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.

PARTIALLY PROFICIENT RATING LEVEL

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES: THE TEACHER:

- ○ *Employs strategies and procedures to ensure that students have equitable access to available technology.*

To ensure all students have equitable access to technology, teachers need to establish clear routines and procedures for its use. Several factors should be considered when planning for student use of technology.

- Availability and accessibility of technology.
- Effectiveness of technology resources in supporting student learning.
- Students' technology skills.
- Level of student independence.
- Time required for task completion.
- Students' academic and language needs.
- Supports needed for students to use technology appropriately.

Refer to this internal resource for additional information:
- Strategies for Managing the Use of Computers in the Classroom
  - Document provides strategies (or procedures) for the effective use of technology at all grade levels.

  - ***Monitors the use of available technology in the classroom.***

Technology can be an effective instructional tool. However, there can also be significant dangers associated with giving students Internet access, including downloading viruses and viewing inappropriate content. Teachers must put procedures in place to monitor student usage and make sure each student is using resources appropriately and safely.

Suggestions for monitoring use of computers:

- Arrange classroom to ensure all computer monitors are easily visible by teacher and students.
- Remind students they have a responsibility to school values/rules when using technology. If a technology use covenant is not in place at the school level, teachers should consider creating one that students must sign in order to use available technology and then display for teacher and students to reference.
- The teacher, or a designated monitor, should check each computer's Internet browsing history once students are finished using the computers. Open up an Internet browser and hold down the "Control" key while pressing "H" to bring up a list of all the websites that have been visited that day.
- Communicate copyright guidelines to students. (Reference the Library of Congress' Guide on "*Copyright Basics*" for students and teachers: http: //www.loc.gov/teachers/copyrightmystery/#)

Refer to this external resource for additional information:
- Student Technology Use Contract
  http://vms.valhallaschools.org/ourpages/auto/2008/8/26/1219780980521/Technology%20Use%20Contract.pdf
  - Example of a student contract.

Refer to this internal resource for additional information:
- Examples of **Netiquette**
  - Document provides ways to properly communicate when using the Internet.