

## Introducing the Delaware Teacher Classroom Observation Framework

The Delaware Teacher Classroom Observation Framework is a tool for coaching and development. Administrators and teachers use this framework to align expectations for what high-quality teaching and learning looks like. The observer uses the framework to guide the collection of evidence from classroom observations to assess the quality of teaching -- both strengths and areas for growth.

### Structure

The observation framework is structured into three **Performance Areas** that describe the major elements of a successful classroom. Each Performance Area is accompanied by an Essential Question. They are:

1. **Learning Environment:** To what extent does the classroom environment support all students to learn?
2. **Engagement in Learning:** To what extent does the instruction support and engage all students?
3. **Maximizing Learning:** To what extent do all students retain and apply their learning with productive struggle?

Each **Essential Question** guides the observer to focus on three **Indicators** which describe the Performance Area at four levels of performance. Each Indicator is defined by several **Descriptors**. The Descriptors articulate the teacher and student behaviors that an observer would see in the classroom, during instruction, at each of four different performance levels. The observer collects evidence based on the Descriptors of those Indicators to identify feedback to support teacher growth and development and to support assessment of the instruction.

There are many things teachers do outside of the lesson that contribute to high-quality teaching and learning. To recognize this important work, each Performance Area includes **Core Teacher Skills**. Core Teacher Skills are *not* evaluated, but instead serve to name much of the work teachers do to achieve the levels of performance noted in the Indicators, and to provide a common language and set of expectations to support teacher growth and development.

### Use

In the Delaware Educator Growth and Support System, the observer will use the observation framework to observe each teacher several times over the course of the school year, and to collect evidence at each observation. The observer will share feedback after each observation to support teacher growth and will only assign performance ratings at the end of the school year, using the evidence collected over the course of the entire year.

Core Teacher Skills articulate the many factors that go into the action of planning so that high-quality teaching and learning can happen in the classroom. For example, the act of teacher planning and preparation is not specifically addressed in the Indicators but is observed in the quality of the classroom lesson and outcomes assessed in the framework. This does not mean that planning is not important or expected; on the contrary, planning is critical to success in Delaware classrooms. What this observation framework structure affirms is that what matters most for students is the actual instruction they experience in the classroom, and so instruction is what is ultimately assessed in the Delaware Educator Growth and Support System.

<b>Performance Area 1: Learning Environment: To what extent does the classroom environment support all students to learn?</b>				
	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Level 4</b>
<b>Indicator 1.1 Structures for Learning</b>	<p><b>Routines, procedures, and behavior expectations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are not taught</li> <li>are not clearly communicated, causing loss of <b>instructional time</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Student behavior</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>detracts from others' learning</li> <li>is not addressed</li> </ul>	<p><b>Routines, procedures, and behavior expectations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are clearly communicated but are not taught to mastery</li> <li>do not match to students' needs</li> <li>require prompts that cause loss of <b>instructional time</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Student behavior</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>interrupts the lesson</li> <li>is addressed and improved</li> </ul>	<p><b>Routines, procedures, and behavior expectations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are clearly communicated and taught to mastery, maximizing <b>instructional time</b></li> <li>are matched to student needs</li> </ul> <p><b>Student behavior</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is appropriate, or</li> <li>when inappropriate, is addressed effectively and does not detract from the lesson</li> </ul>	<p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students take initiative to manage classroom procedures and their own behavior.</li> <li>Students prompt others to follow classroom procedures, routines, and expectations.</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 1.2 Positive Classroom Climate</b>	<p><b>Classroom interactions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are not respectful</li> <li>students do not listen attentively, and teacher does not refocus students' attention</li> </ul> <p><b>When working together, students:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>do not share work <b>responsibility</b></li> </ul> <p>Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>do not <b>persevere</b></li> <li>are not motivated to complete quality work</li> <li>are not prompted or encouraged</li> </ul>	<p><b>Classroom interactions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>teacher to student interactions are respectful</li> <li>student to student interactions are not respectful unless prompted by the teacher</li> <li>students listen attentively to teacher but not to peers</li> <li>prompting is not effective</li> </ul> <p><b>When working together, students:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>share work <b>responsibility</b></li> <li>do not offer support to one another</li> </ul> <p>Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are prompted to <b>persevere</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Classroom interactions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>teacher to student interactions are respectful</li> <li>student to student interactions are respectful</li> <li>students listen attentively to teacher and peers</li> </ul> <p><b>When working together, students:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>share work <b>responsibility</b></li> <li>offer and receive support from one another</li> </ul> <p>Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Persevere</b></li> <li>Complete quality work</li> <li>Require minimal to no prompting</li> </ul>	<p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students independently use problem solving and conflict resolution skills during cooperative learning opportunities.</li> <li>Students encourage others to persevere.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>praised for their efforts to complete quality work</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Indicator 1.3 Equitable Access</b></p>	<p><b>High expectations for learning and achievement</b> for all students are not communicated, demonstrated/modeled.</p> <p>Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>do not have access to a <b>variety of tools and/or materials</b> to meet their needs and do not have support for learning</li> <li>are not provided <b>equitable* opportunities</b> to respond and participate and do not engage</li> <li>do not share <b>their interests and/or perspectives</b> and do not accept others' interests and perspectives as worthy</li> <li>do not share their interests and/or perspectives nor <b>build relationships and connect</b> to their academic work</li> </ul> <p><b>Differences</b> related to background, identity, language, strengths, and challenges are not respected and affirmed.</p>	<p><b>High expectations for learning and achievement</b> for all students are communicated, demonstrated/modeled but with limited impact on students.</p> <p>Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>have access to a <b>variety of tools and/or materials</b> to meet their needs but are not encouraged to use them to support learning</li> <li>are provided <b>equitable* opportunities</b> to respond and participate but are not encouraged to engage</li> <li>are not encouraged to share <b>their interests and/or perspectives</b> and to accept others' interests and perspectives as worthy</li> <li>are not encouraged to share their interests and/or perspectives <b>to build relationships and connect</b> to their academic work</li> </ul> <p><b>Differences</b> related to background, identity, language, strengths, and challenges are addressed inconsistently.</p>	<p><b>High expectations for learning and achievement</b> for all students are communicated, demonstrated/modeled.</p> <p>Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are provided a <b>variety of tools and/or materials</b> to meet their needs and encouraged to use them to support learning</li> <li>are provided <b>equitable* opportunities</b> to respond and participate and encouraged to engage</li> <li>are encouraged to share <b>their interests and/or perspectives</b> and to accept others' interests and perspectives as worthy</li> <li>are encouraged to share their interests and/or perspectives <b>to build relationships and connect</b> to their academic work</li> </ul> <p><b>Differences</b> related to background, identity, language, strengths, and challenges are respected and affirmed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students take initiative to share their interests and perspectives.</li> </ul>
<p>*Equitable is defined as what one needs based on their diverse needs related to background knowledge/experiences, language, ability, etc.</p>				

Performance Area 2: Engagement in Learning: To what extent does the instruction support and engage all students?				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<b>Indicator 2.1</b> <b>Objectives for Learning</b>	<p><b>Lesson objectives are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>not <b>aligned</b> to grade level or proficiency standard(s)</li> <li>not written in <b>student friendly</b> language that state what the students should know and be able to do</li> <li>not clearly <b>communicated</b> and <b>accessible</b> to students</li> <li>not <b>revisited</b> throughout the lesson</li> </ul> <p>Students do not <b>know</b> what they are learning or <b>why</b> it is important for them to know.</p> <p><b>Criteria for success:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is not <b>communicated</b> nor <b>explained</b> to students prior to beginning an assignment</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lesson objectives are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>aligned</b> to grade level or proficiency standard(s)</li> <li>not written in <b>student friendly</b> language that state what the students should know and be able to do</li> <li><b>accessible</b> but not clearly <b>communicated</b> to students</li> <li>not <b>revisited</b> throughout the lesson</li> </ul> <p>Students are <b>able to read or</b> describe what they are learning but not <b>why</b> it is important for them to know.</p> <p><b>Criteria for success:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is not <b>aligned</b> to the objective</li> <li>is <b>communicated</b> but not <b>explained</b> to students prior to beginning an assignment</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lesson objectives are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>aligned</b> to grade level or proficiency standard(s)</li> <li>written in <b>student friendly</b> language that state what the students should know and be able to do</li> <li>clearly <b>communicated</b> and <b>accessible</b> to students</li> <li><b>revisited</b> throughout the lesson</li> </ul> <p>Students are able to <b>articulate</b> what they are learning and <b>why</b> it is important for them to know.</p> <p><b>Criteria for success:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is <b>aligned</b> to the objective</li> <li>is <b>communicated</b> and <b>explained</b> to students prior to beginning an assignment</li> </ul>	<p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students make connections between what they are currently learning to previous learning and/or to content in other disciplines.</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 2.2</b> <b>Learning Experiences</b>	<p><b>Learning experiences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are activities not <b>logically** aligned to the objective</b></li> <li>are primarily <b>teacher led</b></li> <li>are not coherently sequenced according to major concepts required to master the objective</li> <li>pacing does not provide adequate <b>processing time</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Learning experiences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are <b>logically** aligned to the objective</b></li> <li>are primarily <b>teacher led</b></li> <li>are coherently sequenced but pacing does not provide adequate <b>processing time</b></li> <li>are inconsistent when <b>balancing content input</b> and</li> </ul>	<p><b>Learning experiences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are <b>logically** aligned to the objective</b></li> <li>are both <b>teacher and student led/directed</b></li> <li>are coherently sequenced and paced according to major concepts required to master the objective with adequate <b>processing time</b></li> </ul>	<p>AND</p> <p><b>Learning experiences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students are provided opportunities to progress at different learning rates.</li> <li>Students who finish early are engaged in meaningful learning opportunities.</li> <li>Students are provided choice in the materials they can use</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>include <b>content input</b> but do not include opportunities for students to <b>process</b></li> <li>do not include an <b>activator</b> or preassessment of students' prior knowledge</li> <li>do not include a way for students to <b>summarize</b> their learning</li> </ul> <p><b>Explanatory Devices*:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>do not support achievement of the objective</li> </ul>	<p>opportunities for students to <b>process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>include an <b>activator</b> that does not align with the objective</li> <li>are not based on data gathered through an activator or pre-assessment</li> <li>do not address prior misconceptions</li> <li>include a <b>closing activity</b> but the activity does not provide data that assesses student mastery of the objective</li> </ul> <p><b>Explanatory Devices*:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are not matched to the objective or the learners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>include a <b>balance of content input</b> and opportunities for students to <b>process</b></li> <li>are based on an <b>activator</b> or assessment of prior knowledge and anticipation of misconceptions</li> <li>include a strategy for students to <b>summarize</b> their learning</li> </ul> <p><b>Explanatory Devices*:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are varied and well-chosen to match the needs of the learners</li> <li>support student achievement of the objective</li> </ul>	<p>and in grouping arrangements.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 2.3 Checks for Understanding and Feedback</b></p>	<p><b>Checks for understanding:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>do not occur during the lesson to assess students' <b>progress</b> towards the objective(s)</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>students are not provided opportunities to demonstrate their learning, to relearn, redo or be reassessed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Student self-assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>students are not taught or expected to self-assess their work in relation to established criteria for success</li> </ul>	<p><b>Checks for understanding:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>occur during the lesson but the data is not used to <b>adjust instruction</b></li> <li>data is gathered from some but not all students</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>students are given only a single opportunity to demonstrate their learning</li> <li>students are provided an opportunity to redo or be reassessed without an opportunity to relearn</li> </ul> <p><b>Student self-assessment</b></p>	<p><b>Checks for understanding:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>occur frequently</b> and at <b>critical moments</b> throughout the lesson</li> <li>assess student <b>progress</b> towards the objective</li> <li><b>data</b> is gathered from <b>all students</b></li> <li><b>data</b> is used to <b>adjust instruction</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>students are given multiple opportunities and options to demonstrate their learning,</li> <li>reteaching is provided for students who need it</li> </ul>	<p>AND</p> <p><b>Student self-assessment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students are expected to independently self-assess and determine the steps needed to improve.</li> </ul> <p><b>Feedback</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students are taught - and receive guided practice on – how to provide academically focused feedback to each other.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Feedback to students is:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>not specific or timely</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>students are not taught or expected to self-assess their work in relation to established criteria for success</li> </ul> <p><b>Feedback to students is:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>timely</li> <li>related to established criteria for success</li> <li>not accompanied by a clear expectation that the student will use the feedback to revise or improve their performance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>students are given opportunities to redo and to be reassessed on assignments/tasks</li> </ul> <p><b>Student self-assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>students are taught and expected to self-assess their work in relation to established criteria for success</li> </ul> <p><b>Feedback to students is:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>timely</li> <li>frequent</li> <li>specifically related to established criteria for success</li> <li>matched to student/s</li> <li>accompanied by a clear expectation that the student will use the feedback to revise or improve performance</li> </ul>	
<p>*Explanatory devices are defined as analogies, metaphors, gestures, demonstrations, modeling, think-aloud, physical models, visual representations, graphic organizers, interactive whiteboards, mental imagery, presentation software, minimal and progressive cueing, simulations, educational games, and role plays.          **Logically aligned means to consider the knowledge and activities necessary to accomplish the objective, a progression in level of difficulty (Bloom’s Taxonomy), and the gradual release of responsibility to enable students to transfer, retain, and independently apply their learning.</p>				

<b>Performance Area 3: Maximizing Learning: To what extent do all students retain and apply their learning with productive struggle?</b>				
	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Level 4</b>
<b>Indicator 3.1 Rigorous Assignments</b>	<p><b>Assignments</b> are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>not <b>aligned</b> to the standards &amp; lesson’s objective, not <b>matched</b> to students or content, and therefore are not <b>cognitively challenging</b></li> <li>not <b>relevant</b> to the learner and do not require <b>application</b> of knowledge for real purposes</li> <li>not <b>differentiated</b> to meet students’ needs</li> </ul> <p>Assignments do not require <b>application of content</b> through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>generating examples</li> <li>reviewing material</li> <li>leading discussions</li> <li>critically analyzing information</li> <li>solving problems</li> </ul>	<p><b>Assignments</b> are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>aligned</b> to the standards &amp; lesson’s objective, not <b>matched</b> to students or content, and therefore are not <b>cognitively challenging</b></li> <li><b>relevant</b> to the learner or require <b>application</b> of knowledge for real purposes</li> <li><b>differentiated</b> to meet groups of students’ needs</li> </ul> <p>Assignments provide opportunities to <b>apply content</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>generating examples</li> <li>reviewing material</li> <li>leading discussions</li> <li>critically analyzing information</li> <li>solving problems</li> </ul> <p>...but many students do not engage in those opportunities.</p>	<p><b>Assignments</b> are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>aligned</b> to the standards &amp; lesson’s objective, <b>matched</b> to students and content, and therefore are <b>cognitively challenging</b></li> <li><b>relevant</b> to the learner and require <b>application</b> of knowledge for real purposes</li> <li><b>differentiated</b> to meet individual students’ needs</li> </ul> <p>Assignments provide opportunities to <b>apply content</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>generating examples</li> <li>reviewing material</li> <li>leading discussions</li> <li>critically analyzing information</li> <li>solving problems</li> </ul> <p>...and students engage in those opportunities.</p>	<p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assignments provide students the opportunity to: self-evaluate, reflect and share their problem-solving strategies and/or new ideas.</li> <li>Students can self-select from options in assignments.</li> <li>Students can apply content by developing possible solutions addressing local or global issues, and/or develop creative approaches.</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 3.2 Questioning and Discussion</b>	<p><b>Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are not <b>aligned to the objective</b></li> <li>do not follow a <b>continuum</b> from simple to more complex and/or concrete to abstract</li> <li>are not accompanied by <b>wait time, prompts</b> and/or <b>scaffolds</b> to help students answer questions</li> </ul>	<p><b>Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are <b>aligned to the objective</b></li> <li>do not follow a <b>continuum</b> from simple to more complex and/or concrete to abstract</li> <li>are accompanied by <b>wait time but no prompts</b> and/or <b>scaffolds</b> when needed to help students answer questions</li> </ul> <p>Students are prompted to respond to questions <b>using</b></p>	<p><b>Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are <b>aligned to the objective</b></li> <li>follow a <b>continuum</b> from simple to more complex and/or concrete to abstract</li> <li>are accompanied by <b>wait time, prompts</b>, and/or <b>scaffolds</b> to help students answer questions</li> </ul> <p>Students are expected to respond to questions <b>using evidence</b></p>	<p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students engage in accountable talk* to challenge thinking, push for evidence, and/or refine assignments.</li> <li>Students initiate class discussions and peer collaboration.</li> <li>Students engage in productive academic discussions where they</li> </ul>

	<p>Students are not expected to support response with <b>evidence and/or explanations</b>.</p> <p><b>Class discussions are not evident:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• primarily teacher talk</li> <li>• students do not ask or pose their own questions</li> <li>• no structures are in place that <b>promote engagement</b> in class discussions</li> </ul>	<p><b>evidence and/or explanations</b> when appropriate.</p> <p><b>Class discussions are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• primarily between teacher and students but do not include all students</li> <li>• primarily among students, but the discussion is low level</li> <li>• few structures are in place that <b>promote engagement</b> by all students</li> </ul>	<p><b>and/or explanations</b> when appropriate.</p> <p><b>Class discussions are robust:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• primarily with student talk</li> <li>• students asking questions of teacher and peers to expand on thinking</li> <li>• structures are in place that <b>promote engagement</b> by all students</li> </ul>	<p>challenge one another's thinking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students encourage one another for evidence.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 3.3 Academic Language and Vocabulary</b></p>	<p><b>Academic Language &amp; Vocabulary</b> is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not used or used incorrectly</li> <li>• Not <b>explicitly taught</b> or not expected to be used/known by students</li> </ul> <p>Few to no opportunities are provided for students to use academic language &amp; vocabulary.</p> <p>Students are not prompted to use academic language or vocabulary and/or not corrected when academic language and vocabulary is misused.</p>	<p><b>Academic Language &amp; Vocabulary</b> is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>modeled</b> inaccurately or used appropriately but errors are self-corrected</li> <li>• not <b>explicitly taught</b> but students are expected to know</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities to use academic language &amp; vocabulary are not <b>authentic and rigorous</b>.</p> <p>Students are prompted to use academic language and vocabulary and are corrected when it is misused.</p>	<p><b>Academic Language &amp; Vocabulary</b> is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>modeled</b> accurately and appropriately</li> <li>• <b>explicitly taught</b></li> <li>• expected to be used/known by students</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities to use academic language &amp; vocabulary are <b>authentic and rigorous</b>.</p> <p>Students use academic language and vocabulary to explain and elaborate on their thinking with no or minimal teacher prompting.</p>	<p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students take responsibility to help others understand academic language and vocabulary.</li> <li>• Students prompt others to use academic language and vocabulary.</li> <li>• Students correct peers when academic language and vocabulary is misused.</li> </ul>
<p>*Accountable talk requires students to further develop what others have said and demands students to use accurate knowledge that is relevant to the discussion and requires students to use appropriate evidence to defend such knowledge.</p>				



### Core Teacher Skills for Learning Environment

- Bringing multiple perspectives to the discussion of content including attention to learners' personal, family, and community experiences and cultural norms
- Investing time in knowing individual students and informing relationships to best support their learning
- Issuing logical and appropriate consequences as needed such that consequences are successful in changing student behavior
- Providing specific, concrete, sequential and observable directions for behavior and academics
- Promoting student persistence in overcoming environmental and learning challenges
- Using efficient routines and procedures
- Using voice and presence to maintain authority and caring for students
- Developing clear procedures and processes for group work
- Reteaching appropriate behaviors
- Providing positive reinforcement
- Modeling and reinforcing positive self-talk
- Explicitly teaching strategies that help students link effort to achievement
- Uses space to maintain safety and accessibility
- Uses various strategies to maintain attention
- Uses calling patterns that invites all students to participate
- Procuring and using displays, visual aids, props, language cues that reflect students' cultures and backgrounds
- Using grouping roles and arrangements (group sizes, students with diverse needs and perspectives) that are matched to content and learners to maximize student understanding and learning efficiency with the objective
- Using random calling patterns to provide all students equal access to high-level questions

### Core Teacher Skills for Engagement in Learning

- Considering students' cultures and language skills when developing learning objectives and activities
- Allocating instructional time to address the most important content for the grade or course
- Managing time to optimize learning time
- Checking whether students understand the key content needed to master the lesson at key points
- Developing objectives that are manageable, worthy and appropriate for a lesson
- Developing objectives that have learner as the subject, have an active performance verb, and a curricular knowledge or skill
- Developing the thinking skills thought processes that students will be required to use to engage with think about the content (e.g., how to "analyze", deduce, infer, synthesize, etc.)
- Considering students' strengths, interests, needs, and IEP goals (where applicable) to develop learning goals and prepare lessons
- Developing and/or using informal and formal assessments aligned to learning objectives that yield usable data on students' progress toward grade-level standards
- Developing and/or using a variety of appropriately demanding and differentiated instructional materials and activities, such as texts, questions, problems, learning experiences and assignments
- Using multiple ways to explain and share content (for example: model the skill, provide an exemplar, compare or contrast, etc.)
- Making connections between lesson objective/content and content and learning from other lessons or prior knowledge
- Varying teacher role in the instructional process (e.g. instructor, facilitator, coach) based on content, instructional purpose, and needs of students
- Modeling a process for students to provide feedback themselves and to each other
- Providing opportunities for students to respond to and build on their peers' ideas
- Providing a rationale for learning by explaining the benefits of learning a concept, skill, or process and how it applies to the students' lives at home, work or school
- Differentiating instructional experiences and assessments
- Clearly communicates accurate knowledge of the content
- Adjusts instruction as a result of the feedback received from students
- Planning and implementing multiple opportunities for students to practice the skills they are expected to master in the lesson
- Structuring and delivering lesson activities so that students do an appropriate amount of thinking required by the lesson

### Core Teacher Skills for Maximizing Learning

- Posing questions or providing lesson activities that require students to support their thinking through citing evidence and/or explaining their thinking
- Explicitly teaches students criteria for constructing arguments and/or supporting opinions
- Planning for questions at different levels of cognitive challenge
- Considering students' needs to match the level of questions to ask or level of prompting to provide
- Explicitly teaches skills that students are required to use as part of an assignment
- Providing opportunities for students to learn, practice, and master academic language
- Asking questions to stimulate discussion that serves different purposes (e.g. probing for learning and understanding, helping learners articulate their ideas and thinking processes, stimulating curiosity, and helping guide students to question)
- Using knowledge of content to design assignments that support students to extend their learning
- Using knowledge of content and students to match students to relevant and appropriate assignments
- Allow think time for responses
- Designing assignments that include multiple ways for students to demonstrate their learning (examples: writing, reading, speaking and student discourse)

## Delaware Smart Card for Classroom Observations

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Performance Area #1</b> <b>Learning Environment:</b> <i>To what extent does the classroom environment support all students to learn?</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Performance Area #2</b> <b>Engagement in Learning:</b> <i>To what extent does the instruction support and engage all students?</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Performance Area #3</b> <b>Maximizing Learning:</b> <i>To what extent do students retain and apply their learning?</i></p>
<p><b>1.1 Structures for Learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routines and procedures</li> <li>• Behavior expectations</li> <li>• Instructional time</li> <li>• Student Behavior</li> </ul> <p><b>1.2 Positive Classroom Climate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classroom Interactions</li> <li>• Ownership and responsibility</li> <li>• Student perseverance</li> </ul> <p><b>1.3 Equitable Access</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expectations for learning and achievement</li> <li>• Variety of tools and/or materials</li> <li>• Opportunities</li> <li>• Consideration of interests/perspectives</li> <li>• Relationships and connections</li> <li>• Cultural differences</li> </ul>	<p><b>2.1 Objectives for Learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aligned and student-friendly</li> <li>• Accessible, communicated, and revisited</li> <li>• Understood by students</li> <li>• Criteria for success</li> </ul> <p><b>2.2 Learning Experiences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aligned and sequenced</li> <li>• Teacher and student led</li> <li>• Processing time</li> <li>• Balance of content input and process</li> <li>• Activating and summarizing learning</li> <li>• Use of explanatory devices</li> </ul> <p><b>2.3 Checks for Understanding and Feedback</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring progress and adjusting instruction</li> <li>• Opportunities for demonstrating learning</li> <li>• Student self-assessment</li> <li>• Feedback to students</li> </ul>	<p><b>3.1 Rigorous Assignments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alignment to objective, content, and learner</li> <li>• Relevant and meaningful</li> <li>• Differentiated and supported</li> <li>• Application of content</li> </ul> <p><b>3.2 Questioning and Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alignment to objective, content, and learner</li> <li>• Continuum from simple to complex (concrete to abstract)</li> <li>• Wait time, prompting, and scaffolds</li> <li>• Robust and support engagement</li> </ul> <p><b>3.3 Academic Language and Vocabulary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher models</li> <li>• Explicitly taught</li> <li>• Authentic and rigorous</li> <li>• Students use to explain and elaborate thinking</li> </ul>