

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

AREA II: INSTRUCTION

Characteristic II (c): Demonstrates effective clarity of lessons.

Professional Understanding: The teacher is responsible for guiding the students through the curriculum in an organized, thoughtful, and clear manner. The teacher’s organization and thorough preparation ensures that all students achieve course outcomes.

TEACHER BEHAVIOR	DESCRIPTION	Outstanding	Successful	Professional Development Recommended
Demonstrates Cognitive Empathy	<i>Bases curriculum and instruction on her/his understanding of how students think and what they understand (cognitive empathy).</i>	Consistently demonstrates cognitive empathy.	Often demonstrates cognitive empathy.	Seldom demonstrates cognitive empathy.
Checks for Understanding	<i>Uses dipsticking, recall, and comprehension exercises.</i>	Consistently checks for student understanding.	Often checks for student understanding.	Rarely checks for student understanding.
Anticipates Student Confusions and Misconceptions	<i>Re-explains, questions, and asks students to explain their thinking.</i>	Anticipates and unscrambles confusions for all students.	Anticipates and unscrambles confusions for most students.	Seldom anticipates and unscrambles students’ confusions.
Uses a Repertoire of Explanatory Devices	<i>The teacher’s repertoire includes visualization, imagery, graphic organizers, and modeling of thinking.</i>	Consistently uses explanatory devices to clear up student confusions.	Often uses explanatory devices to clear up student confusions.	Seldom uses effective explanatory devices to clear up student confusions.
Provides the Context or “Big Picture”	<i>Places current information and concepts into a larger framework of meaning and connections to old and new learning.</i>	Consistently provides the “Big Picture” for all students.	Often provides the “Big Picture” for all students.	Rarely provides the “Big Picture” for all students.