

5D+™ Rubric for Instructional Growth and Teacher Evaluation

We know that building the capacity of teachers will lead to better instruction and greater learning for all students. Helping educators understand what good teaching looks like is at the heart of the Center for Educational Leadership’s 5D+ Rubric for Instructional Growth and Teacher Evaluation – a growth-oriented tool for improving instruction.

Dimensions of the 5D+ Rubric for Instructional Growth and Teacher Evaluation

The 5D+ Rubric for Instructional Growth and Teacher Evaluation is based on the 5 Dimensions of Teaching and Learning™ (5D™) instructional framework, which is derived from an extensive study of research on the core elements that constitute quality instruction. These core elements have been incorporated into the 5D framework and 5D+ Rubric as five dimensions: Purpose, Student Engagement, Curriculum & Pedagogy, Assessment for Student Learning, and Classroom Environment & Culture. The 5D+ Rubric also includes Professional Collaboration and Communication, which is based on activities and relationships that teachers engage in outside of classroom instruction.

Organization of the 5D+ Rubric for Instructional Growth and Teacher Evaluation

The 5D+ Rubric is composed of 30 indicators of teacher performance, which are grouped by dimension. In the example below: the dimension is *Purpose* and the indicator is *Learning target(s) connected to standards*. The pages are colored-coded by dimension.

Purpose		Performance Levels			
		Unsatisfactory	Basic	Proficient	Distinguished
P1	Learning target(s) connected to standards				
	Lessons are not based on grade level standards or there are no learning targets aligned to the standard or the targets do not change daily.	Lessons are based on grade level standards. The daily learning target(s) align to the standard.	Lessons are based on grade level standards. The daily learning target(s) align to the standard. Students can rephrase the learning target(s) in their own words.	Lessons are based on grade level standards. The daily learning target(s) align to the standard. Students can rephrase the learning target(s) in their own words. Students can explain why the learning target(s) are important.	

Performance Levels

Performance levels within each indicator are used to delineate teaching practice, from unsatisfactory to basic, proficient and distinguished. The sophistication of teaching practice and the role of students increase across the levels of performance. The language describing each performance level has been carefully examined by a psychometrician to assure clarity, to avoid the risk of a teacher being rated more than once for similar teaching behavior, and to ensure that each indicator evaluates only one aspect of teaching practice. A careful analysis of instructional practice leads to the determination of a teacher’s performance level on each indicator.

Resources and Support

The 5D+ Rubric for Instructional Growth and Teacher Evaluation is available as a downloadable PDF on the University of Washington Center for Educational Leadership website at www.k-12leadership.org/teacher-eval. You will also find associated resource materials and a description of the services CEL can provide to support your implementation.

Purpose		5D+™ Rubric for Instructional Growth and Teacher Evaluation			
		Unsatisfactory	Basic	Proficient	Distinguished
P1	Learning target(s) connected to standards	Lessons are not based on grade level standards or there are no learning targets aligned to the standard or the targets do not change daily.	Lessons are based on grade level standards. The daily learning target(s) align to the standard.	Lessons are based on grade level standards. The daily learning target(s) align to the standard. Students can rephrase the learning target(s) in their own words.	Lessons are based on grade level standards. The daily learning target(s) align to the standard. Students can rephrase the learning target(s) in their own words. Students can explain why the learning target(s) are important.
	Lessons connected to previous and future lessons, broader purpose and transferable skill	Lessons are rarely linked to previous and future lessons.	Lessons are clearly linked to previous and future lessons.	Lessons are clearly linked to previous and future lessons. Lessons link to a broader purpose or a transferable skill.	Lessons are clearly linked to previous and future lessons. Lessons link to a broader purpose or a transferable skill. Students can explain how lessons build on each other in a logical progression.
P3	Design of performance task	Performance tasks do not require a demonstration of thinking connected to the learning target.	Performance tasks require a demonstration of thinking connected to the learning target.	Performance tasks require a demonstration of thinking connected to the learning target. Performance tasks require application of discipline-specific concepts or skills.	Performance tasks require a demonstration of thinking connected to the learning target. Performance tasks require application of discipline-specific concepts or skills. Students are able to use prior learnings/understandings to engage in new performance tasks.
	Communication of learning target(s)	Teacher rarely states or communicates with students about the learning target(s).	Teacher states the learning target(s) once during the lesson and checks for student understanding of the learning target(s).	Teacher communicates the learning target(s) through verbal and visual strategies and checks for student understanding of the learning target(s).	Teacher communicates the learning target(s) through verbal and visual strategies, checks for student understanding of the learning target(s), and references the target(s) throughout instruction.
P5	Success criteria	The success criteria for the learning target(s) are nonexistent or vague.	Success criteria are present but may lack alignment to the learning target(s) and/or may not be used by students for learning.	Success criteria are present and align to the learning target(s). With prompting from the teacher, students use the success criteria to communicate what they are learning.	Success criteria are present and align to the learning target(s). Students use the success criteria to communicate what they are learning.

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Student Engagement					
		Unsatisfactory	Basic	Proficient	Distinguished
SE1	Quality of questioning	Teacher does not ask questions to probe and deepen student understanding or uncover misconceptions.	Teacher asks questions to probe and deepen student understanding or uncover misconceptions.	Teacher asks questions to probe and deepen student understanding or uncover misconceptions. Teacher assists students in clarifying their thinking with one another.	Teacher asks questions to probe and deepen student understanding or uncover misconceptions. Teacher assists students in clarifying and assessing their thinking with one another. Students question one another to probe for deeper thinking.
	Ownership of learning	Teacher rarely provides opportunities and strategies for students to take ownership of their learning.	Teacher provides opportunities and strategies for students to take ownership of their learning. Most locus of control is with teacher.	Teacher provides opportunities and strategies for students to take ownership of their learning. Some locus of control is with students in ways that support student learning.	Teacher provides opportunities and strategies for students to take ownership of their learning. Most locus of control is with students in ways that support student learning.
SE3	Capitalizing on students' strengths	Teacher has little knowledge of how students' strengths (academic background, life experiences and culture/language) could be used as an asset for student learning.	Teacher has knowledge of students' strengths (academic background, life experiences and culture/language) and applies this knowledge in limited ways not connected to the unit goals.	Teacher capitalizes on students' strengths (academic background, life experiences and culture/language) and applies this knowledge in limited ways connected to the unit goals.	Teacher capitalizes on students' strengths (academic background, life experiences and culture/language) and applies this knowledge in a variety of ways connected to the unit goals.
	Opportunity and support for participation and meaning making	Teacher does not use engagement strategies and structures that facilitate participation and meaning making by students. Few students have the opportunity to engage in discipline-specific meaning making.	Teacher uses engagement strategies and structures that facilitate participation and meaning making by students. Some students have the opportunity to engage in discipline-specific meaning making.	Teacher sets expectations and provides support for engagement strategies and structures that facilitate participation and meaning making by students. Most students have the opportunity to engage in discipline-specific meaning making.	Teacher sets expectations and provides support for engagement strategies and structures that facilitate participation and meaning making by students. All students have the opportunity to engage in discipline-specific meaning making. Meaning making is often student-led.
SE5	Student talk	Talk is dominated by the teacher and/or student talk is unrelated to the discipline.	Student talk is directed to the teacher. Talk reflects discipline-specific knowledge. Students do not provide evidence for their thinking.	Student talk is a mix of teacher-student and student-to-student. Talk reflects discipline-specific knowledge and ways of thinking. Students provide evidence to support their thinking.	Student talk is predominantly student-to-student. Talk reflects discipline-specific knowledge and ways of thinking. Students provide evidence to support their thinking. Students press on thinking to expand ideas for themselves and others.

Curriculum & Pedagogy				
	Unsatisfactory	Basic	Proficient	Distinguished
CP1	Alignment of instructional materials and tasks			
	Instructional materials and tasks do not align with the purpose of the unit and lesson.	Instructional materials and tasks align with the purpose of the unit and lesson.	Instructional materials and tasks align with the purpose of the unit and lesson. Teacher makes intentional decisions about materials to support student learning of content and transferable skills.	Instructional materials and tasks align with the purpose of the unit and lesson. Teacher makes intentional decisions about materials to support student learning of content and transferable skills. Materials and tasks align with students' levels of challenge.
CP2	Teacher knowledge of content			
	Teacher demonstrates a lack of knowledge of discipline-based concepts and habits of thinking by making content errors.	Teacher demonstrates an understanding of how discipline-based concepts and habits of thinking relate to one another or build upon one another within a unit.	Teacher demonstrates an understanding of how discipline-based concepts and habits of thinking relate to one another or build upon one another over the course of an academic year.	Teacher demonstrates an understanding of how discipline-based concepts and habits of thinking relate to one another or build upon one another over the course of an academic year as well as in previous and future years.
CP3	Discipline-specific teaching approaches			
	Teacher rarely uses discipline-specific teaching approaches and strategies that develop students' conceptual understanding and discipline-specific habits of thinking.	Teacher uses discipline-specific teaching approaches and strategies that develop students' conceptual understanding and discipline-specific habits of thinking at one or two points within a unit.	Teacher uses discipline-specific teaching approaches and strategies that develop students' conceptual understanding and discipline-specific habits of thinking throughout the unit, but not daily.	Teacher uses discipline-specific teaching approaches and strategies that develop students' conceptual understanding and discipline-specific habits of thinking on a daily basis.
CP4	Differentiated instruction for students			
	Teacher does not use strategies that differentiate for individual learning strengths and needs.	Teacher uses one strategy – such as time, space, structure or materials – to differentiate for individual learning strengths and needs.	Teacher uses multiple strategies – such as time, space, structure and materials – to differentiate for individual learning strengths and needs.	Teacher uses multiple strategies – such as time, space, structure and materials – to differentiate for individual learning strengths and needs. Teacher provides targeted and flexible supports within the strategies.
CP5	Use of scaffolds			
	Teacher does not provide scaffolds that are related to or support the development of the targeted concepts and/or skills. If teacher uses scaffolds, he or she does not release responsibility to students.	Teacher provides scaffolds that are clearly related to and support the development of the targeted concepts and/or skills. Using scaffolds, the teacher gradually releases responsibility to students to promote learning and independence.	Teacher provides scaffolds that are clearly related to and support the development of the targeted concepts and/or skills. Using scaffolds, the teacher gradually releases responsibility to students to promote learning and independence. Students expect to be self-reliant.	Teacher provides scaffolds that are clearly related to and support the development of the targeted concepts and/or skills. Using scaffolds, the teacher gradually releases responsibility to students to promote learning and independence. Students expect to be self-reliant. Students use scaffolds across tasks with similar demands.

Assessment for Student Learning				
	Unsatisfactory	Basic	Proficient	Distinguished
A1	Student self-assessment			
	Teacher does not provide an opportunity for students to assess their own learning in relation to the success criteria for the learning target(s).	Teacher provides an opportunity for students to assess their own learning in relation to the success criteria for the learning target(s) in ways that may not deepen student understanding of progress toward the target(s).	Teacher provides an opportunity for students to assess their own learning in relation to the success criteria for the learning target(s) in ways that deepen student understanding of progress toward the target(s).	Teacher provides an opportunity for students to assess their own learning in relation to the success criteria for the learning target(s) in ways that deepen student understanding of progress toward the target(s). Students use success criteria for improvement.
A2	Student use of formative assessments over time			
	Students do not use formative assessments to assess their own learning.	Students use formative assessments at least two to three times per year/course to assess their own learning, determine learning goals, and monitor progress over time.	Students use formative assessments at least two to three times per year/course and use formative assessments within a unit or two to assess their own learning, determine learning goals, and monitor progress over time.	Students use formative assessments at least two to three times per year/course and use formative assessments within each unit to assess their own learning, determine learning goals, and monitor progress over time.
A3	Quality of formative assessment methods			
	Assessment tasks are not aligned with the learning target(s).	Assessment tasks allow students to demonstrate learning. The quality of the assessment methods provides no information about student thinking and needs.	Assessment tasks allow students to demonstrate learning. The quality of the assessment methods provides limited information about student thinking and needs.	Assessment tasks allow students to demonstrate learning. The quality of the assessment methods provides comprehensive information about student thinking and needs.
A4	Teacher use of formative assessments			
	Teacher does not use formative assessments to modify future lessons, make instructional adjustments, or give feedback to students.	Teacher uses formative assessments to modify future lessons or makes in-the-moment instructional adjustments based on completion of task(s).	Teacher uses formative assessments to modify future lessons, makes in-the-moment instructional adjustments based on student understanding, and gives general feedback aligned with the learning target(s).	Teacher uses formative assessments to modify future lessons, makes in-the-moment instructional adjustments based on student understanding, and gives targeted feedback aligned with the learning target(s) to individual students.
A5	Collection systems for formative assessment data			
	Teacher does not have routines for recording formative assessment data.	Teacher has an observable system and routines for recording formative assessment data but does not use the system to inform instructional practice.	Teacher has an observable system and routines for recording formative assessment data and periodically uses the system to inform instructional practice.	Teacher has an observable system and routines for recording formative assessment data and uses the system to inform day-to-day instructional practice.

Classroom Environment & Culture				
	Unsatisfactory	Basic	Proficient	Distinguished
CEC1	Classroom arrangement and resources			
	Physical environment of the classroom is unsafe or resources are not accessible to all students to support their learning during the lesson.	The physical environment is safe. The resources, materials and technology in the classroom relate to the content or current unit and are accessible to all students.	The physical environment is safe. The resources, materials and technology in the classroom relate to the content or current unit and are accessible to all students. The arrangement of the room supports and scaffolds student learning and the purpose of the lesson.	The physical environment is safe. The resources, materials and technology in the classroom relate to the content or current unit and are accessible to all students. The arrangement of the room supports and scaffolds student learning and the purpose of the lesson. Students use resources and the arrangement of the room for learning.
CEC2	Learning routines			
	Learning routines for discussion and collaborative work are absent.	Learning routines for discussion and collaborative work are present but may not result in effective discourse. Students are held accountable for completing their work but not for learning.	Learning routines for discussion and collaborative work are present, and result in effective discourse. Students are held accountable for completing their work and for learning.	Learning routines for discussion and collaborative work are present, and result in effective discourse. Students independently use the routines during the lesson. Students are held accountable for completing their work and for learning. Students support the learning of others.
CEC3	Use of learning time			
	Instructional time is frequently disrupted.	Some instructional time is lost through inefficient transitions or management routines. Teacher responds to student misbehavior with uneven results.	Instructional time is maximized in service of learning through efficient transitions, management routines and positive student discipline. Student misbehavior is rare.	Instructional time is maximized in service of learning through efficient transitions, management routines and positive student discipline. Students manage themselves, assist each other in managing behavior, or exhibit no misbehavior.
CEC4	Student status			
	Teacher does not develop positive teacher-student relationships that attend to students' well-being. Patterns of interaction or lack of interaction promote rivalry and/or unhealthy competition among students or some students are relegated to low status positions.	Teacher demonstrates positive teacher-student relationships that foster students' well-being. Patterns of interaction between teacher and students and among students may send messages that some students' contributions are more valuable than others.	Teacher and students demonstrate positive teacher-student and student-student relationships that foster students' well-being and develop their identity as learners. Patterns of interaction between teacher and students and among students indicate that all are valued for their contributions.	Teacher and students demonstrate positive teacher-student and student-student relationships that foster students' well-being and develop their identity as learners. Patterns of interaction between teacher and students and among students indicate that all are valued for their contributions. Teacher creates opportunities for student status to be elevated.
CEC5	Norms for learning			
	Classroom norms are not evident and/or do not address risk-taking, collaboration, respect for divergent thinking or students' cultures.	Classroom norms are evident but result in uneven patterns of interaction that do not encourage risk-taking, collaboration, respect for divergent thinking and students' cultures.	Classroom norms are evident and result in patterns of interaction that encourage risk-taking, collaboration, respect for divergent thinking and students' cultures.	Classroom norms are evident and result in patterns of interaction that encourage risk-taking, collaboration, respect for divergent thinking and students' cultures. Students self-monitor or remind one another of the norms.

Professional Collaboration & Communication				
	Unsatisfactory	Basic	Proficient	Distinguished
PCC1	Collaboration with peers and administrators to improve student learning			
	Teacher rarely collaborates with peers or engages in inquiry for the purpose of improving instructional practice or student learning.	Teacher collaborates and engages in inquiry with peers and administrators for the purpose of improving instructional practice and student learning. Teacher provides minimal contributions.	Teacher collaborates and engages in inquiry with peers and administrators for the purpose of improving instructional practice and student learning. Teacher contributes to collaborative work.	Teacher collaborates and engages in inquiry with peers and administrators for the purpose of improving instructional practice, and student and teacher learning. Teacher occasionally leads collaborative work and/or teacher serves as a mentor for others' growth and development.
PCC2	Communication and collaboration with parents and guardians			
	Teacher rarely communicates in any manner with parents and guardians about student progress.	Teacher communicates with all parents and guardians about goals of instruction and student progress, but usually relies on one method for communication or requires support or reminders.	Teacher communicates with all parents and guardians about goals of instruction and student progress using multiple tools to communicate in a timely and positive manner. Teacher considers the language needs of parents and guardians.	Teacher communicates with all parents and guardians about goals of instruction and student progress using multiple tools to communicate in a timely and positive manner. Teacher considers the language needs of parents and guardians. Teacher effectively engages in two-way forms of communication and is responsive to parent and guardian insights.
PCC3	Communication within the school community about student progress			
	Teacher maintains student records. Teacher rarely communicates student progress information to relevant individuals within the school community.	Teacher maintains student records. Teacher communicates student progress information to relevant individuals within the school community; however, performance data may have minor flaws or be narrowly defined (e.g., test scores only).	Teacher maintains accurate and systematic student records. Teacher communicates student progress information – including both successes and challenges – to relevant individuals within the school community in a timely, accurate and organized manner.	Teacher maintains accurate and systematic student records. Teacher communicates student progress information – including both successes and challenges – to relevant individuals within the school community in a timely, accurate and organized manner. Teacher and student communicate accurately and positively about student successes and challenges.
PCC4	Support of school, district and state curricula, policies and initiatives			
	Teacher is unaware of or does not support school, district or state initiatives. Teacher violates a district policy or rarely follows district curricula/pacing guide.	Teacher supports and has an understanding of school, district and state initiatives. Teacher follows district policies and implements district curricula/pacing guide.	Teacher supports and has an understanding of school, district and state initiatives. Teacher follows district policies and implements district curricula/pacing guide. Teacher makes pacing adjustments as appropriate to meet whole-group needs without compromising an aligned curriculum.	Teacher supports and looks for opportunities to take on leadership roles in developing and implementing school, district and state initiatives. Teacher follows district policies and implements district curricula/pacing guide. Teacher makes pacing adjustments as appropriate to meet whole-group and individual needs without compromising an aligned curriculum.
PCC5	Ethics and advocacy			
	Teacher's professional role toward adults and students is unfriendly or demeaning, crosses ethical boundaries, or is unprofessional.	Teacher's professional role toward adults and students is friendly, ethical and professional and supports learning for all students, including the historically underserved.	Teacher's professional role toward adults and students is friendly, ethical and professional and supports learning for all students, including the historically underserved. Teacher advocates for fair and equitable practices for all students.	Teacher's professional role toward adults and students is friendly, ethical and professional and supports learning for all students, including the historically underserved. Teacher advocates for fair and equitable practices for all students. Teacher challenges adult attitudes and practices that may be harmful or demeaning to students.

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