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 D

Teachers thoughtfully integrate and utilize appropriate available technology in their instruction to maximize student learning.

Technology at its best involves students and teachers in meaningful activities.
—R. Routman

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 the practices referenced under Element D, teachers must first identify technology that is available and appropriate for instructional use based on content and student skills. This may include software, hardware, and processes that enable students to improve their access to a high-quality education through the use of Internet access devices, easy-to-use digital authoring tools, and the Web to access information and multimedia. A teacher's next steps are the creation of strategies and procedures to ensure students have equitable access to technology and that their use is effectively monitored. For technology to be used as a purposeful instructional resource, it must enhance student learning by developing students' knowledge and skills, both creative and innovative, and engaging and motivating students in learning experiences.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES: THE TEACHER:

- ○ *Uses available technology to facilitate classroom instruction.*

When technology resources are used to facilitate classroom instruction, they become tools that allow teachers to present information visually and/or aurally in a way that engages students and provides clarity to learning and behavior expectations.