

The Center for Educator Preparation

Teacher Quality Standards

Quality Standard 1: Teachers demonstrate mastery of and pedagogical expertise in the content they teach. The elementary teacher is an expert in literacy and mathematics and is knowledgeable in all other content that he or she teaches (e.g., science, social studies, arts, physical education, or world languages). The secondary teacher has knowledge of literacy and mathematics and is an expert in his or her content endorsement area(s).

- **Element a:** Teachers provide instruction that is aligned with the Colorado Academic Standards, their District's organized plan of instruction, and the individual needs of their students.
- **Element b:** Teachers demonstrate knowledge of the content, central concepts, disciplinary inquiry, appropriate evidence-based instructional practices and specialized characteristics of the disciplines being taught.
- **Element c:** Teachers develop and implement lessons that connect to a variety of content areas/disciplines and emphasize literacy and mathematical practices.

Quality Standard 2: Teachers establish a safe, inclusive and respectful learning environment for a diverse population of students.

- **Element a:** Teachers foster a predictable learning environment characterized by acceptable student behavior and efficient use of time in which each student has a positive, nurturing relationship with caring adults and peers.
- **Element b:** Teachers demonstrate an awareness of, a commitment to, and a respect for multiple aspects of diversity, while working toward common goals as a community of learners.
- **Element c:** Teachers engage students as individuals, including those with diverse needs and interests, across a range of ability levels by adapting their teaching for the benefit of all students.
- **Element d:** Teachers work with families and/or significant adults in the lives of their students.

Quality Standard 3: Teachers plan and deliver effective instruction and create an environment that facilitates learning for their students.

- **Element a:** Teachers demonstrate knowledge about the ways in which learning takes place, including the levels of intellectual, physical, social and emotional development of their students.
- **Element b:** Teachers use formal and informal methods to assess student learning, provide feedback, and use results to inform planning and instruction.
- **Element c:** Teachers integrate and utilize appropriate available technology to engage students in higher level thinking skills.
- **Element d:** Teachers establish and communicate high expectations and use processes, such as questioning, to support the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- **Element e:** Teachers provide students with opportunities to work in teams and develop leadership qualities.
- **Element f:** Teachers communicate effectively, making learning objectives clear and providing appropriate models of language.

Quality Standard 4: Teachers reflect on their practice.

- **Element a:** Teachers link professional growth to their professional goals.
- **Element b:** Teachers are able to respond to a complex, dynamic environment.

Quality Standard 5: Teachers demonstrate leadership.

- **Element a:** Teachers promote professional growth for all educators and collaborate with their colleagues to improve the school community and the teaching profession.
- **Element b:** Teachers demonstrate high standards for professional conduct.