

## 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 their 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.
- Designs instruction to address learning needs of all students.
- 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.