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## CHARACTERISTICS OF GOOD TEACHING



A broad-based framework for assessing good teaching and providing professional development activities in the New York City public schools is dependent upon mutually agreed on characteristics of good teaching. Numerous focus group discussions involving teachers, principals, parents, superintendents, community school board members, and educational advocate groups have led to a consensus on the characteristics listed below. Each characteristic is important for good teaching, but each needs to be considered in an integrated manner in order to present a well-rounded picture of classroom teaching. How each characteristic described below translates into practice will vary in different school settings according to the needs of different students.



### **Demonstrates Classroom Management Skills**

Teacher has an organized approach to classroom learning, effective classroom management skills, and is able to pace the curriculum. Teacher sets appropriate behavioral standards and enforces them consistently.

### **Engages Students in Learning**

Teacher motivates students to be continually engaged in learning activities. Teacher has a knowledge of child development and corresponding age characteristics and needs. Teacher is responsive to individual student learning styles, knowledgeable about varied instructional strategies and materials, and makes appropriate decisions about how to use them. Teacher relates the curriculum to the appropriate learning context. Teacher strives to meet the needs and abilities of the classroom student population.

### **Encourages Parent Involvement**

Teacher is sensitive to and respects the diversity of parents' native languages and cultures. Teacher is pro-active in reaching out to communicate with parents and involve them in classroom and schoolwide activities as well as other forms of parent involvement. Teacher has awareness of and sensitivity to students' family circumstances.



### **Fosters Professional Collegiality**

Teacher respects other teachers' styles of teaching and has a collegial approach to working with school staff and community, sharing effective practices, engaging in problem-solving, and similar activities.

### **Maintains an Ongoing Commitment to Learning**

Teacher stays current with educational research and trends in subject areas. Teacher is open to learning new approaches and techniques and shares information with colleagues. Teacher has enthusiasm for learning and is able to reflect and grow as a professional. Teacher makes use of community and other outside resources both for student growth and own professional growth.



### **Possesses Knowledge of Subject Matter**

Teacher has command of subject matter and uses appropriate instructional materials. Teacher is able to present information in a clear and effective manner.

### **Promotes Positive Student Learning Outcomes**

Teacher has high expectations for all students. Teacher recognizes and develops instructional strategies appropriate for individual student learning styles, language proficiency, cultural background, and disabling conditions. Teacher regularly assesses student learning and adjusts instruction according to evidence of student growth. Teacher strives to realize educational goals set for students.



### **Recognizes the Importance of Students' Diverse Cultural Backgrounds**

Teacher respects and supports differences among students' languages and cultural backgrounds, and encourages mutual respect in the classroom. Teacher integrates curricula, instructional strategies, assessment, and support services with appropriate language and cultural contexts. Teacher acknowledges the importance of students' diverse cultural backgrounds in all aspects of classroom teaching.

### **Responds to Different Student Learning Behaviors**

Teacher shows flexibility and has the ability to adapt to different modes of student learning. Teacher facilitates students' progress in acquiring their own knowledge and developing their own thinking skills. Teacher shows creativity and imagination; challenges and encourages students to explore and build on their knowledge. Teacher is innovative, willing to experiment and take risks.

### **Supports an Atmosphere of Mutual Respect**

Teacher sets a good example for students: punctual, courteous, concerned about others, and so on. Teacher respects each student as an individual and encourages mutual respect in the classroom. Teacher listens and pays attention to what students are saying; respects individual learning styles as well as cultural diversity, language differences, and disabling conditions.