented.
- **Monitoring of student behavior**- Experienced teachers seem to have eyes in the backs of their heads; they are attuned to what's happening in the classroom and can move subtly to help students, when necessary, re-engage with the content being addressed in the lesson. At a high level, such monitoring is preventative and subtle, which may make it challenging to observe.
- **Response to student misbehavior**- Even experienced teachers find that their students occasionally violate one or another of the agreed-upon standards of conduct; how the teacher responds to such infractions is an important mark of the teacher's skill. Accomplished teachers try to understand why students are conducting themselves in such a manner (Are they unsure of the content? Are they trying to impress their friends?) and respond in a way that respects the dignity of the student. The best responses are those that address misbehavior early in an episode, although doing so is not always possible.

Indicators of 2d include:

- Clear standards of conduct, possibly posted, and possibly referred to during a lesson.
- Absence of acrimony between teacher and students concerning behavior.
- Teacher awareness of student conduct.
- Preventative action when needed by the teacher.
- Absence of misbehavior.
- Reinforcement of positive behavior.

Domain 2d: Managing Student Behavior

	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement/Developing	Effective	Highly Effective
	There appear to be no established standards of conduct, or students challenge them. There is little or no teacher monitoring of student behavior and response to students' misbehavior is repressive or disrespectful of student dignity.	Standards of conduct appear to have been established, but their implementation is inconsistent. The teacher tries, with uneven results, to monitor student behavior and respond to student misbehavior.	Student behavior is generally appropriate. The teacher monitors student behavior against established standards of conduct. Teacher response to student misbehavior is consistent, proportionate, and respectful to students and is effective.	Student behavior is entirely appropriate. Students take an active role in monitoring their own behavior and/or that of other students against standards of conduct. Teacher monitoring of student behavior is subtle and preventive. The teacher's response to student misbehavior is sensitive to individual student needs and respects students' dignity.
CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The classroom environment is chaotic, with no standards of conduct evident. The teacher does not monitor student behavior. Some students disrupt the classroom, without apparent teacher awareness or with an ineffective response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher attempts to maintain order in the classroom, referring to classroom rules, but with uneven success. The teacher attempts to keep track of student behavior, but with no apparent system. The teacher's response to student misbehavior is inconsistent; sometimes harsh, other times lenient. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards of conduct appear to have been established and implemented successfully. Overall, student behavior is generally appropriate. The teacher frequently monitors student behavior. The teacher's response to student misbehavior is effective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student behavior is entirely appropriate; any student misbehavior is very minor and swiftly handled. The teacher silently and subtly monitors student behavior. Students respectfully intervene with classmates at appropriate moments to ensure compliance with standards of conduct.
POSSIBLE EXAMPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Students are talking among themselves, with no attempt by the teacher to silence them.</i> <i>An object flies through the air, apparently without the teacher's notice.</i> <i>Students are running around the room, resulting in chaos.</i> <i>Students use their phones and other electronic devices; the teacher doesn't attempt to stop them.</i> <i>And others...</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Classroom rules are posted, but neither the teacher nor the students refer to them.</i> <i>The teacher repeatedly asks students to take their seats; some ignore her.</i> <i>To one student: "Where's your late pass? Go to the office." To another: "You don't have a late pass? Come in and take your seat; you've missed enough already."</i> <i>And others...</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Upon a nonverbal signal from the teacher, students correct their behavior.</i> <i>The teacher moves to every section of the classroom, keeping a close eye on student behavior.</i> <i>The teacher gives a student a "hard look," and the student stops talking to his neighbor.</i> <i>And others...</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>A student suggests a revision to one of the classroom rules.</i> <i>The teacher notices that some students are talking among themselves and without a work moves nearer to them; the talking stops.</i> <i>The teacher speaks privately to a student about misbehavior.</i> <i>A student reminds her classmates of the class rule about chewing gum.</i> <i>And others...</i>

Domain 3a: Communicating with Students

Teachers communicate with students for several independent, but related purposes. First, they convey that teaching and learning are purposeful activities; they make that purpose clear to students. They also provide clear directions for classroom activities so that students know what to do. When additional help is appropriate, teachers model these activities.

When teachers present concepts and information, they make those presentations with accuracy, clarity, and imagination, using precise, academic language. Where amplification is important to the lesson, skilled teachers embellish their explanations with analogies or metaphors, linking them to the students' interests and prior knowledge.

Teachers occasionally withhold information from students (for example, an inquiry science lesson) to encourage them to think on their own, but what information they do convey is accurate and reflects deep understanding of the content. Teachers' use of language is vivid, rich, and error-free, affording the opportunity for students to hear language used well and to extend their own vocabularies. Teachers present complex concepts in ways that provide scaffolding and access to students.

Elements of component 3a:

- **Expectations for learning-** The goals for learning are communicated clearly to students. Even if the goals are not conveyed at the outset of a lesson (for example, in an inquiry science lesson), by the end of the lesson, students are clear about what they have been learning.
- **Directions for activities-** Students understand what they are expected to do during a lesson, particularly if students are working independently or with classmates, without direct teacher supervision. These directions for the lesson's activities may be provided orally, in writing, or in some combination of the two, with modeling by the teacher, if it is appropriate.
- **Explanations of content-** Skilled teachers, when explaining concepts and strategies to students, use vivid language and imaginative analogies and metaphors, connecting explanations to students' interests and lives beyond school. The explanations are clear, with appropriate scaffolding, and where appropriate, anticipate possible student misconceptions. These teachers invite students to be engaged intellectually and to formulate hypotheses regarding the concepts or strategies being presented.
- **Use of oral and written language-** For many students, their teachers' use of language represents their best model of both accurate syntax and a rich vocabulary; these models enable students to emulate such language, making their own more precise and expressive. Skilled teachers seize opportunities both to use precise, academic vocabulary and to explain their use of it.

Indicators of 3a include:

- Clarity of lesson purpose.
- Clear directions and procedures specific to the lesson activities.
- Absence of content errors and clear explanations of concepts and strategies.
- Correct and imaginative use of language.

Domain 3a: Communicating With Students

	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement/Developing	Effective	Highly Effective
	<p>The instructional purpose of the lesson is unclear to students, and the directions and procedures are confusing. The teacher's explanation of the content contains major errors and does not include any explanation of strategies students might use. The teacher's spoken or written language contains errors of grammar or syntax. The teacher's academic vocabulary is inappropriate, vague, or used incorrectly, leaving students confused.</p>	<p>The teacher's attempt to explain the instructional purpose has only limited success, and/or directions and procedures must be clarified after initial student confusion. The teacher's explanation of the content may contain minor errors; some portions are clear, others difficult to follow. The teacher's explanation does not invite students to engage intellectually or to understand strategies they might use when working independently. The teacher's spoken language is correct but uses vocabulary that is either limited or not fully appropriate to the students' ages or backgrounds. The teacher rarely takes opportunities to explain academic vocabulary.</p>	<p>The instructional purpose of the lesson is clearly communicated to students, including where it is situated within broader learning; directions and procedures are explained clearly and may be modeled. The teachers' explanation of content is scaffold, clear, and accurate and connects with students' knowledge and experience. During the explanation of content, the teacher focuses, as appropriate, on strategies students can use when working independently and invites student intellectual engagement. The teacher's spoken and written language is clear and correct and is suitable to students' ages and interests. The teacher's use of academic vocabulary is precise and serves to extend student understanding.</p>	<p>The teacher links the instructional purpose of the lesson to the larger curriculum; the directions and procedures are clear and anticipate possible student misunderstanding. The teacher's explanation of content is thorough and clear, developing conceptual understanding through clear scaffolding and connecting with students' interests. Students contribute to extending the content by explaining concepts to their classmates and suggesting strategies that might be used. The teacher's spoken and written language is expressive, and the teacher finds opportunities to extend students' vocabularies, both within the discipline and for more general use. Students contribute to the correct use of academic vocabulary.</p>
CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At no time during the lesson does the teacher convey to students what they will be learning. Students indicate through body language or questions that they don't understand the content being presented. The teacher makes a serious content error that will affect students' understanding of the lesson. Students indicate through their questions that they are confused about the learning task. The teacher's communications include errors of vocabulary or usage or imprecise use of academic language. The teacher's vocabulary is inappropriate to the age or culture of the students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher provides little elaboration or explanation about what the students will be learning. The teacher's explanation of the content consists of a monologue, with minimal participation or intellectual engagement by students. The teacher makes no serious content errors but may make minor ones. The teacher's explanations of content are purely procedural, with no indication of how students can think strategically. The teacher must clarify the learning task so students can complete it. The teacher's vocabulary and usage are correct but unimaginative. When the teacher attempts to explain academic vocabulary, it is only partially successful. The teacher's vocabulary is too advanced, or too juvenile, for students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher states clearly, at some point during the lesson, what the students will be learning. The teacher's explanation of content is clear and invites student participation and thinking. The teacher makes no content errors. The teacher describes specific strategies students might use, inviting students to interpret them in the context of what they're learning. Students engage with the learning task, indicating that they understand what they are to do. If appropriate, the teacher models the process to be followed in the task. The teacher's vocabulary and usage are correct and entirely suited to the lesson, including, where appropriate, explanations of academic vocabulary. The teacher's vocabulary is appropriate to students' ages and levels of development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If asked, students are able to explain what they are learning and where it fits into the larger curriculum context. The teacher explains content clearly and imaginatively, using metaphors and analogies to bring content to life. The teacher points out possible areas for misunderstanding. The teacher invites students to explain the content to their classmates. Students suggest other strategies they might use in approaching a challenge or analysis. The teacher uses rich language, offering brief vocabulary lessons where appropriate, both for general vocabulary and for the discipline. Students use academic language correctly.

<p>POSSIBLE EXAMPLES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student asks, "What are we supposed to be doing?" teacher ignores the questions. • The teacher states that to add fractions they must have the same numerator. • Students have a quizzical look on their faces; some may withdraw from the lesson. • Students become disruptive or talk among themselves in an effort to follow the lesson. • The teacher uses technical terms without explaining their meanings. • The teacher says "aint." • And others... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher mispronounces "_____" • The teacher says, "And oh, by the way, today we're going to factor polynomials." • A student asks, "What are we supposed to be doing?" and the teacher clarifies the task. • A student asks, "What do I write here?" in order to complete a task. • The teacher says, "Watch me while I show you how to _____," asking students only listen. • A number of students do not seem to be following the explanation. • Students are inattentive during the teacher's explanation of content. • Students' use of academic vocabulary is imprecise. • And others... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher says, "By the end of today's lesson you're all going to be able to factor different types of polynomials." • In the course of a presentation of content, the teacher asks students, "Can anyone think of an example of that?" • The teacher uses a board or projection devise for task directions so that students can refer to it without requiring the teacher's attention. • The teacher says, "When you're trying to solve a math problem like this, you might think of a similar, but simpler, problem you've done in the past and see whether the same approach would work." • The teacher explains passive solar energy by inviting students to think about the temperature in a closed car on a cold, but sunny day or about the water in a hose that has been sitting in the sun. • The teacher uses a Venn diagram to illustrate the distinctions between a republic and a democracy. • And others... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher says, "Here's a spot where some students have difficulty; be sure to read it carefully." • The teacher asks a student to explain the task to other students. • When clarification about the learning tasks is needed, as student offers it to classmates. • The teacher, in explaining the westward movement in U.S. history, invites students to consider that historical period from the point of view of the Native Peoples. • The teacher asks, "Who would like to explain this idea to us?" • A student asks, "Is this another way we could think about analogies?" • A student explains an academic term to classmates. • The teacher pauses during an explanation of the civil rights movement to remind students that the prefix in- as in inequality means "not" and that the prefix un- also means the same thing. • A student says to a classmate, "I think that side of the triangle is called the hypotenuse." • And others...
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Domain 3b: Using Questioning and Discussion Techniques

Questioning and discussion are the only instructional strategies specifically referred to in the Framework for Teaching, a decision that reflects their central importance to teachers' practice. In the Framework it is important that questioning and discussion be used as techniques to deepen student understanding, rather than serve as a recitation, or a verbal "quiz." Good teachers use divergent as well as convergent questions, framed in such a way that they invite students to formulate hypotheses, make connections, or challenge previously held views.

Students' responses to questions are valued. Effective teachers are especially adept at responding to and building on student responses and making use of their ideas. High-quality questions encourage students to make connections among concepts or events previously believed to be unrelated and to arrive at new understandings of complex material. Effective teachers also pose questions for which they do not know the answers. Even when a question has a limited number of correct responses, the question, being non-formulaic is likely to promote student thinking.

Class discussions are animated, engaging all students in important issues and promoting the use of precise language to deepen and extend their understanding. These discussions may be based around questions formulated by the students themselves.

Furthermore, when a teacher is building on students responses to questions (whether posed by the teacher or by other students), students are challenged to explain their thinking and to cite specific text or other evidence (for example, from a scientific experiment) to back up a position. This focus on argumentation forms the foundation of logical reasoning, a critical skill in all disciplines.

Not all questions must be at a high cognitive level in order for a teacher's performance to be rated at a high level; that is, when exploring a topic, a teacher might begin with a series of questions of low cognitive challenge to provide a review, or to ensure that everyone in class is "on board." Furthermore, if questions are at a high level, but only a few students participate in the discussion, the teacher's performance on the component cannot be judged to be at a high level.

In addition, during lessons involving students in small group work, the quality of students' questions and discussion in their small groups may be considered as part of this component. In order for students to formulate high-level questions, they must have learned how to do so. Therefore, high-level questions from students, either in the full class or in small-group discussions, provide evidence that these skills have been taught.

Elements of component 3b:

- **Quality of questions/prompts**- Questions of high quality cause students to think and reflect, to deepen their understanding, and to test their ideas against those of their classmates. When teachers ask questions of high quality, they ask only a few of them and provide students with sufficient time to think about their responses, to reflect on the comments of their classmates, and to deepen their understanding.

Occasionally, for the purposes of review, teachers ask students a series of (usually low-level) questions in a type of verbal quiz. This technique may be helpful for the purpose of establishing the facts of a historical event, for example, but should not be confused with the use of questioning to deepen students' understanding.

- **Discussion techniques**- Effective teachers promote learning through discussion. A foundational skill that students learn through engaging in discussion is that of explaining and justifying their reasoning and conclusions, based on specific evidence. Teachers skilled in the use of questioning and discussion techniques challenge students to examine their premises, to build a logical argument, and to critique the arguments of others. Some teachers report, "We discussed X," when what they mean is "I said X." That is, some teachers confuse discussion with explanation of content; as important as that is, it's not discussion.

In a true discussion, a teacher poses a question and invites all students' views to be heard, enabling students to engage in discussion directly with one another, not always mediated by the teacher. Furthermore, in conducting discussions, skilled teachers build further questions on student responses and insist that students examine their premises, build a logical argument, and critique the argument of others.

- **Student participation**- In some cases, a few students tend to dominate the discussion. Other students, recognizing this pattern, hold back their contributions. The skilled teacher uses a range of techniques to encourage all students to contribute to the discussion and enlists the assistance of students to ensure this outcome.

Indicators of 3b include:

- Questions of high cognitive challenge, formulated by both students and teacher.
- Questions with multiple correct answers or multiple approaches, even when there is a single correct response.
- Effective use of student responses and ideas.
- Discussion, with the teacher stepping out of the central, mediating role.
- Focus on the reasoning exhibited by students in discussion, both in give-and-take with the teacher and their classmates.
- High levels of student participation in discussion.

Domain 3b: Using Questioning and Discussion Techniques

	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement/Developing	Effective	Highly Effective
	<p>The teacher's questions are of low cognitive challenge, with single correct responses, and are asked in rapid succession. Interaction between the teacher and students is predominantly recitation style, with the teacher mediating all questions and answers; the teacher accepts all contributions without asking students to explain their reasoning. Only a few students participate in the discussion.</p>	<p>The teacher's questions lead students through a single path of inquiry, with answers seemingly determined in advance. Alternatively, the teacher attempts to ask some questions designed to engage students in thinking, but only a few students are involved. The teacher attempts to engage all students in the discussion, to encourage them to respond to one another, and to explain their thinking, with uneven results.</p>	<p>While the teacher may use some low-level questions, he poses questions designed to promote student thinking and understanding. The teacher creates a genuine discussion among students, providing adequate time for students to respond and stepping aside when doing so is appropriate. The teacher challenges students to justify their thinking and successfully engages most students in the discussion, employing a range of strategies to ensure that most students are heard.</p>	<p>The teacher uses a variety or series of questions or prompts to challenge students cognitively, advance high-level thinking and discourse, and promote metacognition. Students formulate many questions, initiate topics, challenge one another's thinking, and make unsolicited contributions. Students themselves ensure that all voices are heard in the discussion.</p>
CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questions are rapid-fire and convergent, with a single correct answer. Questions do not invite student thinking. All discussion is between the teacher and students; students are not invited to speak directly to one another. The teacher does not ask students to explain their thinking. Only a few students dominate the discussion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher frames some questions designed to promote student thinking, but many have a single correct answer, and the teacher calls on students quickly. The teacher invites students to respond directly to one another's ideas, but few students respond. The teacher calls on many students, but only a small number actually participate in the discussion. The teacher asks students to explain their reasoning, but only some students attempt to do so. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher uses open-ended question, inviting students to think and/or offer multiple possible answers. The teacher makes effective use of wait time. Discussions enable students to talk to one another without ongoing mediation by teacher. The teacher calls on most students, even those who don't initially volunteer. Many students actively engage in the discussion. The teacher asks students to justify their reasoning, and most attempt to do so. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students initiate higher-order questions. The teacher builds on and uses student responses to questions in order to deepen student understanding. Students extend the discussion, enriching it. Students invite comments from their classmates during a discussion and challenge one another's thinking. Virtually all students are engaged in the discussion.
POSSIBLE EXAMPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All questions are of the "recitation" type, such as "What is 3 x 4?" The teacher asks a question for which the answer is on the board; students respond by reading it. The teacher calls only on students who have their hands up. A student responds to a question with wrong information, and the teacher doesn't follow up. And others... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many questions are of the "recitation" type, such as "How many members of the House of Representatives are there?" The teacher asks, "Who has an idea about this?" The usual three students offer comments. The teacher asks, "Maria, can you comment on Ian's idea?" but Maria does not respond or makes a comment directly to the teacher. The teacher asks a student to explain his reasoning for why 13 is a prime number but does not follow up when the student falters. And others... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher asks, "What might have happened if the colonists had not prevailed in the American war for independence?" The teacher uses the plural form in asking questions, such as "What are some things you think might contribute to _____?" The teacher asks, "Maria, can you comment on Ian's idea?" and Maria responds directly to Ian. The teacher poses a question, asking every student to write a brief response and then share it with a partner, before inviting a few to offer their ideas to the entire class. The teacher asks students when they have formulated an answer to the questions "Why do you think Huck Finn did _____? To find the reason in the text and to explain their thinking to a neighbor." And others... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A student asks, "How many ways are there to get this answer?" A student says to a classmate, "I don't think I agree with you on this, because..." A student asks of other students, "Does anyone have another idea how we might figure this out?" A student asks, "What if...?" And others...

Domain 3c: Engaging Students in Learning

Student engagement in learning is the centerpiece of the Framework for Teaching. All other components contribute to it. When students are engaged in learning, they are not merely “busy,” nor are they only “on task.” Rather, they are intellectually active in learning important and challenging content.

The critical distinction between a classroom in which students are compliant and busy, and one in which they are engaged, is that in the latter students are developing their understanding through what they do. That is, they are engaged in discussion, debate, answering “what if?” questions, discovering patterns, and the like. They may be selecting their work from a range of (teacher-arranged) choices, and making important contributions to the intellectual life of the class. Such activities don’t typically consume an entire lesson, but they are essential components of engagement.

A lesson in which students are engaged usually has a discernible structure: a beginning, a middle, and an end, with scaffolding provided by the teacher or by the activities themselves. Student tasks are organized to provide cognitive challenge, and then students are encouraged to reflect on what they have done and what they have learned. That is, the lesson has closure, in which teachers encourage students to derive the important learning from the learning tasks, from the discussion, or from what they have read.

Critical questions for an observer in determining the degree of student engagement are: “What are students being asked to do? Does the learning task involve thinking? Are students challenged to discern patterns or make predictions?” If the answer to these questions is that students are, for example, filling in blanks on a worksheet or performing a rote procedure, they are unlikely to be cognitively engaged.

In observing a lesson, it is essential, not only to watch the teacher, but also to pay close attention to the students and what they are doing. The best evidence for student engagement is what students are saying and doing as a consequence of what the teacher does, or has done, or has planned. And while students may be physically active (e.g., using manipulative materials in mathematics or making a map in social studies), it is not essential that they be involved in a hands-on manner. It is essential, however, that they be challenged to be “minds-on.”

Elements of component 3c:

- **Activities and assignments-** The activities and assignments are the centerpiece of student engagement, since they determine what it is that students are asked to do. Activities and assignments that promote learning require student thinking that emphasizes depth over breadth and encourage students to explain their thinking.
- **Grouping of students-** How students are grouped for instruction (whole class, small groups, pairs, individuals) is one of the many decisions teachers make every day. There are many options; students of similar background and skill may be clustered together, or the more advanced students may be spread around into the different groups. Alternatively, a teacher might permit students to select their own groups, or they could be formed randomly.
- **Instructional materials and resources-** The instructional materials a teacher selects to use in the classroom can have an enormous impact on students’ experience. Though some teachers are

obliged to use a school's or a district's officially sanctioned materials, many teachers use these selectively or supplement them with others of their choosing that are better suited to engaging students in deep learning- for example, the use of primary source materials in social studies.

- **Structure and pacing-** No one, whether an adult or a student, likes to be either bored or rushed in completing a task. Keeping things moving, within a well-defined structure, is one of the marks of an experienced teacher. Since much of student learning results from their reflection on what they have done, a well-designed lesson included time for reflection and closure.

Indicators of 3c include:

- Student enthusiasm, interest, thinking, problem-solving, etc.
- Learning tasks that require high-level student thinking.
- Students highly motivated to work on all tasks and persistent even when the tasks are challenging.
- Students actively “working,” rather than watching while their teacher “works.”
- Suitable pacing of the lesson: neither dragged out nor rushed, with time for closure and student reflection.

Domain 3c: Engaging Students in Learning

	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement/Developing	Effective	Highly Effective
	The learning tasks/activities, materials, and resources are poorly aligned with the instructional outcomes, or require only rote responses, with only one approach possible. The groupings of students are unsuitable to the activities. The lesson has no clearly defined structure, or the pace of the lesson is too slow or rushed.	The learning tasks and activities are partially aligned with the instructional outcomes but require only minimal thinking by students and little opportunity for them to explain their thinking, allowing most students to be passive or merely compliant. The groupings of students are moderately suitable to the activities. The lesson has a recognizable structure; however, the pacing of the lesson may not provide students the time needed to be intellectually engaged or may be so slow that many students have a considerable amount of "downtime."	The learning tasks and activities are fully aligned with the instructional outcomes and are designed to challenge student thinking, inviting students to make their thinking visible. This technique results in active intellectual engagement by most students with important and challenging content and with teacher scaffolding to support that engagement. The groupings of students are suitable to the activities. The lesson has a clearly defined structure, and the pacing of the lesson is appropriate, providing most students the time needed to be intellectually engaged.	Virtually all students are intellectually engaged in challenging content through well-designed learning tasks and activities that require complex thinking by students. The teacher provides suitable scaffolding and challenges students to explain their thinking. There is evidence of some student initiation of inquiry and student contributions to the exploration of important content; students may serve as resources for one another. The lesson has a clearly defined structure, and the pacing of the lesson provides students the time needed not only to intellectually engage with and reflect upon their learning but also to consolidate their understanding.
CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few students are intellectually engaged in the lesson. Learning tasks/activities and materials require only recall or have a single correct response or method. Instructional materials used are unsuitable to the lesson and/or the students. The lesson drags or is rushed. Only one type of instructional group is used (whole group, small groups) when variety would promote more student engagement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some students are intellectually engaged in the lesson. Learning tasks are a mix of those requiring thinking and those requiring recall. Student engagement with the content is largely passive; the learning consists primarily of facts or procedures. The materials and resources are partially aligned to the lesson objectives. Few of the materials and resources require student thinking or ask students to explain their thinking. The pacing of the lesson is uneven-suitable in parts but rushed or dragging in others. The instructional groupings used are partially appropriate to the activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most students are intellectually engaged in the lesson. Most learning tasks have multiple correct responses or approaches and/or encourage higher-order thinking. Students are invited to explain their thinking as part of completing tasks. Materials and resources support the learning goals and require intellectual engagement, as appropriate. The pacing of the lesson provides students the time needed to be intellectually engaged. The teacher uses groupings that are suitable to the lesson activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtually all students are intellectually engaged in the lesson. Lesson activities require high-level student thinking and explanations of their thinking. Students take initiative to improve the lesson by (1) modifying a learning task to make it more meaningful or relevant to their needs, (2) suggesting modifications to the grouping patterns used, and /or (3) suggesting modifications or additions to the materials being used. Students have an opportunity for reflection and closure on the lesson to consolidate their understanding.
POSSIBLE EXAMPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most students disregard the assignment given by the teacher; it appears to be much too difficult for them. Students fill out the lesson worksheet by copying words from the board. Students are using math manipulative materials in a rote activity. The teacher lectures for 45 minutes. Most students don't have time to complete the assignment; the teacher moves on in the lesson. And others... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students in only three of the five small groups are figuring out an answer to the assigned problem; the others seem to be unsure how they should proceed. Students are asked to fill in a worksheet, following an established procedure. There is a recognizable beginning, middle, and end to the lesson. The teacher lectures for 20 minutes and provides 15 minutes for the students to write an essay; not all students are able to complete it. And others... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five students (out of 27) have finished an assignment early and begin talking among themselves; the teacher assigns a follow-up activity. Students are asked to formulate a hypothesis about what might happen if the American voting system allowed for the direct election of presidents and to explain their reasoning. Students are given a task to do independently, then to discuss with a table group, followed by a reporting from each table. Students are asked to create different representations of a large number using a variety of manipulative materials. The lesson is neither rushed nor does it drag. And others... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are asked to write an essay in the style of Hemmingway and to describe which aspects of his style they have incorporated. Students determine which of several tools-e.g., a protractor, spreadsheet, or graphing calculator-would be most suitable to solve a math problem. A student asks whether they might remain in their small groups to complete another section of the activity, rather than work independently. Students identify or create their own learning materials. Students summarize their learning from the lesson. And others...

Domain 3d: Using Assessment in Instruction

Assessment of student learning plays an important new role in teaching. No longer signaling “the end” of instruction, it is now recognized to be an integral part of instruction. While assessment of learning has always been and will continue to be an important aspect of teaching (it’s important for teachers to know whether students have learned what teachers intend), assessment for learning has increasingly come to play an important role in classroom practice.

In order to assess student learning for the purposes of instruction, teachers must have a “finger on the pulse” of a lesson, monitoring student understanding and, where feedback is appropriate, offering it to students.

A teacher’s actions in monitoring student learning, while they may superficially look the same as those used in monitoring student behavior, have a fundamentally different purpose. When monitoring behavior, teachers are alert to students who may be passing notes or bothering their neighbors.

When monitoring student learning, teachers look carefully at what students are writing, or listen carefully to the questions students ask, in order to gauge whether they require additional activity or explanation to grasp the content. In each case, the teacher may be circulating in the room, but his or her purpose in doing so is quite different in the two situations.

Similarly, on the surface, questions asked of students for the purpose of monitoring learning are fundamentally different from those used to build understanding. In the former, questions seek to reveal students’ misconceptions, whereas in the latter, the questions are designed to explore relationships or deepen understanding.

For the purpose of monitoring, many teachers create questions specifically to elicit the extent of student understanding and use additional techniques (such as exit tickets) to determine the degree of understanding of every student in the class. Teachers at high levels of performance in this component demonstrate the ability to encourage students and actually teach them the necessary skills of monitoring their own learning against clear standards.

But as important as monitoring student learning and providing feedback to students are, however, they are greatly strengthened by a teacher’s skill in making mid-course corrections when needed, seizing on a “teachable moment,” or enlisting students’ particular interests to enrich an explanation.

Elements of component 3d:

- **Assessment criteria-** It is essential that students know the criteria for assessment. At its highest level, students themselves have had a hand in articulating the criteria (for example, a clear oral presentation).
- **Monitoring of student learning-** A teacher’s skill in eliciting evidence of student understanding is one of the true marks of expertise. This is not a hit-or-miss effort, but it planned carefully in advance. Even after planning carefully, however, a teacher must weave monitoring of student learning seamlessly into the lesson, using a variety of techniques.

- **Feedback to students**- Feedback on learning is an essential element of a rich instructional environment. Without it, students are constantly guessing at how they are doing and at how their work can be improved. Valuable feedback must be timely, constructive, and substantive and must provide students the guidance they need to improve their performance.
- **Student self-assessment and monitoring of progress**- The culmination of students' assumption of responsibility for their learning is when they monitor their own learning and take appropriate action. Of course, they can do these things only if the criteria for learning are clear and if they have been taught the skills of checking their work against clear criteria.

Indicators of 3d include:

- The teacher paying close attention to evidence of student understanding.
- The teacher posing specifically created questions to elicit evidence of student understanding.
- The teacher circulating to monitor student learning and to offer feedback.
- Students assessing their own work against established criteria.

Domain 3d: Using Assessment in Instruction

	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement/Developing	Effective	Highly Effective
	Students do not appear to be aware of the assessment criteria, and there is little or no monitoring of student learning; feedback is absent or of poor quality. Students do not engage in self-or peer assessment.	Students appear to be only partially aware of the assessment criteria, and the teacher monitors student learning for the class as a whole. Questions and assessments are rarely used to diagnose evidence of learning. Feedback to students is general, and few students assess their own work.	Students appear to be aware of the assessment criteria, and the teacher monitors student learning for groups of students. Questions and assessments are regularly used to diagnose evidence of learning. Teacher feedback to groups of students is accurate and specific; some students engage in self-assessment.	Assessment is fully integrated into instruction, through extensive use of formative assessment. Students appear to be aware of, and there is some evidence that they have contributed to, the assessment criteria. Questions and assessments are used regularly to diagnose evidence of learning by individual students. A variety of forms of feedback from both teacher and peers is accurate and specific and advances learning. Students self-assess and monitor their own progress. The teacher successfully differentiates instruction to address individual students' misunderstandings.
CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher gives no indication of what high-quality work looks like. The teacher makes no effort to determine whether students understand the lesson. Students receive no feedback, or feedback is global or directed to only one student. The teacher does not ask students to evaluate their own or classmates' work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is little evidence that the students understand how their work will be evaluated. The teacher monitors understanding through a single method, or without eliciting evidence of understanding from students. Feedback to students is vague and not oriented toward future improvement of work. The teacher makes only minor attempts to engage students in self-or peer assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher makes the standards of high-quality work clear to students. The teacher elicits evidence of student understanding. Students are invited to assess their own work and make improvements; most of them do so. Feedback includes specific and timely guidance, at least for groups of students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students indicate that they clearly understand the characteristics of high-quality work, and there is evidence that students have helped establish the evaluation criteria. The teacher is constantly "taking the pulse" of the class; monitoring of student understanding is sophisticated and continuous and makes use of strategies to elicit information about individual student understanding. Students monitor their own understanding, either on their own initiative or as a result of tasks set by the teacher High-quality feedback comes from any sources, including students; it is specific and focused on improvement.
POSSIBLE EXAMPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A student asks, "How is this assignment going to be graded" A student asks, "Is this the right way to solve this problem?" but receives no information from the teacher. The teacher forges ahead with a presentation without checking for understanding. After the students present their research on globalization, the teacher tells them their letter grade; when students ask how he arrived at the grade, the teacher responds, "After all these years in education, I just know what grade to give." And others... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher asks, "Does anyone have a question?" When a student completes a problem on the board, the teacher corrects the student's work without explaining why. The teacher says, "Good job, everyone." The teacher, after receiving a correct response from one student, continues without ascertaining whether other students understand the concept. The students receive their tests back; each one is simply marked with a letter grade at the top. And others... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher circulates during small-group or independent work, offering suggestions to students. The teacher uses specifically formulated questions to elicit evidence of student understanding. The teacher asks students to look over their papers to correct their errors; most of them engage in this task. And others... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher reminds students of the characteristics of high-quality work, observing that the students themselves helped develop them. While students are working, the teacher circulates, providing specific feedback to individual students. The teacher uses popsicle sticks or exit tickets to elicit evidence of individual student understanding. Students offer feedback to their classmates on their work. Students evaluate a piece of their writing against the writing rubric and confer with the teacher about how it could be improved. And others...

Domain 4e: Growing and Developing Professionally

As in other professions, the complexity of teaching requires continued growth and development in order for teachers to remain current. Continuing to stay informed and increasing their skills allows teachers to become ever more effective and to exercise leadership among their colleagues.

The academic disciplines themselves evolve, and educators constantly refine their understanding of how to engage students in learning; thus, growth in content, pedagogy, and information technology are essential to good teaching.

Networking with colleagues through activities as joint planning, study groups, and lesson study provides opportunities for teachers to learn from one another. These activities allow for job-embedded professional development. In addition, professional educators increase their effectiveness in the classroom by belonging to professional organizations, reading professional journals, attending educational conferences, and taking university classes. As they gain experience and expertise, educators find ways to contribute to their colleagues and to the profession.

Elements of component 4e:

- **Enhancement of content knowledge and pedagogical skill**- Teachers remain current by taking courses, reading professional literature, and remaining current on the evolution of thinking regarding instruction.
- **Receptivity to feedback from colleagues**- Teachers actively pursue networks that provide collegial support and feedback.
- **Service to the profession**- Teachers are active in professional organizations in order to enhance both their personal practice and their ability to provide leadership and support to colleagues.

Indicators of 4e include:

- Frequent teacher attendance in courses and workshops; regular academic reading.
- Participation in learning networks with colleagues; freely shared insights.
- Participation in professional organizations supporting academic inquiry.

Domain 4e: Growing and Developing Professionally

	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement/Developing	Effective	Highly Effective
	The teacher engages in no professional development activities to enhance knowledge or skill. The teacher resists feedback on teaching performance from either supervisors or more experienced colleagues. The teacher makes no effort to share knowledge with others or to assume professional responsibilities.	The teacher participates to a limited extent in professional activities when they are convenient. The teacher engages in a limited way with colleagues and supervisors in professional conversation about practice, including some feedback on teaching performance. The teacher finds limited ways to assist other teachers and contribute to the profession.	The teacher seeks out opportunities for professional development to enhance content knowledge and pedagogical skill. The teacher actively engages with colleagues and supervisors in professional conversation about practice, including feedback about practice. The teacher participates actively in assisting other educators and looks for ways to contribute to the profession.	The teacher seeks out opportunities for professional development and makes a systematic effort to conduct action research. The teacher solicits feedback on practice from both supervisors and colleagues. The teacher initiates important activities to contribute to the profession.
CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher is not involved in any activity that might enhance knowledge or skill. The teacher purposefully resists discussing performance with supervisors or colleagues. The teacher ignores invitations to join professional organizations or attend conferences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher participates in professional activities when they are required or provided by the district. The teacher reluctantly accepts feedback from supervisors and colleagues. The teacher contributes in a limited fashion to professional organizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher seeks regular opportunities for continued professional development. The teacher welcomes colleagues and supervisors into the classroom for the purposes of gaining insight from their feedback. The teacher actively participates in organizations designed to contribute to the profession. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher seeks regular opportunities for continued professional development, including initiating action research. The teacher actively seeks feedback from supervisors and colleagues. The teacher takes an active leadership role in professional organization in order to contribute to the profession.
POSSIBLE EXAMPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The teacher never takes continuing education courses, even though the credits would increase his salary.</i> <i>The teacher endures the principal's annual observations in her classroom, knowing that if she waits long enough, the principal will eventually leave and she will be able to simply discard the feedback form.</i> <i>Despite teaching high school honors mathematics, the teacher declines to join NCTM because it costs too much and makes too many demands on members' time.</i> <i>And others...</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The teacher politely attends district workshops and professional development days but doesn't make much use of the materials received.</i> <i>The teacher listens to his principal's feedback after a lesson but isn't sure that the recommendations really apply in his situation.</i> <i>The teacher joins the local chapter of the American Library Association because she might benefit from the free books-but otherwise doesn't feel it's worth much of her time.</i> <i>And others...</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The teacher eagerly attends the district's optional summer workshops, knowing they provide a wealth of instructional strategies he'll be able to use during the school year.</i> <i>The teacher enjoys her principal's weekly walk-through visits because they always lead to a valuable informal discussion during lunch the next day.</i> <i>The teacher joins a science education partnership and finds that it provides him access to resources for his classroom that truly benefits his students.</i> <i>And others...</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The teacher's principal rarely spends time observing in her classroom. Therefore, she has initiated an action research project in order to improve her own instruction.</i> <i>The teacher is working on a particular instructional strategy and asks his colleagues to observe in his classroom in order to provide objective feedback on his progress.</i> <i>The teacher has founded a local organization devoted to literacy education; her leadership has inspired teachers in the community to work on several curriculum and instruction projects.</i> <i>And others...</i>

Domain 4f: Showing Professionalism

Expert teachers demonstrate professionalism in service both to students and to the profession. Teaching at the highest levels of performance in this component is student-focused, putting students first regardless of how this stance might challenge long-held assumptions, past practice, or simply the easier or more convenient procedure.

Accomplished teachers have a strong moral compass and are guided by what is in the best interest for each student. They display professionalism in a number of ways. For example, they conduct interactions with colleagues in a manner notable for honesty and integrity. Furthermore, they know their students' needs and can readily access resources with which to step in and provide help that may extend beyond the classroom.

Seeking greater flexibility in the ways school rules and policies are applied, expert teachers advocate for their students in ways that might challenge traditional views and the educational establishment. They also display professionalism in the ways they approach problem-solving and decision-making, with student needs constantly in mind.

Finally, accomplished teachers consistently adhere to school and district policies and procedures, but are willing to work to improve those that may be outdated or ineffective.

Elements of component 4f:

- **Integrity and ethical conduct**- Teachers act with integrity and honesty.
- **Service to students**- Teachers put students first in all considerations of their practice.
- **Advocacy**- Teachers support their students' best interests, even in the face of traditional practice or beliefs.
- **Decision-making**- Teachers solve problems with students' needs as a priority.
- **Compliance with school and district regulations**- Teachers adhere to policies and established procedures.

Indicators of 4f include:

- The teacher having a reputation as being trustworthy and often sought as a sounding board.
- The teacher frequently reminding participants during committee or planning work that students are the highest priority.
- The teacher supporting students, even in the face of difficult situations or conflicting policies.
- The teacher challenging existing practice in order to put students first.
- The teacher consistently fulfilling district mandates regarding policies and procedures.

Domain 4f: Showing Professionalism

	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement/Developing	Effective	Highly Effective
	<p>The teacher displays dishonesty in interactions with colleagues, students, and the public. The teacher is not alert to students' needs and contributes to school practices that result in some students being ill served by the school. The teacher makes decisions and recommendations that are based on self-serving interests. The teacher does not comply with school and district regulations.</p>	<p>The teacher is honest in interactions with colleagues, students, and the public. The teacher's attempts to serve students are inconsistent, and unknowingly contribute to some students being ill served by the school. The teacher's decisions and recommendations are based on limited though genuinely professional considerations. The teacher must be reminded by supervisors about complying with school and district regulations.</p>	<p>The teacher displays high standards of honesty, integrity, and confidentiality in interactions with colleagues, students, and the public. The teacher is active in serving students, working to ensure that all students receive a fair opportunity to succeed. The teacher maintains an open mind in team or departmental decision making. The teacher complies fully with school and district regulations.</p>	<p>The teacher can be counted on to hold the highest standards of honesty, integrity, and confidentiality and takes a leadership role with colleagues. The teacher is highly proactive in serving students, seeking out resources when needed. The teacher makes a concerted effort to challenge negative attitudes or practices to ensure that all students, particularly those traditionally underserved, are honored in the school. The teacher takes a leadership role in team or departmental decision making and helps ensure that such decisions are based on the highest professional standards. The teacher complies fully with school and district regulations, taking a leadership role with colleagues.</p>
CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher is dishonest. • The teacher does not notice the needs of students • The teacher engages in practices that are self-serving. • The teacher willfully rejects district regulations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher is honest. • The teacher notices the needs of students but is inconsistent in addressing them. • The teacher does not notice that some school practices result in poor conditions for students. The teacher makes decisions professionally but on a limited basis. • The teacher complies with district regulations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher is honest and known for having high standards of integrity. • The teacher actively addresses student needs. • The teacher actively works to provide opportunities for student success. • The teacher willingly participates in team and departmental decision making. • The teacher complies completely with district regulations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher is considered a leader in terms of honesty, integrity, and confidentiality. • The teacher is highly proactive in serving students. • The teacher makes a concerted effort to ensure opportunities are available for all students to be successful. • The teacher takes a leadership role in team and departmental decision making. • The teacher takes a leadership role regarding district regulations.

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher makes some errors when marking the most recent common assessment but doesn't tell his colleagues. • The teacher does not realize that three of her neediest students arrive at school an hour early every morning because their mothers can't afford daycare. • The teacher fails to notice that one of his kindergartners is often ill, looks malnourished, and frequently has bruises on her arms and legs. • When one of her colleagues goes home suddenly because of illness, the teacher pretends to have a meeting so that she won't have to share in the coverage responsibilities. • The teacher does not file his students' writing samples in their district cumulative folders; it is time-consuming, and he wants to leave early for summer break. • And others... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher says, "I have always known my grade partner to be truthful. If she called in sick today, then I believe her." • The teacher considers staying late to help some of her students in after-school daycare but then realizes it would conflict with her health club class and so decides against it. • The teacher notices a student struggling in his class and sends a quick email to the counselor. When he doesn't get a response, he assumes the problem has been taken care of. • When the teacher's grade partner goes out on maternity leave, the teacher says "Hello" and "Welcome" to the substitute but does not offer any further assistance. • The teacher keeps his district-required gradebook up to date but enters exactly the minimum number of assignments specified by his department chair. • And others... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher is trusted by his grade partners; they share information with him, confident it will not be repeated inappropriately. • Despite her lack of knowledge about dance, the teacher forms a dance club at her high school to meet the high interest level of her students who cannot afford lessons. • The teacher notices some speech delays in a few of her young students; she calls in the speech therapist to do a few sessions in her classroom and provide feedback on further steps. • The English department chair says, "I appreciate when _____ attends our after-school meetings; he always contributes something meaningful to the discussion." • The teacher learns the district's new online curriculum mapping system and writes in all of her courses. • And others... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When a young teacher has trouble understanding directions from the principal, she immediately goes to a more seasoned teacher-who, she knows, can be relied on for expert advice and complete discretion. • After the school's intramural basketball program is discontinued, the teacher finds some former student athletes to come in and work with his students, who have come to love the after-school sessions. • The teacher enlists the help of her principal when she realizes that a colleague has been making disparaging comments about some disadvantaged students. • The math department looks forward to their weekly meetings; their leader, the teacher, is always seeking new instructional strategies and resources for them to discuss. • The math department looks forward to their weekly meetings; their leader, the teacher, is always seeking new instructional strategies and resources for them to discuss. • And others...
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