

Teacher Quality Standard III

Teachers plan and deliver effective instruction and create an environment that facilitates learning for their students.

Study after study shows the single most important factor determining the quality of the education a child receives is the quality of the teacher. Quality teachers have knowledge of content, curriculum, and standards. They are able to plan and implement instructional strategies in an effective and purposeful manner that enhances student learning and independence. Research shows that when implemented effectively and purposefully, the professional practices referenced in Standard III can result in an environment in which all students can learn and succeed.

Element A

Teachers demonstrate knowledge of current developmental science, the ways in which learning takes place, and the appropriate levels of intellectual, social, and emotional development of their students.

Not all students are alike. We must not differentiate who will learn what but rather how we will teach so that all students have access to, and support and guidance in, mastering the content.

—Paula Rutherford

Professional practices referenced under each element of the Rubric for Evaluating Colorado Teachers are cumulative. Therefore, for teachers to be proficient in the application of current developmental science to address student needs, they must effectively differentiate instruction and modify content based on research of current studies and knowledge of students' intellectual, social, and emotional development. Proficient teachers expand their knowledge through collaboration with colleagues and apply this knowledge to improve the quality of lessons.

PROFICIENT RATING LEVEL

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES: THE TEACHER:

- Collaborates with colleagues with expertise in developmental science to improve the quality of instruction.

When teachers collaborate, they are able to support a shared vision and goal for student learning. The opportunity to learn from others' experiences and expertise deepens their knowledge and strengthens the effectiveness of their classroom instruction. Learning is a social endeavor. Just as students need opportunities to interact and learn from their peers, teachers need to engage in collaboration that is solution-oriented and improves the quality of lessons for all students.

- Applies knowledge of current developmental science to address student needs.***

The Proficient teacher not only dedicates time to studying current research and teaching techniques but applies knowledge gained to strengthen instruction and meet the needs of students.



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