



## DOMAIN NUMBER TWO - CLASSROOM INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICE

### PRACTICES:

#### 1. COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENTS

Teachers clearly articulate goals and expectations that support and encourage learning.

##### *BENEFITS:*

Teachers who communicate effectively with students:

1. foster student understanding and retention of content knowledge.
2. foster a positive and effective learning environment where students feel safe and respected.
3. empower students to become more effective communicators through meaningful teacher modeling.
4. improve students' listening skills.
5. maximize student learning time.
6. define and promote student responsibility.
7. encourage thoughtful and meaningful dialogue.
8. build background knowledge that creates context for a lesson while clarifying content and addressing misconceptions.

##### *INDICATORS:*

- a. Teacher clearly articulates lesson objectives in written and/or verbal form.
- b. Teacher clearly relates the lesson objectives to essential questions.
- c. Teacher provides directions and procedures that are clear to students.
- d. Teacher demonstrates cognitive empathy by anticipating and clarifying probable student misunderstanding.
- e. Teacher presents clear explanations that connect with student knowledge and experience, and reflect teacher's content knowledge.
- f. Teacher communicates respectfully to all students.
- g. Teacher communicates at the students' comprehension level.
- h. Teacher encourages meaningful dialogue, questioning, and feedback.
- i. Teacher provides positive reinforcement and encourages participation.
- j. Teacher provides students with clear criteria and performance standards by which their work will be evaluated.
- k. Teacher provides timely, constructive, specific, and on-going feedback in order to improve student performance.

## 2. ENGAGEMENT OF STUDENTS IN ACTIVE LEARNING

Teachers model and promote positive attitudes, creating the utmost engagement and appreciation of the learning experience.

### *BENEFITS:*

Teachers who engage students in active learning:

1. nurture students' curiosity.
2. promote student motivation and responsibility for learning.
3. maintain student focus.
4. increase time on task.
5. enhance learning and performance.
6. promote positive attitudes toward learning and school.
7. address the individual needs and potential of every student.
8. create personal connections to lesson objectives.
9. increase knowledge and skill retention through transfer and application.
10. encourage risk taking.

### *INDICATORS:*

- a. Teacher uses engaging instructional strategies suitable to instructional purposes and student levels and learning styles.
- b. Teacher uses engaging resources suitable to instructional purposes and student levels and learning styles.
- c. Teacher aligns instruction to lesson objectives, student activities, and assessments as indicated in plans.
- d. Teacher connects instruction to authentic student experiences.
- e. Teacher challenges and supports learners of varied learning styles and abilities.
- f. Teacher provides opportunities for student choice, where appropriate.
- g. Teacher provides students with opportunities to make inter-disciplinary connections.
- h. Teacher capitalizes on mistakes as positive opportunities to engage students in learning and to promote risk taking.
- i. Teacher facilitates active, student-centered learning through varied interactive strategies such as collaborative problem solving, project-based learning, cooperative learning, etc.

### 3. QUESTIONING AND DISCUSSION

Teachers present questions that promote high order thinking and reflective student discussion.

#### *BENEFITS:*

Teachers who promote discussion through effective questioning:

1. provide opportunities for students and teacher to value the ideas of others.
2. provide students with an opportunity for self-validating expression.
3. stimulate student curiosity and engagement.
4. engage students in higher order thinking.
5. develop reasoning skills to support points of view.
6. promote reflective thought.
7. improve listening skills.

#### *INDICATORS:*

- a. Teacher facilitates constructive and meaningful student-to-student, as well as teacher-to- student discussion.
- b. Teacher creates opportunities for students to formulate questions that increase and demonstrate their understanding.
- c. Teacher presents questions to prompt student inquiry and establish a purpose for learning.
- d. Teacher presents essential questions that focus on enduring understanding and "big ideas".
- e. Teacher creates questions that require critical thinking, transfer, and application.
- f. Teacher asks a range of higher level questions, i.e. from Bloom's Taxonomy.
- g. Teacher provides for adequate response time.
- h. Teacher furthers discussion and promotes student understanding with probing follow-up questions.
- i. Teacher uses appropriate strategies to ensure that all students have adequate opportunities to participate in discussion.

#### 4. INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

Teachers use effective and varied instructional strategies appropriate to lesson content and context to support student learning.

##### *BENEFITS:*

Teachers who use effective and varied instructional strategies:

1. meet multiple needs of diverse students.
2. increase student performance.
3. enhance student ability to work with various resources, including technology.
4. create a stimulating learning environment.
5. transfer, communicate, or transmit the structure of content knowledge.
6. provide problem solving opportunities.
7. motivate task completion.

##### *INDICATORS:*

- a. Teacher uses a variety of instructional strategies appropriate to lesson objectives and content, such as, but not limited to: direct instruction, differentiated instruction, problem-based learning, hands-on learning, collaborative group learning, inquiry-based learning, a workshop model, and/or learning centers.
- b. Teacher involves all students in group activities that correspond to lesson objectives.
- c. Teacher provides opportunities for guided and independent practice.
- d. Teacher models summarizing and note taking skills, such as but not limited to: the Harvard-Cornell note-taking method, webbing, outlining, SQ3R, graphic organizers, Venn diagrams, and charts.
- e. Teacher regularly checks for understanding by asking students to summarize their learning.
- f. Teacher utilizes strategies to build content specific academic vocabulary.
- g. Teacher assists students in generating and testing hypotheses.
- h. Teacher integrates concepts across content areas.
- i. Teacher assigns developmentally appropriate homework designed to introduce, reinforce, or extend lesson objectives while also improving student skill development.
- j. Teacher provides feedback on homework in a timely and specific manner.
- k. Teacher incorporates reflection and closure for all learning.

5. INSTRUCTIONAL FLEXIBILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS

Teachers continually adapt lessons to meet student needs.

*BENEFITS:*

Teachers who offer instructional flexibility and responsiveness:

1. meet students' developmentally appropriate academic, emotional, and social needs.
2. support student learning.
3. enhance interest in learning
4. augment students' personal and global perspective.
5. create student ownership of learning environment.

*INDICATORS:*

- a. Teacher seizes major opportunities to enhance learning, building upon student interests through spontaneous events, such as "teachable moments"
- b. Teacher provides opportunities for remediation and/or enrichment based on student feedback.
- c. Teacher applies multiple instructional approaches for students who need help or to challenge student abilities.
- d. Teacher adjusts lessons to accommodate academic, emotional, and social needs of students in response to events in and outside of the classroom.
- e. Teacher provides opportunity for student choice and student direction.

## 6. TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

Teachers seek and provide opportunities and resources for the integration of technology for instructional purposes, and encourage students to use technology to enhance their learning.

### *BENEFITS:*

Teachers who integrate technology to enhance learning:

1. promote students' independence and responsibility for learning.
2. enhance interest and engagement in learning.
3. augment students' personal and global perspective.
4. expand the learning environment.
5. promote student creativity.
6. prepare students for their world.

### *INDICATORS:*

- a. Teacher extends learning for students by integrating technology to augment or substitute content in the text book when appropriate.
- b. Teacher extends a collaborative learning environment through the establishment of academic networking resources that facilitate students' ability to learn, collaboratively complete assignments, and publish work outside of the classroom when appropriate.
- c. Teacher maintains a web page or other web-based resource through which students can access classroom resources, assignments, and vital teacher communication.
- d. Teacher uses interactive technology for learning such as district-purchased instructional software, web quests, web lessons, pod casts, blogs, etc., to personalize and enhance learning.
- e. Teacher provides and utilizes Internet resources for students through district online subscriptions, web page links, forums, online periodicals, etc.
- f. Teacher provides instructional opportunities for students to use the Internet for constructive community outreach and service.
- g. Teacher uses web-based resources to assist students in self reflection and assessment.