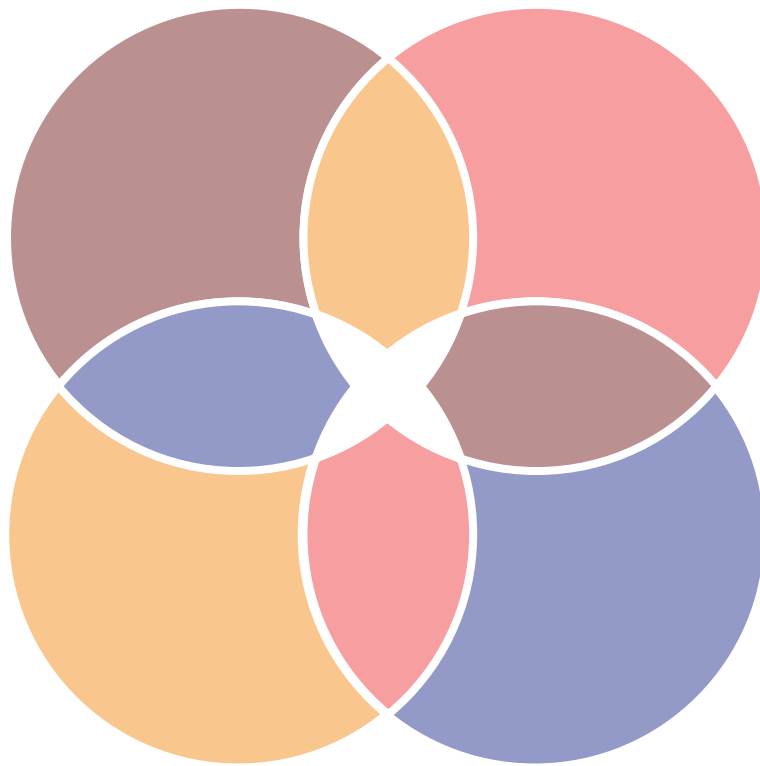


THE FRAMEWORK FOR TEACHING
EVALUATION INSTRUMENT

2013 EDITION



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UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1

BASIC • LEVEL 2

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

- The teacher makes content errors.
- The teacher does not consider prerequisite relationships when planning.
- The teacher's plans use inappropriate strategies for the discipline.

- The teacher's understanding of the discipline is rudimentary.
- The teacher's knowledge of prerequisite relationships is inaccurate or incomplete.
- Lesson and unit plans use limited instructional strategies, and some are not suitable to the content.

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

- *The teacher says, "The official language of Brazil is Spanish, just like other South American countries."*
- *The teacher says, "I don't understand why the math book has decimals in the same unit as fractions."*
- *The teacher has his students copy dictionary definitions each week to help them learn to spell difficult words.*
- *And others...*

- *The teacher plans lessons on area and perimeter independently of one another, without linking the concepts together.*
- *The teacher plans to forge ahead with a lesson on addition with regrouping, even though some students have not fully grasped place value.*
- *The teacher always plans the same routine to study spelling: pretest on Monday, copy the words five times each on Tuesday and Wednesday, test on Friday.*
- *And others...*

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3

- The teacher can identify important concepts of the discipline and their relationships to one another.
- The teacher provides clear explanations of the content.
- The teacher answers students' questions accurately and provides feedback that furthers their learning.
- Instructional strategies in unit and lesson plans are entirely suitable to the content.

- *The teacher's plan for area and perimeter invites students to determine the shape that will yield the largest area for a given perimeter.*
- *The teacher has realized her students are not sure how to use a compass, and so she plans to have them practice that skill before introducing the activity on angle measurement.*
- *The teacher plans to expand a unit on civics by having students simulate a court trial.*
- *And others...*

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

- The teacher cites intra- and interdisciplinary content relationships.
- The teacher's plans demonstrate awareness of possible student misconceptions and how they can be addressed.
- The teacher's plans reflect recent developments in content-related pedagogy.

- *In a unit on 19th-century literature, the teacher incorporates information about the history of the same period.*
- *Before beginning a unit on the solar system, the teacher surveys the students on their beliefs about why it is hotter in the summer than in the winter.*
- *And others...*

UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

- The teacher does not understand child development characteristics and has unrealistic expectations for students.
- The teacher does not try to ascertain varied ability levels among students in the class.
- The teacher is not aware of students' interests or cultural heritages.
- The teacher takes no responsibility to learn about students' medical or learning disabilities.

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

- *The lesson plan includes a teacher presentation for an entire 30-minute period to a group of 7-year-olds.*
- *The teacher plans to give her ELL students the same writing assignment she gives the rest of the class.*
- *The teacher plans to teach his class Christmas carols, despite the fact that he has four religions represented among his students.*
- *And others...*

BASIC • LEVEL 2

- The teacher cites developmental theory but does not seek to integrate it into lesson planning.
- The teacher is aware of the different ability levels in the class but tends to teach to the “whole group.”
- The teacher recognizes that students have different interests and cultural backgrounds but rarely draws on their contributions or differentiates materials to accommodate those differences.
- The teacher is aware of medical issues and learning disabilities with some students but does not seek to understand the implications of that knowledge.

- *The teacher's lesson plan has the same assignment for the entire class in spite of the fact that one activity is beyond the reach of some students.*
- *In the unit on Mexico, the teacher has not incorporated perspectives from the three Mexican-American children in the class.*
- *Lesson plans make only peripheral reference to students' interests.*
- *The teacher knows that some of her students have IEPs, but they're so long that she hasn't read them yet.*
- *And others...*

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3

- The teacher knows, for groups of students, their levels of cognitive development.
- The teacher is aware of the different cultural groups in the class.
- The teacher has a good idea of the range of interests of students in the class.
- The teacher has identified “high,” “medium,” and “low” groups of students within the class.
- The teacher is well informed about students’ cultural heritages and incorporates this knowledge in lesson planning.
- The teacher is aware of the special needs represented by students in the class.

- *The teacher creates an assessment of students’ levels of cognitive development.*
- *The teacher examines previous years’ cumulative folders to ascertain the proficiency levels of groups of students in the class.*
- *The teacher administers a student interest survey at the beginning of the school year.*
- *The teacher plans activities using his knowledge of students’ interests.*
- *The teacher knows that five of her students are in the Garden Club; she plans to have them discuss horticulture as part of the next biology lesson.*
- *The teacher realizes that not all of his students are Christian, and so he plans to read a Hanukkah story in December.*
- *The teacher plans to ask her Spanish-speaking students to discuss their ancestry as part of their social studies unit on South America.*
- *And others...*

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

- The teacher uses ongoing methods to assess students’ skill levels and designs instruction accordingly.
- The teacher seeks out information from all students about their cultural heritages.
- The teacher maintains a system of updated student records and incorporates medical and/or learning needs into lesson plans.

- *The teacher plans his lesson with three different follow-up activities, designed to meet the varied ability levels of his students.*
- *The teacher plans to provide multiple project options; each student will select the project that best meets his or her individual approach to learning.*
- *The teacher encourages students to be aware of their individual reading levels and make independent reading choices that will be challenging but not too difficult.*
- *The teacher attends the local Mexican heritage day, meeting several of his students’ extended family members.*
- *The teacher regularly creates adapted assessment materials for several students with learning disabilities.*
- *And others...*

UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

- 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 the class.

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

- *A learning outcome for a fourth-grade class is to make a poster illustrating a poem.*
- *All the outcomes for a ninth-grade history class are based on demonstrating factual knowledge.*
- *The topic of the social studies unit involves the concept of revolutions, but the teacher expects his students to remember only the important dates of battles.*
- *Despite the presence of a number of ELL students in the class, the outcomes state that all writing must be grammatically correct.*
- *None of the science outcomes deals with the students' reading, understanding, or interpretation of the text.*
- *And others...*

BASIC • LEVEL 2

- 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.

- *Outcomes consist of understanding the relationship between addition and multiplication and memorizing facts.*
- *The reading outcomes are written with the needs of the "middle" group in mind; however, the advanced students are bored, and some lower-level students are struggling.*
- *Most of the English Language Arts outcomes are based on narrative.*
- *And others...*

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3

- 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.

- *One of the learning outcomes is for students to “appreciate the aesthetics of 18th-century English poetry.”*
- *The outcomes for the history unit include some factual information, as well as a comparison of the perspectives of different groups in the run-up to the Revolutionary War.*
- *The learning outcomes include students defending their interpretation of the story with citations from the text.*
- *And others...*

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

- The teacher’s plans reference curricular frameworks 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.

- *The teacher encourages his students to set their own goals; he provides them a taxonomy of challenge verbs to help them strive to meet the teacher’s higher expectations of them.*
- *Students will develop a concept map that links previous learning goals to those they are currently working on.*
- *Some students identify additional learning.*
- *The teacher reviews the project expectations and modifies some goals to be in line with students’ IEP objectives.*
- *One of the outcomes for a social studies unit addresses students analyzing the speech of a political candidate for accuracy and logical consistency.*
- *And others...*

UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

- The teacher uses only district-provided materials, even when more variety would assist some students.
- The teacher does not seek out resources available to expand her own skill.
- Although the teacher is aware of some student needs, he does not inquire about possible resources.

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

- *For their unit on China, the students find all of their information in the district-supplied textbook.*
- *The teacher is not sure how to teach fractions but doesn't know how he's expected to learn it by himself.*
- *A student says, "It's too bad we can't go to the nature center when we're doing our unit on the environment."*
- *In the literacy classroom, the teacher has provided only narrative works.*
- *And others...*

BASIC • LEVEL 2

- The teacher uses materials in the school library but does not search beyond the school for resources.
- The teacher participates in content-area workshops offered by the school but does not pursue other professional development.
- The teacher locates materials and resources for students that are available through the school but does not pursue any other avenues.

- *For a unit on ocean life, the teacher really needs more books, but the school library has only three for him to borrow. He does not seek out others from the public library.*
- *The teacher knows she should learn more about literacy development, but the school offered only one professional development day last year.*
- *The teacher thinks his students would benefit from hearing about health safety from a professional; he contacts the school nurse to visit his classroom.*
- *In the second-grade math class, the teacher misuses base 10 blocks in showing students how to represent numbers.*
- *And others...*

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3

- Texts are at varied levels.
- Texts are supplemented by guest speakers and field experiences.
- The teacher facilitates the use of Internet resources.
- Resources are multidisciplinary.
- The teacher expands her knowledge through professional learning groups and organizations.
- The teacher pursues options offered by universities.
- The teacher provides lists of resources outside the classroom for students to draw on.

- *The teacher provides her fifth graders a range of nonfiction texts about the American Revolution so that regardless of their reading level, all students can participate in the discussion of important concepts.*
- *The teacher takes an online course on literature to expand her knowledge of great American writers.*
- *The ELA lesson includes a wide range of narrative and informational reading materials.*
- *The teacher distributes a list of summer reading materials that will help prepare his eighth graders' transition to high school.*
- *And others...*

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

- Texts are matched to student skill level.
- The teacher has ongoing relationships with colleges and universities that support student learning.
- The teacher maintains a log of resources for student reference.
- The teacher pursues apprenticeships to increase discipline knowledge.
- The teacher facilitates student contact with resources outside the classroom.

- *The teacher is not happy with the out-of-date textbook; his students will critique it and write their own material for social studies.*
- *The teacher spends the summer at Dow Chemical learning more about current research so that she can expand her knowledge base for teaching chemistry.*
- *The teacher matches students in her Family and Consumer Science class with local businesses; the students spend time shadowing employees to understand how their classroom skills might be used on the job.*
- *And others...*

UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

- 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.

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

- *After his ninth graders have memorized the parts of the microscope, the teacher plans to have them fill in a worksheet.*
- *The teacher plans to use a 15-year-old textbook as the sole resource for a unit on communism.*
- *The teacher organizes her class in rows, seating the students alphabetically; she plans to have students work all year in groups of four based on where they are sitting.*
- *The teacher's lesson plans are written on sticky notes in his gradebook; they indicate: lecture, activity, or test, along with page numbers in the text.*
- *And others...*

BASIC • LEVEL 2

- 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.

- *After a mini-lesson, the teacher plans to have the whole class play a game to reinforce the skill she taught.*
- *The teacher finds an atlas to use as a supplemental resource during the geography unit.*
- *The teacher always lets students self-select a working group because they behave better when they can choose whom to sit with.*
- *The teacher's lesson plans are well formatted, but the timing for many activities is too short to actually cover the concepts thoroughly.*
- *The plan for the ELA lesson includes only passing attention to students' citing evidence from the text for their interpretation of the short story.*
- *And others...*

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3

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

- *The teacher reviews her learning activities with a reference to high-level "action verbs" and rewrites some of the activities to increase the challenge level.*
- *The teacher creates a list of historical fiction titles that will expand her students' knowledge of the age of exploration.*
- *The teacher plans for students to complete a project in small groups; he carefully selects group members by their reading level and learning style.*
- *The teacher reviews lesson plans with her principal; they are well structured, with pacing times and activities clearly indicated.*
- *The fourth-grade math unit plan focuses on the key concepts for that level.*
- *And others...*

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

- 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 class.
- Lesson plans differentiate for individual student needs.

- *The teacher's unit on ecosystems lists a variety of challenging activities in a menu; the students choose those that suit their approach to learning.*
- *While completing their projects, the students will have access to a wide variety of resources that the teacher has coded by reading level so that students can make the best selections.*
- *After the cooperative group lesson, the students will reflect on their participation and make suggestions.*
- *The lesson plan clearly indicates the concepts taught in the last few lessons; the teacher plans for his students to link the current lesson outcomes to those they previously learned.*
- *The teacher has contributed to a curriculum map that organizes the ELA Common Core State Standards in tenth grade into a coherent curriculum.*
- *And others...*

UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1

BASIC • LEVEL 2

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

- Assessments do not match instructional outcomes.
- Assessments lack criteria.
- No formative assessments have been designed.
- Assessment results do not affect future plans.

- Only some of the instructional outcomes are addressed in the planned assessments.
- Assessment criteria are vague.
- Plans refer to the use of formative assessments, but they are not fully developed.
- Assessment results are used to design lesson plans for the whole class, not individual students.

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

- *The teacher marks papers on the foundation of the U.S. Constitution mostly on grammar and punctuation; for every mistake, the grade drops from an A to a B, a B to a C, etc.*
- *The teacher says, “What’s the difference between formative assessment and the test I give at the end of the unit?”*
- *The teacher says, “The district gave me this entire curriculum to teach, so I just have to keep moving.”*
- *And others...*

- *The district goal for the unit on Europe is for students to understand geopolitical relationships; the teacher plans to have the students memorize all the country capitals and rivers.*
- *The plan indicates that the teacher will pause to “check for understanding” but does not specify a clear process for accomplishing that goal.*
- *A student asks, “If half the class passed the test, why are we all reviewing the material again?”*
- *And others...*

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

- All the learning outcomes have a method for assessment.
- Assessment types match learning expectations.
- Plans indicate modified assessments when they are necessary for some students.
- Assessment criteria are clearly written.
- Plans include formative assessments to use during instruction.
- Lesson plans indicate possible adjustments based on formative assessment data.

- Assessments provide opportunities for student choice.
- Students participate in designing assessments for their own work.
- Teacher-designed assessments are authentic, with real-world application as appropriate.
- Students develop rubrics according to teacher-specified learning objectives.
- Students are actively involved in collecting information from formative assessments and provide input.

- *The teacher knows that his students will have to write a persuasive essay on the state assessment; he plans to provide them with experiences developing persuasive writing as preparation.*
- *The teacher has worked on a writing rubric for her research assessment; she has drawn on multiple sources to be sure the levels of expectation will be clearly defined.*
- *The teacher creates a short questionnaire to distribute to his students at the end of class; using their responses, he will organize the students into different groups during the next lesson's activities.*
- *Employing the formative assessment of the previous morning's project, the teacher plans to have five students work on a more challenging one while she works with six other students to reinforce the previous morning's concept.*
- *And others...*

- *To teach persuasive writing, the teacher plans to have his class research and write to the principal on an issue that is important to the students: the use of cell phones in class.*
- *The students will write a rubric for their final project on the benefits of solar energy; the teacher has shown them several sample rubrics, and they will refer to those as they create a rubric of their own.*
- *After the lesson the teacher plans to ask students to rate their understanding on a scale of 1 to 5; the students know that their rating will indicate their activity for the next lesson.*
- *The teacher has developed a routine for her class; students know that if they are struggling with a math concept, they sit in a small group with her during workshop time.*
- *And others...*

UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

- The teacher is disrespectful toward students or insensitive to students' ages, cultural backgrounds, and developmental levels.
- Student body language indicates feelings of hurt, discomfort, or insecurity.
- The teacher displays no familiarity with, or caring about, individual students.
- The teacher disregards disrespectful interactions among students.

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

- *A student slumps in his chair following a comment by the teacher.*
- *Students roll their eyes at a classmate's idea; the teacher does not respond.*
- *Many students talk when the teacher and other students are talking; the teacher does not correct them.*
- *Some students refuse to work with other students.*
- *The teacher does not call students by their names.*
- *And others...*

BASIC • LEVEL 2

- The quality of interactions between teacher and students, or among students, is uneven, with occasional disrespect or insensitivity.
- The teacher attempts to respond to disrespectful behavior among students, with uneven results.
- The teacher attempts to make connections with individual students, but student reactions indicate that these attempts are not entirely successful.

- *Students attend passively to the teacher, but tend to talk, pass notes, etc. when other students are talking.*
- *A few students do not engage with others in the classroom, even when put together in small groups.*
- *Students applaud halfheartedly following a classmate's presentation to the class.*
- *The teacher says, "Don't talk that way to your classmates," but the student shrugs her shoulders.*
- *And others...*

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3

- Talk between teacher and students and among students is uniformly respectful.
- The teacher successfully responds to disrespectful behavior among students.
- Students participate willingly, but may be somewhat hesitant to offer their ideas in front of classmates.
- The teacher makes general connections with individual students.
- Students exhibit respect for the teacher.

- *The teacher greets students by name as they enter the class or during the lesson.*
- *The teacher gets on the same level with students, kneeling, for instance, beside a student working at a desk.*
- *Students attend fully to what the teacher is saying.*
- *Students wait for classmates to finish speaking before beginning to talk.*
- *Students applaud politely following a classmate's presentation to the class.*
- *Students help each other and accept help from each other.*
- *The teacher and students use courtesies such as "please," "thank you," and "excuse me."*
- *The teacher says, "Don't talk that way to your classmates," and the insults stop.*
- *And others...*

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

- The teacher demonstrates knowledge and caring about individual students' lives beyond the class and school.
- There is no disrespectful behavior among students.
- When necessary, students respectfully correct one another.
- Students participate without fear of put-downs or ridicule from either the teacher or other students.
- The teacher respects and encourages students' efforts.

- *The teacher inquires about a student's soccer game last weekend (or extracurricular activities or hobbies).*
- *Students say "Shhh" to classmates who are talking while the teacher or another student is speaking.*
- *Students clap enthusiastically for one another's presentations for a job well done.*
- *The teacher says, "That's an interesting idea, Josh, but you're forgetting..."*
- *A student questions a classmate, "Didn't you mean _____?" and the classmate reflects and responds, "Oh, maybe you are right!"*
- *And others...*

UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1

BASIC • LEVEL 2

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

- 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.

- 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.

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

- *The teacher tells students that they're doing a lesson because it's in the book or is district-mandated.*
- *The teacher says to a student, "Why don't you try this easier problem?"*
- *Students turn in sloppy or incomplete work.*
- *Many students don't engage in an assigned task, and yet the teacher ignores their behavior.*
- *Students have not completed their homework; the teacher does not respond.*
- *And others...*

- *The teacher says, "Let's get through this."*
- *The teacher says, "I think most of you will be able to do this."*
- *Students consult with one another to determine how to fill in a worksheet, without challenging one another's thinking.*
- *The teacher does not encourage students who are struggling.*
- *Only some students get right to work after an assignment is given or after entering the room.*
- *And others...*

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

- 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.

- 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 the 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.

- *The teacher says, "This is important; you'll need to speak grammatical English when you apply for a job."*
- *The teacher says, "This idea is really important! It's central to our understanding of history."*
- *The teacher says, "Let's work on this together; it's hard, but you all will be able to do it well."*
- *The teacher hands a paper back to a student, saying, "I know you can do a better job on this." The student accepts it without complaint.*
- *Students get to work right away when an assignment is given or after entering the room.*
- *And others...*

- *The teacher says, "It's really fun to find the patterns for factoring polynomials."*
- *A student says, "I don't really understand why it's better to solve this problem that way."*
- *A student asks a classmate to explain a concept or procedure since he didn't quite follow the teacher's explanation.*
- *Students question one another on answers.*
- *A student asks the teacher for permission to redo a piece of work since she now sees how it could be strengthened.*
- *And others...*

UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

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

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

- *When moving into small groups, students ask questions about where they are supposed to go, whether they should take their chairs, etc.*
- *There are long lines for materials and supplies.*
- *Distributing or collecting supplies is time consuming.*
- *Students bump into one another when lining up or sharpening pencils.*
- *At the beginning of the lesson, roll-taking consumes much time and students are not working on anything.*
- *And others...*

BASIC • LEVEL 2

- 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.

- *Some students not working with the teacher are off task.*
- *Transition between large- and small-group activities requires five minutes but is accomplished.*
- *Students ask what they are to do when materials are being distributed or collected.*
- *Students ask clarifying questions about procedures.*
- *Taking attendance is not fully routinized; students are idle while the teacher fills out the attendance form.*
- *And others...*

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

- Students are productively engaged during small-group or independent work.
- Transitions between large- and small-group activities are smooth.
- Routines for distribution 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.

- *In small-group work, students have established roles; they listen to one another, summarizing different views, etc.*
- *Students move directly between large- and small-group activities.*
- *Students get started on an activity while the teacher takes attendance.*
- *The teacher has an established timing device, such as counting down, to signal students to return to their desks.*
- *The teacher has an established attention signal, such as raising a hand or dimming the lights.*
- *One member of each small group collects materials for the table.*
- *There is an established color-coded system indicating where materials should be stored.*
- *Cleanup at the end of a lesson is fast and efficient.*
- *And others...*

- *Students redirect classmates in small groups not working directly with the teacher to be more efficient in their work.*
- *A student reminds classmates of the roles that they are to play within the group.*
- *A student redirects a classmate to the table he should be at following a transition.*
- *Students propose an improved attention signal.*
- *Students independently check themselves into class on the attendance board.*
- *And others...*

UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

- 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.

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

- *Students are talking among themselves, with no attempt by the teacher to silence them.*
- *An object flies through the air, apparently without the teacher's notice.*
- *Students are running around the room, resulting in chaos.*
- *Students use their phones and other electronic devices; the teacher doesn't attempt to stop them.*
- *And others...*

BASIC • LEVEL 2

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

- *Classroom rules are posted, but neither the teacher nor the students refer to them.*
- *The teacher repeatedly asks students to take their seats; some ignore her.*
- *To one student: "Where's your late pass? Go to the office." To another: "You don't have a late pass? Come in and take your seat; you've missed enough already."*
- *And others...*

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3

- 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.

- *Upon a nonverbal signal from the teacher, students correct their behavior.*
- *The teacher moves to every section of the classroom, keeping a close eye on student behavior.*
- *The teacher gives a student a “hard look,” and the student stops talking to his neighbor.*
- *And others...*

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

- Student behavior is entirely appropriate; any 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.

- *A student suggests a revision to one of the classroom rules.*
- *The teacher notices that some students are talking among themselves and without a word moves nearer to them; the talking stops.*
- *The teacher speaks privately to a student about misbehavior.*
- *A student reminds her classmates of the class rule about chewing gum.*
- *And others...*

UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

- 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.

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

- *A student asks, "What are we supposed to be doing?" but the teacher ignores the question.*
- *The teacher states that to add fractions they must have the same numerator.*
- *Students have a quizzical look on their faces; some may withdraw from the lesson.*
- *Students become disruptive or talk among themselves in an effort to follow the lesson.*
- *The teacher uses technical terms without explaining their meanings.*
- *The teacher says "ain't."*
- *And others...*

BASIC • LEVEL 2

- 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.

- *The teacher mispronounces "_____."*
- *The teacher says, "And oh, by the way, today we're going to factor polynomials."*
- *A student asks, "What are we supposed to be doing?" and the teacher clarifies the task.*
- *A student asks, "What do I write here?" in order to complete a task.*
- *The teacher says, "Watch me while I show you how to _____," asking students only to listen.*
- *A number of students do not seem to be following the explanation.*
- *Students are inattentive during the teacher's explanation of content.*
- *Students' use of academic vocabulary is imprecise.*
- *And others...*

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

- 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.

- *The teacher says, “By the end of today’s lesson you’re all going to be able to factor different types of polynomials.”*
- *In the course of a presentation of content, the teacher asks students, “Can anyone think of an example of that?”*
- *The teacher uses a board or projection device for task directions so that students can refer to it without requiring the teacher’s attention.*
- *The teacher says, “When you’re trying to solve a math problem like this, you might think of a similar, but simpler, problem you’ve done in the past and see whether the same approach would work.”*
- *The teacher explains passive solar energy by inviting students to think about the temperature in a closed car on a cold, but sunny, day or about the water in a hose that has been sitting in the sun.*
- *The teacher uses a Venn diagram to illustrate the distinctions between a republic and a democracy.*
- *And others...*

- *The teacher says, “Here’s a spot where some students have difficulty; be sure to read it carefully.”*
- *The teacher asks a student to explain the task to other students.*
- *When clarification about the learning task is needed, a student offers it to classmates.*
- *The teacher, in explaining the westward movement in U.S. history, invites students to consider that historical period from the point of view of the Native Peoples.*
- *The teacher asks, “Who would like to explain this idea to us?”*
- *A student asks, “Is this another way we could think about analogies?”*
- *A student explains an academic term to classmates.*
- *The teacher pauses during an explanation of the civil rights movement to remind students that the prefix in- as in inequality means “not” and that the prefix un- also means the same thing.*
- *A student says to a classmate, “I think that side of the triangle is called the hypotenuse.”*
- *And others...*

UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

- 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.

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

- *All questions are of the “recitation” type, such as “What is 3 x 4?”*
- *The teacher asks a question for which the answer is on the board; students respond by reading it.*
- *The teacher calls only on students who have their hands up.*
- *A student responds to a question with wrong information, and the teacher doesn’t follow up.*
- *And others...*

BASIC • LEVEL 2

- 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 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 some students attempt to do so.

- *Many questions are of the “recitation” type, such as “How many members of the House of Representatives are there?”*
- *The teacher asks, “Who has an idea about this?” The usual three students offer comments.*
- *The teacher asks, “Maria, can you comment on Ian’s idea?” but Maria does not respond or makes a comment directly to the teacher.*
- *The teacher asks a student to explain his reasoning for why 13 is a prime number but does not follow up when the student falters.*
- *And others...*

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

- 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 to questions in order to deepen student 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.

- *The teacher asks, "What might have happened if the colonists had not prevailed in the American war for independence?"*
- *The teacher uses the plural form in asking questions, such as "What are some things you think might contribute to _____?"*
- *The teacher asks, "Maria, can you comment on Ian's idea?" and Maria responds directly to Ian.*
- *The teacher poses a question, asking every student to write a brief response and then share it with a partner, before inviting a few to offer their ideas to the entire class.*
- *The teacher asks students when they have formulated an answer to the question "Why do you think Huck Finn did _____?" to find the reason in the text and to explain their thinking to a neighbor.*
- *And others...*

- *A student asks, "How many ways are there to get this answer?"*
- *A student says to a classmate, "I don't think I agree with you on this, because..."*
- *A student asks of other students, "Does anyone have another idea how we might figure this out?"*
- *A student asks, "What if...?"*
- *And others...*

UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

- 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 student engagement.

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

- *Most students disregard the assignment given by the teacher; it appears to be much too difficult for them.*
- *Students fill out the lesson worksheet by copying words from the board.*
- *Students are using math manipulative materials in a rote activity.*
- *The teacher lectures for 45 minutes.*
- *Most students don't have time to complete the assignment; the teacher moves on in the lesson.*
- *And others...*

BASIC • LEVEL 2

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

- *Students in only three of the five small groups are figuring out an answer to the assigned problem; the others seem to be unsure how they should proceed.*
- *Students are asked to fill in a worksheet, following an established procedure.*
- *There is a recognizable beginning, middle, and end to the lesson.*
- *The teacher lectures for 20 minutes and provides 15 minutes for the students to write an essay; not all students are able to complete it.*
- *And others...*

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

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

- *Five students (out of 27) have finished an assignment early and begin talking among themselves; the teacher assigns a follow-up activity.*
- *Students are asked to formulate a hypothesis about what might happen if the American voting system allowed for the direct election of presidents and to explain their reasoning.*
- *Students are given a task to do independently, then to discuss with a table group, followed by a reporting from each table.*
- *Students are asked to create different representations of a large number using a variety of manipulative materials.*
- *The lesson is neither rushed nor does it drag.*
- *And others...*

- *Students are asked to write an essay in the style of Hemmingway and to describe which aspects of his style they have incorporated.*
- *Students determine which of several tools—e.g., a protractor, spreadsheet, or graphing calculator—would be most suitable to solve a math problem.*
- *A student asks whether they might remain in their small groups to complete another section of the activity, rather than work independently.*
- *Students identify or create their own learning materials.*
- *Students summarize their learning from the lesson.*
- *And others...*

UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

- The teacher gives no indication of what high-quality work looks like.
- The teacher makes no effort to determine whether students understand the lesson.
- Students receive no feedback, or feedback is global or directed to only one student.
- The teacher does not ask students to evaluate their own or classmates' work.

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

- *A student asks, "How is this assignment going to be graded?"*
- *A student asks, "Is this the right way to solve this problem?" but receives no information from the teacher.*
- *The teacher forges ahead with a presentation without checking for understanding.*
- *After the students present their research on globalization, the teacher tells them their letter grade; when students ask how he arrived at the grade, the teacher responds, "After all these years in education, I just know what grade to give."*
- *And others...*

BASIC • LEVEL 2

- There is little evidence that the students understand how their work will be evaluated.
- The teacher monitors understanding through a single method, or without eliciting evidence of understanding from students.
- Feedback to students is vague and not oriented toward future improvement of work.
- The teacher makes only minor attempts to engage students in self- or peer assessment.

- *The teacher asks, "Does anyone have a question?"*
- *When a student completes a problem on the board, the teacher corrects the student's work without explaining why.*
- *The teacher says, "Good job, everyone."*
- *The teacher, after receiving a correct response from one student, continues without ascertaining whether other students understand the concept.*
- *The students receive their tests back; each one is simply marked with a letter grade at the top.*
- *And others...*

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

- The teacher makes the standards of high-quality work clear to students.
- The teacher elicits evidence of student understanding.
- Students are invited to assess their own work and make improvements; most of them do so.
- Feedback includes specific and timely guidance, at least for groups of students.

- Students indicate that they clearly understand the characteristics of high-quality work, and there is evidence that students have helped establish the evaluation criteria.
- The teacher is constantly “taking the pulse” of the class; monitoring of student understanding is sophisticated and continuous and makes use of strategies to elicit information about individual student understanding.
- Students monitor their own understanding, either on their own initiative or as a result of tasks set by the teacher.
- High-quality feedback comes from many sources, including students; it is specific and focused on improvement.

- *The teacher circulates during small-group or independent work, offering suggestions to students.*
- *The teacher uses specifically formulated questions to elicit evidence of student understanding.*
- *The teacher asks students to look over their papers to correct their errors; most of them engage in this task.*
- *And others...*

- *The teacher reminds students of the characteristics of high-quality work, observing that the students themselves helped develop them.*
- *While students are working, the teacher circulates, providing specific feedback to individual students.*
- *The teacher uses popsicle sticks or exit tickets to elicit evidence of individual student understanding.*
- *Students offer feedback to their classmates on their work.*
- *Students evaluate a piece of their writing against the writing rubric and confer with the teacher about how it could be improved.*
- *And others...*

UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1

BASIC • LEVEL 2

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

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

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

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

- *Despite evidence to the contrary, the teacher says, "My students did great on that lesson!"*
- *The teacher says, "That was awful; I wish I knew what to do!"*
- *And others...*

- *At the end of the lesson, the teacher says, "I guess that went okay."*
- *The teacher says, "I guess I'll try _____ next time."*
- *And others...*

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

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

- 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.

- *The teacher says, “I wasn’t pleased with the level of engagement of the students.”*
- *The teacher’s journal indicates several possible lesson improvements.*
- *And others...*

- *The teacher says, “I think that lesson worked pretty well, although I was disappointed in how the group at the back table performed.”*
- *In conversation with colleagues, the teacher considers strategies for grouping students differently to improve a lesson.*
- *And others...*

UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

- There is no system for either instructional or noninstructional records.
- Record-keeping systems are in disarray and provide incorrect or confusing information.

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

- *A student says, "I'm sure I turned in that assignment, but the teacher lost it!"*
- *The teacher says, "I misplaced the writing samples for my class, but it doesn't matter—I know what the students would have scored."*
- *On the morning of the field trip, the teacher discovers that five students never turned in their permission slips.*
- *And others...*

BASIC • LEVEL 2

- The teacher has a process for recording student work completion. However, it may be out of date or may not permit students to access the information.
- The teacher's process for tracking student progress is cumbersome to use.
- The teacher has a process for tracking some, but not all, noninstructional information, and it may contain some errors.

- *A student says, "I wasn't in school today, and my teacher's website is out of date, so I don't know what the assignments are!"*
- *The teacher says, "I've got all these notes about how the kids are doing; I should put them into the system, but I just don't have time."*
- *On the morning of the field trip, the teacher frantically searches all the drawers in the desk looking for the permission slips and finds them just before the bell rings.*
- *And others...*

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

- The teacher’s process for recording completion of student work is efficient and effective; students have access to information about completed and/or missing assignments.
- The teacher has an efficient and effective process for recording student attainment of learning goals; students are able to see how they’re progressing.
- The teacher’s process for recording noninstructional information is both efficient and effective.

- Students contribute to and maintain records indicating completed and outstanding work assignments.
- Students contribute to and maintain data files indicating their own progress in learning.
- Students contribute to maintaining noninstructional records for the class.

- *On the class website, the teacher creates a link that students can access to check on any missing assignments.*
- *The teacher’s gradebook records student progress toward learning goals.*
- *The teacher creates a spreadsheet for tracking which students have paid for their school pictures.*
- *And others...*

- *A student from each team maintains the database of current and missing assignments for the team.*
- *When asked about her progress in a class, a student proudly shows her portfolio of work and can explain how the documents indicate her progress toward learning goals.*
- *When they bring in their permission slips for a field trip, students add their own information to the database.*
- *And others...*

UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1

BASIC • LEVEL 2

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

- 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.

- 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 school-required gradebook but does little else to inform families about student progress.
- Some of the teacher's communications are inappropriate to families' cultural norms.

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

- *A parent says, "I'd like to know what my kid is working on at school."*
- *A parent says, "I wish I could know something about my child's progress before the report card comes out."*
- *A parent says, "I wonder why we never see any schoolwork come home."*
- *And others...*

- *A parent says, "I received the district pamphlet on the reading program, but I wonder how it's being taught in my child's class."*
- *A parent says, "I emailed the teacher about my child's struggles with math, but all I got back was a note saying that he's doing fine."*
- *The teacher sends home weekly quizzes for parent or guardian signature.*
- *And others...*

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

- The teacher regularly makes information about the instructional program available.
- The teacher regularly sends 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 materials 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.

- *The teacher sends a weekly newsletter home to families that describe current class activities, community and/or school projects, field trips, etc.*
- *The teacher creates a monthly progress report, which is sent home for each student.*
- *The teacher sends home a project that asks students to interview a family member about growing up during the 1950s.*
- *And others...*

- *Students create materials for Back-to-School Night that outline the approach for learning science.*
- *Each student's daily reflection log describes what she or he is learning, and the log goes home each week for review by a parent or guardian.*
- *Students design a project on charting their family's use of plastics.*
- *And others...*

UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1

BASIC • LEVEL 2

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

- The teacher's relationships with colleagues are characterized by negativity or combativeness.
- The teacher purposefully avoids contributing to activities promoting professional inquiry.
- The teacher avoids involvement in school activities and district and community projects.

- The teacher has cordial relationships with colleagues.
- When invited, the teacher participates in activities related to professional inquiry.
- When asked, the teacher participates in school activities, as well as district and community projects.

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

- *The teacher doesn't share test-taking strategies with his colleagues. He figures that if his students do well, he will look good.*
- *The teacher does not attend PLC meetings.*
- *The teacher does not attend any school functions after the dismissal bell.*
- *The teacher says, "I work from 8:30 to 3:30 and not a minute more. I won't serve on any district committee unless they get me a substitute to cover my class."*
- *And others...*

- *The teacher is polite but seldom shares any instructional materials with his grade partners.*
- *The teacher attends PLC meetings only when reminded by her supervisor.*
- *The principal says, "I wish I didn't have to ask the teacher to 'volunteer' every time we need someone to chaperone the dance."*
- *The teacher contributes to the district literacy committee only when requested to do so by the principal.*
- *And others...*

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

- The teacher has supportive and collaborative relationships with colleagues.
- The teacher regularly participates in activities related to professional inquiry.
- The teacher frequently volunteers to participate in school events and school district and community projects.

- The teacher takes a leadership role in promoting activities related to professional inquiry.
- The teacher regularly contributes to and leads events that positively impact school life.
- The teacher regularly contributes to and leads significant district and community projects.

- *The principal remarks that the teacher's students have been noticeably successful since her teacher team has been focusing on instructional strategies during its meetings.*
- *The teacher has decided to take some free MIT courses online and to share his learning with colleagues.*
- *The basketball coach is usually willing to chaperone the ninth-grade dance because she knows all of her players will be there.*
- *The teacher enthusiastically represents the school during the district social studies review and brings his substantial knowledge of U.S. history to the course writing team.*
- *And others...*

- *The teacher leads the group of mentor teachers at school, which is devoted to supporting teachers during their first years of teaching.*
- *The teacher hosts a book study group that meets monthly; he guides the book choices so that the group can focus on topics that will enhance their skills.*
- *The teacher leads the annual "Olympics" day, thereby involving the entire student body and faculty in athletic events.*
- *The teacher leads the district wellness committee, and involves healthcare and nutrition specialists from the community.*
- *And others...*

UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1

BASIC • LEVEL 2

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

- The teacher is not involved in any activity that might enhance knowledge or skill.
- The teacher purposefully resists discussing performance with supervisors or colleagues.
- The teacher ignores invitations to join professional organizations or attend conferences.

- The teacher participates in professional activities when they are required or provided by the district.
- The teacher reluctantly accepts feedback from supervisors and colleagues.
- The teacher contributes in a limited fashion to professional organizations.

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

- *The teacher never takes continuing education courses, even though the credits would increase his salary.*
- *The teacher endures the principal's annual observations in her classroom, knowing that if she waits long enough, the principal will eventually leave and she will be able to simply discard the feedback form.*
- *Despite teaching high school honors mathematics, the teacher declines to join NCTM because it costs too much and makes too many demands on members' time.*
- *And others...*

- *The teacher politely attends district workshops and professional development days but doesn't make much use of the materials received.*
- *The teacher listens to his principal's feedback after a lesson but isn't sure that the recommendations really apply in his situation.*
- *The teacher joins the local chapter of the American Library Association because she might benefit from the free books—but otherwise doesn't feel it's worth much of her time.*
- *And others...*

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

- The teacher seeks regular opportunities for continued professional development.
- The teacher welcomes colleagues and supervisors into the classroom for the purposes of gaining insight from their feedback.
- The teacher actively participates in organizations designed to contribute to the profession.

- The teacher seeks regular opportunities for continued professional development, including initiating action research.
- The teacher actively seeks feedback from supervisors and colleagues.
- The teacher takes an active leadership role in professional organizations in order to contribute to the profession.

- *The teacher eagerly attends the district's optional summer workshops, knowing they provide a wealth of instructional strategies he'll be able to use during the school year.*
- *The teacher enjoys her principal's weekly walk-through visits because they always lead to a valuable informal discussion during lunch the next day.*
- *The teacher joins a science education partnership and finds that it provides him access to resources for his classroom that truly benefit his students.*
- *And others...*

- *The teacher's principal rarely spends time observing in her classroom. Therefore, she has initiated an action research project in order to improve her own instruction.*
- *The teacher is working on a particular instructional strategy and asks his colleagues to observe in his classroom in order to provide objective feedback on his progress.*
- *The teacher has founded a local organization devoted to literacy education; her leadership has inspired teachers in the community to work on several curriculum and instruction projects.*
- *And others...*

UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

- The teacher is dishonest.
- The teacher does not notice the needs of students.
- The teacher engages in practices that are self-serving.
- The teacher willfully rejects district regulations.

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

- *The teacher makes some errors when marking the most recent common assessment but doesn't tell his colleagues.*
- *The teacher does not realize that three of her neediest students arrive at school an hour early every morning because their mothers can't afford daycare.*
- *The teacher fails to notice that one of his kindergartners is often ill, looks malnourished, and frequently has bruises on her arms and legs.*
- *When one of her colleagues goes home suddenly because of illness, the teacher pretends to have a meeting so that she won't have to share in the coverage responsibilities.*
- *The teacher does not file his students' writing samples in their district cumulative folders; it is time-consuming, and he wants to leave early for summer break.*
- *And others...*

BASIC • LEVEL 2

- The teacher is honest.
- The teacher notices the needs of students but is inconsistent in addressing them.
- The teacher does not notice that some school practices result in poor conditions for students.
- The teacher makes decisions professionally but on a limited basis.
- The teacher complies with district regulations.

- *The teacher says, "I have always known my grade partner to be truthful. If she called in sick today, then I believe her."*
- *The teacher considers staying late to help some of her students in after-school daycare but then realizes it would conflict with her health club class and so decides against it.*
- *The teacher notices a student struggling in his class and sends a quick email to the counselor. When he doesn't get a response, he assumes the problem has been taken care of.*
- *When the teacher's grade partner goes out on maternity leave, the teacher says "Hello" and "Welcome" to the substitute but does not offer any further assistance.*
- *The teacher keeps his district-required gradebook up to date but enters exactly the minimum number of assignments specified by his department chair.*
- *And others...*

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

- The teacher is honest and known for having high standards of integrity.
- The teacher actively addresses student needs.
- The teacher actively works to provide opportunities for student success.
- The teacher willingly participates in team and departmental decision making.
- The teacher complies completely with district regulations.

- The teacher is considered a leader in terms of honesty, integrity, and confidentiality.
- The teacher is highly proactive in serving students.
- The teacher makes a concerted effort to ensure opportunities are available for all students to be successful.
- The teacher takes a leadership role in team and departmental decision making.
- The teacher takes a leadership role regarding district regulations.

- *The teacher is trusted by his grade partners; they share information with him, confident it will not be repeated inappropriately.*
- *Despite her lack of knowledge about dance, the teacher forms a dance club at her high school to meet the high interest level of her students who cannot afford lessons.*
- *The teacher notices some speech delays in a few of her young students; she calls in the speech therapist to do a few sessions in her classroom and provide feedback on further steps.*
- *The English department chair says, “I appreciate when _____ attends our after-school meetings; he always contributes something meaningful to the discussion.”*
- *The teacher learns the district’s new online curriculum mapping system and writes in all of her courses.*
- *And others...*

- *When a young teacher has trouble understanding directions from the principal, she immediately goes to a more seasoned teacher—who, she knows, can be relied on for expert advice and complete discretion.*
- *After the school’s intramural basketball program is discontinued, the teacher finds some former student athletes to come in and work with his students, who have come to love the after-school sessions.*
- *The teacher enlists the help of her principal when she realizes that a colleague has been making disparaging comments about some disadvantaged students.*
- *The math department looks forward to their weekly meetings; their leader, the teacher, is always seeking new instructional strategies and resources for them to discuss.*
- *When the district adopts a new Web-based grading program, the teacher learns it inside and out so that she will be able to assist her colleagues with its implementation.*
- *And others...*