

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

AREA III: MOTIVATION

Characteristic III (a): Maintains a classroom atmosphere that engages students in learning.

Professional Understanding: Teacher is responsible for creating an effective classroom atmosphere that maximizes student learning.

TEACHER BEHAVIOR	DESCRIPTION	Outstanding	Successful	Professional Development Recommended
Meets Students' Basic Psychological Needs	<i>Promotes safety, self-control, affection, inclusion, self-esteem, emotional intelligence, and self-actualization in classroom.</i>	Consistently provides basic psychological needs of individual students.	Generally provides basic psychological needs of individual students.	Rarely provides basic psychological needs of individual students.
Creates and Maintains an Information Rich Environment	<i>Provides an atmosphere that sparks interest and curiosity about the subject taught.</i>	Consistently provides an information-rich environment.	Generally provides an information-rich environment.	Sparse environment.
Recognizes Individual Learning Styles	<i>Helps students to recognize own learning styles and preferences, and encourages them to utilize their strengths.</i>	Consistently respects and accommodates individual learning styles.	Generally respects and accommodates individual learning styles.	Seldom provides opportunities for individual learning styles.
Promotes the Development of a Learning Community	<i>Provides opportunities, builds confidence, and encourages students and classmates to take risks and control over their own learning.</i>	Consistently encourages students to control their own learning.	Sometimes encourages students to control their own learning.	Little evidence shown that students take risks or control their own learning.
Accommodates Individual Learning Needs	<i>Values, accommodates, and supports students with physical, psychological and/or learning disabilities.</i>	Consistently provides accommodations for individual students' needs.	Sometimes provides accommodations for individual students' needs.	Little accommodations made for individual students' learning needs.
Engages Students in Cooperative Learning	<i>Provides opportunity for students to collaborate with other learners and immerse themselves in the subject matter.</i>	Consistently uses collaboration to motivate student learning.	Sometimes uses collaboration to motivate student learning.	Rarely uses collaboration to motivate student learning.