

Colorado Teacher's Quality Standards Observable Practices

Standard 2 – Establish Environment

Element a:

THE TEACHER:

- ☐ Creates a classroom environment conducive to learning.

Creates a classroom environment that features: ☐ Mutual respect. ☐ Positive relationships between and among students. ☐ Empathy for each student.

- ☐ Creates a classroom environment which values diverse perspectives.
- ☐ Establishes a nurturing and caring relationship with each student.

STUDENTS:

- ☐ Respect their classmates and teacher(s).
- ☐ Engage in respectful and open dialogue with each other and their teacher.

Element b:

THE TEACHER:

Creates a classroom environment in which diversity is: ☐ Respected. ☐ Used to further student learning.

- ☐ Uses instructional approaches and materials that reflect students' backgrounds.
- ☐ Acknowledges the value of each student's contributions to the quality of lessons.
- ☐ Is welcoming to diverse family structures.

Establishes processes that result in: ☐ A sense of community among students. ☐ Effective interactions among students. ☐ Respect for individual differences. ☐ Positive social relationships. ☐ Common goals for all students.

STUDENTS:

- ☐ Respect the uniqueness of fellow students.
- ☐ Actively seek a variety of perspectives to complete group assignments.

Element c:

THE TEACHER:

- ☐ Implements lessons that reflect student interests.
- ☐ Uses results of student interest inventories to design lessons and materials.
- ☐ Encourages students to expand and enhance their learning.
- ☐ Acknowledges students for their accomplishments.
- ☐ Asks appropriately challenging questions of all students.
- ☐ Scaffolds questions.
- ☐ Gives wait time equitably.
- ☐ Ensures that all students participate in class activities.

STUDENTS:

- ☐ Actively engage in classroom activities.
- ☐ Discuss content and make connections between current lesson and their interests.
- ☐ Encourage fellow students to participate and challenge themselves.
- ☐ Actively engage in collaborative learning and group processes.

Element d:**THE TEACHER:**

- ☐ Adapts lesson plans to address individual student needs.
- ☐ Monitors the quality of student participation and performance.
- ☐ Uses multiple strategies to teach and assess students.
- ☐ Challenges and supports students to learn to their greatest ability.

STUDENTS:

- ☐ Advocate for themselves.
- ☐ Articulate their learning needs to their teacher and/or parent.
- ☐ Apply coping skills to classroom situations.
- ☐ Share coping strategies with fellow students.
- ☐ Help fellow classmates by offering support.

Element e:**THE TEACHER:**

- ☐ Establishes a classroom environment that is inviting to families and significant adults.
- ☐ Maintains respectful relationships with students, their families, and/or significant adults.

STUDENTS:

- ☐ Communicate freely and openly with teachers.

Element f:**THE TEACHER:**

- ☐ Provides clear expectations to guide student classroom behavior.
- ☐ Holds students accountable for adherence to school and/or class rules.
- ☐ Puts procedures in place to maximize instructional time.
- ☐ Makes maximum use of instructional time.
- ☐ Maintains a safe and orderly environment.

STUDENTS:

- ☐ Stay on task during class periods.
- ☐ Work without interruption.
- ☐ Abide by school and class rules.
- ☐ Accept responsibility for their behavior and use of time.
- ☐ Help other students stay on task.

Comments:

Disclaimer: This tool can be used to gather information during observations (formal, informal, and walk-throughs) in conjunction with the Rubric for Evaluating Colorado's Teachers. This tool, by itself, is not to be considered an evaluation.