CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

SETTING INSTRUCTIONAL OUTCOMES - Danielson 2013

FAILING - 0

- Outcomes lack rigor.
- Outcomes do not represent important learning in the discipline.
- Outcomes are not clear or are stated as activities.
- Outcomes are not suitable for many students in class.

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT - 1

- Outcomes represent a mixture of low expectations and rigor.
- Some outcomes reflect important learning in the discipline.
- Outcomes are suitable for most of the class.

PROFICIENT - 2

- Outcomes represent high expectations and rigor.
- Outcomes are related to "big ideas" of the discipline.
- Outcomes are written in terms of what students will learn rather than do.
- Outcomes represent a range of types; factual knowledge, conceptual understanding, reasoning, social interaction, management, and communication.
- Outcomes, differentiated where necessary, are suitable to groups of students in the class.

DISTINGUISHED - 3

- The teacher's plans reference curricular framework or blueprints to ensure accurate sequencing.
- The teacher connects outcomes to previous and future learning.
- Outcomes are differentiated to encourage individual students to take educational risks.

1e

DESIGNING COHERENT INSTRUCTION - Danielson 2013

FAILING - 0

- 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.

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT - 1

- 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.

PROFICIENT - 2

- Learning activities are matched to instructional outcomes.
- Activities provide opportunity for higher-level thinking.
- The teacher provides a variety of appropriately challenging material 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 structure, with reasonable time allocations.

DISTINGUISHED - 3

- 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
- Lesson plans differentiate for individual student needs.

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

1

ESTABLISHING A CULTURE FOR LEARNING - Danielson 2013

FAILING - 0

- 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.

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT - 1

- 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.

PROFICIENT - 2

- 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.

DISTINGUISHED - 3

- 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 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.

2c

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

MANAGING CLASSROOM PROCEDURES - Danielson 2013

FAILING - 0

- 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 disturbing and collecting materials.
- A considerable amount of time is spent off task because of unclear procedures.

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT - 1

- 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.

PROFICIENT - 2

- Students are productively engaged during small-group or independent work.
- Transitions between large- and small-group activities are smooth.
- Routines for distributions and collection of materials and supplies work efficiently.
- Classroom routines function smoothly.

- 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.



MANAGING STUDENT BEHAVIOR - Danielson 2013

FAILING - 0

- 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.

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT - 1

- 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 misbehaving is inconsistent: sometimes harsh, other times lenient.

PROFICIENT - 2

- 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

- Student behavior is entirely appropriate; and 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.



COMMUNICATING WITH STUDENTS - Danielson 2013

FAILING - 0

- 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.

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT - 1

- 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.

PROFICIENT - 2

- 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.

- 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.



USING QUESTIONING AND DISCUSSION TECHNIQUES - Danielson 2013

FAILING - 0

- 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.

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT - 1

- 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 class 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 students attempt to do so.

PROFICIENT - 2

- The teacher uses open-ended questions, 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.

- Students initiate higher-order questions.
- The teacher builds on and uses student responses 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.

ENGAGING STUDENTS IN LEARNING - Danielson 2013

FAILING - 0

- 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 students engagement.

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT - 1

- Some students are intellectually engaged in the lesson.
- Learning tasks are a mix of those requiring thinking and those requiring recalls.
- 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 material and resources require student thinking or ask students to explain their thinking.
- The pacing of the lesson is unevensuitable in parts but rushed or dragging in others.
- The instructional groupings used are partially appropriate to the activities.

PROFICIENT - 2

- 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.

- 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) suggestion modifications to the grouping patterns uses, and/or (3) suggestions modifications or additions to the materials being used.
- Students have an opportunity for reflection and closure on the lesson to consolidate their understanding.

REFLECTING ON TEACHING - Danielson 2013

FAILING - 0

- The teacher considers the lesson but draws incorrect conclusions about its effectiveness.
- The Teacher makes no suggestions for improvement.

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT - 1

- The teacher has a general sense of whether or not instructional practices were effective.
- The teacher offers general modifications for future instruction.

PROFICIENT - 2

- The teacher accurately assesses the effectiveness of instructional activities used.
- The teacher identifies specific ways in which a lesson might be improved.

DISTINGUISHED - 3

- The teacher's assessment of the lesson is thoughtful and includes specific indicators of effectiveness.
- The teacher's suggestions for improvement draw on an extensive repertoire.

4c

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

COMMUNICATING WITH FAMILIES - Danielson 2013

FAILING - 0

- Little or no information regarding the instructional program is available to parents.
- Families are unaware of their children's progress.
- Family engagement activities are lacking.
- There is some culturally inappropriate communication.

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT - 1

- School- or district-created materials about the instructional program are sent home.
- The teacher sends home infrequent or incomplete information about the instructional program.
- The teacher maintains a schoolrequired gradebook but does little else to inform families about student progress.
- Some of the teacher's communications are inappropriate to families' cultural norms.

PROFICIENT - 2

- The teacher regularly makes information about the instructional program available.
- The teacher regularly send home information about student progress.
- The teacher develops activities designed to engage families successfully and appropriately in their children's learning.
- Most of the teacher's communications are appropriate to families' cultural norms.

- Students regularly develop material to inform their families about the instructional program.
- Students maintain accurate records about their individual learning progress and frequently share this information with families.
- Students contribute to regular and ongoing projects designed to engage families in the learning process.
- All of the teacher's communications are highly sensitive to families' cultural norms.

District-Wide Instructional Practices for Reading/English, Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects (K-12)

Practice 1: An instructional objective (accessible to students, teachers and observers) linked to the content and a literacy standard

Danielson Correlation – [1a; 1c; 1e; 2b; 3a; 4e]

Practice 2: Curriculum-driven opportunities to determine the meaning of general and domain specific words and phrases (pre-reading and during-reading).

Danielson Correlation – [1a; 1b; 1c; 1e; 2b; 4e]

Practice 3: Lessons characterized by gradual release of responsibility (from teacher dependence to student independence)

Danielson Correlation – [1b; 1e; 1f; 2a; 2c; 3a; 3b; 3c; 3d; 3e; 4a]

Practice 4: Curriculum-driven reading opportunities characterized by a balance of informational (on a variety of topics, perspectives, and eras) and/or literary texts (from a variety of authors, topics, genres, eras, and traditions) **Danielson Correlation** – [1a; 1b; 1c; 1d; 1e; 1f; 3e]

Practice 5: Curriculum-driven reading opportunities characterized by discipline-specific approaches to text. Students should regularly be taught, assessed, and re-taught (if necessary) the discipline-specific lens through which members of specific disciplines read, analyze, and make use of text **Danielson Correlation** – [1a; 3a; 3b; 3c; 4e]

Practice 6: Curriculum-driven, reading opportunities characterized by careful, sustained interpretation of a variety of texts with an emphasis on:

- the quantitative measure;
- the qualitative measure; and
- the reader and task measure

Danielson Correlation – [1e; 3c; 3e; 4a]

Practice 7: Curriculum-driven opportunities to engage in evidence-based conversations about the text in whole group and small group settings

Danielson Correlation – [3a; 3b; 3d; 3e]

Practice 8: Multiple opportunities to use evidence from multiple sources on the same topic to compose an original text or to evaluate composition

Danielson Correlation – [1c; 1d; 1e; 1f; 3a; 3c; 3d; 4e]

District-Wide Instructional Practices for Mathematics (K-12)

Practice 1: An instructional objective (accessible to students, teachers and observers) linked to the content and a worthwhile mathematical task

Danielson Correlation – [1a; 1c; 1e; 2b; 3a; 4e]

Practice 2: Curriculum-driven opportunities to determine the meaning general and domain specific words and symbols

Danielson Correlation – [1a; 1b; 1c; 1e; 2b; 4e]

Practice 3: Lessons characterized by knowledge of student ability and the gradual release of responsibility (from teacher dependence to student independence) toward mastery **Danielson Correlation** – [1b; 1e; 1f; 2a; 2c; 3a; 3b; 3c; 3d; 3e; 4a]

Practice 4: The consistent use of manipulatives to teach abstract mathematical concepts **Danielson Correlation:** [1a; 1b; 1d; 3c; 3d]

Practice 5: A scope and sequence driven by the connection of new concepts as a logical extension of previously taught/mastered concepts (Coherent Instruction)

Danielson Correlation: [1a; 1b; 1c; 1e; 3b; 3c]

Practice 6: Lessons characterized by a balance of procedural fluency and conceptual understanding (Dual Intensity)

Danielson Correlation: [1a; 1b; 1c; 1d; 1e; 1f; 2b; 2c; 3a; 3b; 3c]

Practice 7: Homework aligned with the requisite concept necessary to demonstrate mastery of the content, concept, process under study

Danielson Correlation: [1a; 1b; 1c; 1d; 1e; 1f; 3c; 3d; 3e]

Practice 8: Multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate behaviors associated with the 8 Standards for Mathematical Practice

Danielson Correlation: [1a; 1b; 1c; 1d; 1e; 1f; 2a; 2b; 3a; 3b; 3c; 3d; 3e]

Practice 9: Teachers' consistent use of the language of proficient mathematician (the 8 Standards for Mathematical Practice) throughout the gradual release of responsibility (see matrix)

Danielson Correlation: [1a; 1b; 1c; 1d; 1e; 1f; 2a; 2b; 3a; 3b; 3c; 3d; 3e; 4e; 4f]