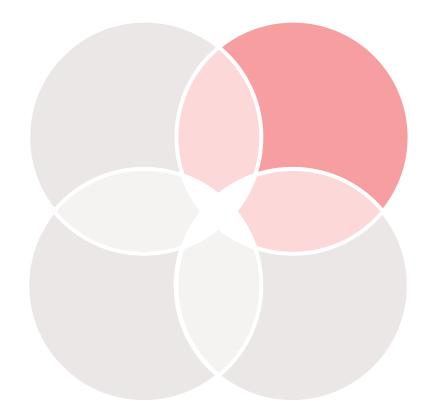
DOMAIN 2



THE CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

2a CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT OF RESPECT AND RAPPORT

An essential skill of teaching is that of managing relationships with students and ensuring that relationships among students are positive and supportive. Teachers create an environment of respect and rapport in their classrooms by the ways they interact with students and by the interactions they encourage and cultivate among students. An important aspect of respect and rapport relates to how the teacher responds to students and how students are permitted to treat one another. Patterns of interactions are critical to the overall tone of the class. In a respectful environment, all students feel valued, safe, and comfortable taking intellectual risks. They do not fear put-downs or ridicule from either the teacher or other students.

"Respect" shown to the teacher by students should be distinguished from students complying with standards of conduct and behavior. Caring interactions among teachers and students are the hall-mark of component 2a (Creating an Environment of Respect and Rapport); while adherence to the established classroom rules characterizes success in component 2d (Managing Student Behavior).

The elements of component 2a are:

Teacher interactions with students, including both words and actions

A teacher's interactions with students set the tone for the classroom. Through their interactions, teachers convey that they are interested in and care about their students.

Student interactions with other students, including both words and actions

As important as a teacher's treatment of students is, how students are treated by their classmates is arguably even more important to students. At its worst, poor treatment causes students to feel rejected by their peers. At its best, positive interactions among students are mutually supportive and create an emotionally healthy school environment. Teachers not only model and teach students how to engage in respectful interactions with one another but also acknowledge such interactions.

- Respectful talk, active listening, and turn-taking
- Acknowledgment of students' backgrounds and lives outside the classroom
- Body language indicative of warmth and caring shown by teacher and students
- Physical proximity
- Politeness and encouragement
- Fairness

UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1

Patterns of classroom interactions, both between teacher and students and among students, are mostly negative, inappropriate, or insensitive to students' ages, cultural backgrounds, and developmental levels. Student interactions are characterized by sarcasm, put-downs, or conflict. The teacher does not deal with disrespectful behavior.

BASIC • LEVEL 2

Patterns of classroom interactions, both between teacher and students and among students, are generally appropriate but may reflect occasional inconsistencies, favoritism, and disregard for students' ages, cultures, and developmental levels. Students rarely demonstrate disrespect for one another. The teacher attempts to respond to disrespectful behavior, with uneven results. The net result of the interactions is neutral, conveying neither warmth nor conflict.

- 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.
- 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.

- 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...

- 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...

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3

Teacher-student interactions are friendly and demonstrate general caring and respect. Such interactions are appropriate to the ages, cultures, and developmental levels of the students. Interactions among students are generally polite and respectful, and students exhibit respect for the teacher. The teacher responds successfully to disrespectful behavior among students. The net result of the interactions is polite, respectful, and businesslike, though students may be somewhat cautious about taking intellectual risks.

- 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.

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

Classroom interactions between teacher and students and among students are highly respectful, reflecting genuine warmth, caring, and sensitivity to students as individuals. Students exhibit respect for the teacher and contribute to high levels of civility among all members of the class. The net result is an environment where all students feel valued and are comfortable taking intellectual risks.

- 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 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...

- 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...

2b ESTABLISHING A CULTURE FOR LEARNING

A "culture for learning" refers to the atmosphere in the classroom that reflects the educational importance of the work undertaken by both students and teacher. It describes the norms that govern the interactions among individuals about the activities and assignments, the value of hard work and perseverance, and the general tone of the class. The classroom is characterized by high cognitive energy, by a sense that what is happening there is important, and by a shared belief that it is essential, and rewarding, to get it right. There are high expectations for all students; the classroom is a place where the teacher and students value learning and hard work.

Teachers who are successful in creating a culture for learning know that students are, by their nature, intellectually curious, and that one of the many challenges of teaching is to direct the students' natural energy toward the content of the curriculum. They also know that students derive great satisfaction, and a sense of genuine power, from mastering challenging content in the same way they experience pride in mastering, for example, a difficult physical skill.

Part of a culture of hard work involves precision in thought and language; teachers whose classrooms display such a culture insist that students use language to express their thoughts clearly. An insistence on precision reflects the importance placed, by both teacher and students, on the quality of thinking; this emphasis conveys that the classroom is a business-like place where important work is being undertaken. The classroom atmosphere may be vibrant, even joyful, but it is not frivolous.

The elements of component 2b are:

Importance of the content and of learning

In a classroom with a strong culture for learning, teachers convey the educational value of what the students are learning.

Expectations for learning and achievement

In classrooms with robust cultures for learning, all students receive the message that although the work is challenging, they are capable of achieving it if they are prepared to work hard. A manifestation of teachers' expectations for high student achievement is their insistence on the use of precise language by students.

Student pride in work

When students are convinced of their capabilities, they are willing to devote energy to the task at hand, and they take pride in their accomplishments. This pride is reflected in their interactions with classmates and with the teacher.

- Belief in the value of what is being learned
- High expectations, supported through both verbal and nonverbal behaviors, for both learning and participation
- Expectation of high-quality work on the part of students
- Expectation and recognition of effort and persistence on the part of students
- High expectations for expression and work products

2b

	UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1	BASIC · LEVEL 2
	The classroom culture is characterized by a lack of teacher or student commitment to learning, and/or little or no investment of student energy in the task at hand. Hard work and the precise use of language are not expected or valued. Medium to low expec- tations for student achievement are the norm, with high expectations for learning reserved for only one or two students.	The classroom culture is characterized by little commitment to learning by the teacher or students. The teacher appears to be only "going through the motions," and students indicate that they are in- terested in the completion of a task rather than the quality of the work. The teacher conveys that stu- dent success is the result of natural ability rather than hard work, and refers only in passing to the pre- cise use of language. High expectations for learning are reserved for those students thought to have a natural aptitude for the subject.
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 • L	_EVEL 3
----------------	---------

The classroom culture is a place where learning is valued by all; high expectations for both learning and hard work are the norm for most students. Students understand their role as learners and consistently expend effort to learn. Classroom interactions support learning, hard work, and the precise use of language.

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

The classroom culture is a cognitively busy place, characterized by a shared belief in the importance of learning. The teacher conveys high expectations for learning for all students and insists on hard work; students assume responsibility for high quality by initiating improvements, making revisions, adding detail, and/or assisting peers in their precise use of language.

 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

2c MANAGING CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

A smoothly functioning classroom is a prerequisite to good instruction and high levels of student engagement. Teachers establish and monitor routines and procedures for the smooth operation of the classroom and the efficient use of time. Hallmarks of a well-managed classroom are that instructional groups are used effectively, noninstructional tasks are completed efficiently, and transitions between activities and management of materials and supplies are skillfully done in order to maintain momentum and maximize instructional time. The establishment of efficient routines, and teaching students to employ them, may be inferred from the sense that the class "runs itself."

The elements of component 2c are:

Management of instructional groups

Teachers help students to develop the skills to work purposefully and cooperatively in groups or independently, with little supervision from the teacher.

Management of transitions

Many lessons engage students in different types of activities: large group, small group, independent work. It's important that little time is lost as students move from one activity to another; students know the "drill" and execute it seamlessly.

Management of materials and supplies

Experienced teachers have all necessary materials at hand and have taught students to implement routines for distribution and collection of materials with a minimum of disruption to the flow of instruction.

Performance of classroom routines

Overall, little instructional time is lost in activities such as taking attendance, recording the lunch count, or the return of permission slips for a class trip.

- Smooth functioning of all routines
- Little or no loss of instructional time
- · Students playing an important role in carrying out the routines
- · Students knowing what to do, where to move

UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1

Much instructional time is lost due to inefficient classroom routines and procedures. There is little or no evidence of the teacher's managing instructional groups and transitions and/or handling of materials and supplies effectively. There is little evidence that students know or follow established routines.

BASIC • LEVEL 2

Some instructional time is lost due to partially effective classroom routines and procedures. The teacher's management of instructional groups and transitions, or handling of materials and supplies, or both, are inconsistent, leading to some disruption of learning. With regular guidance and prompting, students follow established routines.

- 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.
- 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.

- 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...

- 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...

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3

There is little loss of instructional time due to effective classroom routines and procedures. The teacher's management of instructional groups and transitions, or handling of materials and supplies, or both, are consistently successful. With minimal guidance and prompting, students follow established classroom routines.

DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4

Instructional time is maximized due to efficient and seamless classroom routines and procedures. Students take initiative in the management of instructional groups and transitions, and/or the handling of materials and supplies. Routines are well understood and may be initiated by students.

- Students are productively engaged during smallgroup 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 smallgroup 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...



In order for students to be able to engage deeply with content, the classroom environment must be orderly; the atmosphere must feel business-like and productive, without being authoritarian. In a productive classroom, standards of conduct are clear to students; they know what they are permitted to do and what they can expect of their classmates. Even when their behavior is being corrected, students feel respected; their dignity is not undermined. Skilled teachers regard positive student behavior not as an end in itself, but as a prerequisite to high levels of engagement in content.

The elements of component 2d are:

Expectations

It is clear, either from what the teacher says, or by inference from student actions, that expectations for student conduct have been established and that they are being implemented.

Monitoring of student behavior

Experienced teachers seem to have eyes in the backs of their heads; they are attuned to what's happening in the classroom and can move subtly to help students, when necessary, re-engage with the content being addressed in the lesson. At a high level, such monitoring is preventive and subtle, which may make it challenging to observe.

Response to student misbehavior

Even experienced teachers find that their students occasionally violate one or another of the agreed-upon standards of conduct; how the teacher responds to such infractions is an important mark of the teacher's skill. Accomplished teachers try to understand why students are conduct-ing themselves in such a manner (are they unsure of the content? are they trying to impress their friends?) and respond in a way that respects the dignity of the student. The best responses are those that address misbehavior early in an episode, although doing so is not always possible.

- Clear standards of conduct, possibly posted, and possibly referred to during a lesson
- · Absence of acrimony between teacher and students concerning behavior
- Teacher awareness of student conduct
- · Preventive action when needed by the teacher
- · Absence of misbehavior
- · Reinforcement of positive behavior

2 d

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

POSSIBLE EXAMPLES

UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1	BASIC · LEVEL 2
There appear to be no established standards of con- duct, or students challenge them. There is little or no teacher monitoring of student behavior, and response to students' misbehavior is repressive or disrespectful of student dignity.	Standards of conduct appear to have been estab- lished, but their implementation is inconsistent. The teacher tries, with uneven results, to monitor student behavior and respond to student misbehavior.
 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. 	 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.
 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 	 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	DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4
Student behavior is generally appropriate. The teach- er monitors student behavior against established standards of conduct. Teacher response to student misbehavior is consistent, proportionate, and respect- ful to students and is effective.	Student behavior is entirely appropriate. Students take an active role in monitoring their own behavior and/or that of other students against standards of conduct. Teacher monitoring of student behavior is subtle and preventive. The teacher's response to stu- dent misbehavior is sensitive to individual student needs and respects students' dignity.
 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. 	 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.
 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 	 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

2e ORGANIZING PHYSICAL SPACE

The use of the physical environment to promote student learning is a hallmark of an experienced teacher. Its use varies, of course, with the age of the students: in a primary classroom, centers and reading corners may structure class activities; while with older students, the position of chairs and desks can facilitate, or inhibit, rich discussion. Naturally, classrooms must be safe (no dangling wires or dangerous traffic patterns), and all students must be able to see and hear what's going on so that they can participate actively. Both the teacher and students must make effective use of electronics and other technology.

The elements of component 2e are:

Safety and accessibility

Physical safety is a primary consideration of all teachers; no learning can occur if students are unsafe or if they don't have access to the board or other learning resources.

Arrangement of furniture and use of physical resources

Both the physical arrangement of a classroom and the available resources provide opportunities for teachers to advance learning; when these resources are used skillfully, students can engage with the content in a productive manner. At the highest levels of performance, the students themselves contribute to the use or adaptation of the physical environment.

- Pleasant, inviting atmosphere
- Safe environment
- Accessibility for all students
- Furniture arrangement suitable for the learning activities
- Effective use of physical resources, including computer technology, by both teacher and students

	UNSATISFACTORY · LEVEL 1	BASIC · LEVEL 2
	The classroom environment is unsafe, or learning is not accessible to many. There is poor alignment between the arrangement of furniture and resources, including computer technology, and the lesson activities.	The classroom is safe, and essential learning is acces- sible to most students. The teacher makes modest use of physical resources, including computer technology. The teacher attempts to adjust the classroom furni- ture for a lesson or, if necessary, to adjust the lesson to the furniture, but with limited effectiveness.
CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES	 There are physical hazards in the classroom, endangering student safety. Many students can't see or hear the teacher or see the board. Available technology is not being used even if it is available and its use would enhance the lesson. 	 The physical environment is safe, and most students can see and hear the teacher or see the board. The physical environment is not an impediment to learning but does not enhance it. The teacher makes limited use of available technology and other resources.
POSSIBLE EXAMPLES	 There are electrical cords running around the classroom. There is a pole in the middle of the room; some students can't see the board. A whiteboard is in the classroom, but it is facing the wall. And others 	 The teacher ensures that dangerous chemicals are stored safely. The classroom desks remain in two semicircles, requiring students to lean around their classmates during small-group work. The teacher tries to use a computer to illustrate a concept but requires several attempts to make the demonstration work. And others

PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3	DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4
The classroom is safe, and students have equal ac- cess to learning activities; the teacher ensures that the furniture arrangement is appropriate to the learning activities and uses physical resources, including com- puter technology, effectively.	The classroom environment is safe, and learning is accessible to all students, including those with special needs. The teacher makes effective use of physical resources, including computer technology. The teacher ensures that the physical arrangement is appropriate to the learning activities. Students contribute to the use or adaptation of the physical environment to advance learning.
 The classroom is safe, and all students are able to see and hear the teacher or see the board. The classroom is arranged to support the instructional goals and learning activities. The teacher makes appropriate use of available technology. 	 Modifications are made to the physical environment to accommodate students with special needs. There is total alignment between the learning activities and the physical environment. Students take the initiative to adjust the physical environment. The teacher and students make extensive and imaginative use of available technology.
 There are established guidelines concerning where backpacks are left during class to keep the pathways clear; students comply. Desks are moved together so that students can work in small groups, or desks are moved into a circle for a class discussion. The use of an Internet connection extends the lesson. And others 	 Students ask if they can shift the furniture to better suit small-group work or discussion. A student closes the door to shut out noise in the corridor or lowers a blind to block the sun from a classmate's eyes. A student suggests an application of the whiteboard for an activity. And others