

## The New York State Teaching Standards

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## **Standard I: Knowledge of Students and Student Learning**

**Teachers acquire knowledge of each student and demonstrate knowledge of student development and learning to promote achievement for all students.**

### **Element I.1:**

Teachers demonstrate knowledge of child and adolescent development, including students' cognitive, language, social, emotional, and physical developmental levels.

#### **Performance Indicators:**

- a. Teachers describe orally or in writing an understanding of the developmental characteristics of their students.
- b. Teachers create developmentally appropriate lessons that address students' learning differences and needs.
- c. Teachers implement lessons and modify instruction based upon students' developmental needs.

### **Element I.2:**

Teachers demonstrate knowledge of current research in learning and language acquisition theories and processes.

#### **Performance Indicators:**

- a. Teachers design lesson plans and adjust instruction to include a variety of strategies that support the learning needs of each student.
- b. Teachers design lesson plans and adjust instruction to include a variety of strategies that support the language acquisition needs of each student.
- c. Teachers explain their instructional decisions citing current research.

### **Element I.3:**

Teachers demonstrate knowledge of and are responsive to diverse learning needs, strengths, interests, and experiences of all students.

#### **Performance Indicators:**

- a. Teachers vary and modify instruction to meet the diverse learning needs of each student.
- b. Teachers create, deliver, and adapt instruction to address each student's strengths, interests, and experiences.

**Element I.4:**

Teachers acquire knowledge of individual students from students, families, guardians, and/or caregivers to enhance student learning.

**Performance Indicators:**

- a. Teachers utilize strategies that enable two-way communication with each student's parents, guardians, and/or caregivers.
- b. Teachers use a variety of techniques to accommodate the communication needs of each student's parents, guardians, and/or caregivers.

**Element I.5:**

Teachers demonstrate knowledge of and are responsive to the economic, social, cultural, linguistic, family, and community factors that influence their students' learning.

**Performance Indicators:**

- a. Teachers incorporate a knowledge and understanding of the school community when planning and implementing instruction.
- b. Teachers incorporate an understanding of their students' strengths and limitations, and the environmental factors that influence their students' learning.
- c. Teachers attend to an individual student's personal and family experiences by incorporating multiple perspectives.

**Element I.6:**

Teachers demonstrate knowledge and understanding of technological and information literacy and how they affect student learning.

**Performance Indicators:**

- a. Teachers use technological tools and a variety of communication strategies to engage each student.
- b. Teachers assist students to become knowledgeable and critical consumers and users of quality information.

## **Standard II: Knowledge of Content and Instructional Planning**

**Teachers know the content they are responsible for teaching, and plan instruction that ensures growth and achievement for all students.**

### **Element II.1:**

Teachers demonstrate knowledge of the content they teach, including relationships among central concepts, tools of inquiry, structures and current developments within their discipline(s).

#### **Performance Indicators:**

- a. Teachers incorporate key concepts during instruction through the use of multiple representations and explanations.
- b. Teachers engage students to use key disciplinary language with comprehension through instruction.
- c. Teachers demonstrate the effective use of current developments in pedagogy and content.
- d. Teachers design learning experiences that foster student understanding of key disciplinary themes.
- e. Teachers demonstrate knowledge of the learning standards and their application throughout their instruction and practice.

### **Element II.2:**

Teachers understand how to connect concepts across disciplines, and engage learners in critical and innovative thinking and collaborative problem-solving related to real world contexts.

#### **Performance Indicators:**

- a. Teachers facilitate students' ability to develop diverse social and cultural perspectives.
- b. Teachers incorporate perspectives from varied disciplines and interdisciplinary skills in their instruction.
- c. Teachers provide opportunities for students to engage in individual and collaborative critical thinking and problem solving.
- d. Teachers model and encourage effective use of interpersonal communication skills to build student capacity for collaboration.
- e. Teachers create opportunities for students to apply disciplinary and cross-disciplinary knowledge to personal experiences and real world problems.

### **Element II.3:**

Teachers use a broad range of instructional strategies to make subject matter accessible.

**Performance Indicators:**

- a. Teachers design instruction that reflects the multiple experiences, strengths, and learning needs of students.
- b. Teachers adapt instruction in response to various levels of student understanding.
- c. Teachers make meaningful connections between content and students' life experiences.
- d. Teachers create opportunities for students to engage in self-directed learning.

**Element II.4:**

Teachers establish goals and expectations for all students that are aligned with learning standards and allow for multiple pathways to achievement.

**Performance Indicators:**

- a. Teachers design learning experiences that are aligned with learning standards.
- b. Teachers articulate clear learning objectives that align with learning standards.
- c. Teachers include opportunities for students' to achieve learning goals in a variety of ways.

**Element II.5:**

Teachers design relevant instruction that connects students' prior understanding and experiences to new knowledge.

**Performance Indicators:**

- a. Teachers determine current levels of students' understanding and knowledge of content through questioning techniques, discussion, and other methods.
- b. Teachers address common misconceptions in the content area through instructional methods.
- c. Teachers design learning experiences that connect students' prior knowledge and instruction to new content.

**Element II.6:**

Teachers evaluate and utilize curricular materials and other appropriate resources to promote student success in meeting learning goals.

Performance Indicators:

- a. Teachers organize physical space to reflect an awareness of learner needs and curricular goals.
- b. Teachers incorporate a knowledge and understanding of technology in their lessons to enhance student learning.
- c. Teachers organize and effectively use time to achieve learning goals.
- d. Teachers select and adapt curricular materials to align with state standards and meet diverse learning needs.
- e. Teachers access appropriate resources to meet specific learning differences or needs.

### **Standard III: Instructional Practice**

**Teachers implement instruction that engages and challenges all students to meet or exceed the learning standards.**

#### **Element III.1:**

Teachers use research-based practices and evidence of student learning to provide developmentally appropriate and standards-driven instruction that motivates and engages students in learning.

##### Performance indicators:

- a. Teachers align instruction to standards.
- b. Teachers implement instruction proven to be effective in prior research.
- c. Students are actively and cognitively engaged through teacher facilitation of student-to-student and student-to-teacher interactions.

#### **Element III.2:**

Teachers communicate clearly and accurately with students to maximize their understanding and learning.

##### Performance indicators:

- a. Students understand directions and procedures.
- b. Teachers use a variety of questioning techniques to advance student learning and reflection.
- c. Students' comments and questions are acknowledged and utilized to advance learning.
- d. Students understand lesson content through a teacher's use of multiple modalities, such as oral, written, graphic, kinesthetic, and/or tactile methods.
- e. Teachers adjust communication in response to student needs.

#### **Element III.3:**

Teachers set high expectations and create challenging learning experiences for students.

##### Performance indicators:

- a. Teachers articulate high expectations for all students.
- b. Students have a clear understanding of measures of success.
- c. Teachers challenge and support all students by incorporating various instructional strategies, experiences, and resources.

**Element III.4:**

Teachers explore and use a variety of instructional approaches, resources, and technologies to meet diverse learning needs, engage students, and promote achievement.

**Performance indicators:**

- a. Teachers use an understanding of students' diverse backgrounds to individualize interactions and differentiate instruction.
- b. Teachers incorporate instructional approaches and technologies to provide students with opportunities to demonstrate mastery of learning outcomes.
- c. Teachers incorporate motivating and meaningful opportunities in instruction to engage students in learning experiences.

**Element III.5:**

Teachers engage students in the development of multidisciplinary skills, such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and use of technology.

**Performance Indicators:**

- a. Students synthesize and express ideas both in written and oral formats.
- b. Students work effectively with others, including those from diverse groups and with opposing points of view.
- c. Students make decisions, solve problems, and take actions as appropriate.
- d. Students solve problems and/or acquire new knowledge through creative and innovative approaches to learning.
- e. Students utilize technologies and resources to solve real world problems.

**Element III.6:**

Teachers monitor and assess student progress, seek and provide feedback, and adapt instruction to student needs.

**Performance Indicators:**

- a. Teachers utilize various types of formative assessment during instruction to monitor and check for student understanding and assess progress.
- b. Teachers seek and provide feedback during and after instruction.



- c. Teachers adjust the pace of instruction, focus of instruction, and method of delivery based on students' progress.

## **Standard IV: Learning Environment**

**Teachers work with all students to create a dynamic learning environment that supports achievement and growth.**

### **Element IV.1:**

Teachers create a mutually respectful, safe, and supportive learning environment that is inclusive of every student.

#### Performance Indicators:

- a. Teachers are caring and respectful in their interactions with students.
- b. Teachers embrace student diversity as an asset in the classroom.
- c. Teachers recognize and reinforce positive interactions among students.
- d. Teachers create a climate of acceptance and respect.
- e. Teachers create an environment where students show responsibility to and for one another.

### **Element IV.2:**

Teachers create an intellectually challenging and stimulating learning environment.

#### Performance Indicators:

- a. Teachers encourage students to set high standards and expectations for their own performance.
- b. Teachers motivate students to initiate their own learning and strive to achieve challenging learning goals.
- c. Teachers promote students' curiosity and enthusiasm for learning.
- d. Students are actively engaged in learning.
- e. Students openly express their ideas.
- f. Students show pride in their work and accomplishments.

### **Element IV.3:**

Teachers manage the learning environment for the effective operation of the classroom.

#### Performance Indicators:

- a. Teachers establish, communicate, and maintain clear standards and expectations for student behavior.
- b. Teachers develop, implement, and adapt routines and procedures to manage activities and transitions.

- c. Teachers facilitate instructional groupings to maximize student participation, cooperation, and learning.
- d. Students exhibit respectful classroom interactions.

**Element IV.4:**

Teachers organize and utilize available resources (e.g., physical space, time, people, technology) to create a safe and productive learning environment.

**Performance Indicators:**

- a. Teachers arrange and adapt the physical environment to accommodate individual and group learning needs and to celebrate student accomplishments.
- b. Teachers ensure that all students have equitable access to available resources and technologies.
- c. Teachers effectively use the services and skills of available volunteers and paraprofessionals.
- d. Teachers know and implement policies and procedures to ensure student safety.

## **Standard V: Assessment for Student Learning**

**Teachers use multiple measures to assess and document student growth, evaluate instructional effectiveness, and modify instruction.**

### **Element V.1:**

Teachers design, select, and use a range of assessment tools and processes to measure and document student learning and growth.

#### **Performance Indicators:**

- a. Teachers use appropriate diagnostic and ongoing assessment to establish learning goals and inform instruction.
- b. Teachers use formative assessment to inform teaching and learning.
- c. Teachers use summative assessment to measure and record student achievement.
- d. Teachers design assessments that are aligned with curricular and instructional goals.
- e. Teachers design and select assessments that accurately determine mastery of student skills and knowledge.
- f. Teachers use multiple measures and multiple formats, including available technology, to assess and document student performance.
- g. Teachers implement required testing accommodations.

### **Element V.2:**

Teachers understand, analyze, interpret, and use assessment data to monitor student progress and to plan and differentiate instruction.

#### **Performance Indicators:**

- a. Teachers analyze data accurately.
- b. Teachers provide timely feedback to engage students in self-reflection and self-improvement.
- c. Teachers use assessment data to set goals and design and differentiate instruction.
- d. Teachers engage students in self-assessment of their learning goals, strategies, and outcomes.

### **Element V.3:**

Teachers communicate information about various components of the assessment system.

#### **Performance Indicators:**

- a. Teachers provide access to information on student assessments.
- b. Teachers provide appropriate information and interpretation of various assessment data.

**Element V.4:**

Teachers reflect upon and evaluate the effectiveness of their comprehensive assessment system to make adjustments to it and plan instruction accordingly.

**Performance Indicators:**

- a. Teachers demonstrate an understanding of assessment measures, grading, and procedures.
- b. Teachers develop a plan for their overall assessment system.
- c. Teachers use their plans and assessment data to adjust teaching and assessment practices.

**Element V.5:**

Teachers prepare students to understand the format and directions of assessments used and the criteria by which the students will be evaluated.

**Performance Indicators:**

- a. Teachers communicate the purposes of the assessments they use.
- b. Teachers prepare all students for the demands of particular assessment formats, and provide appropriate accommodations, including accommodations in testing conditions, for students with exceptional learning needs.
- c. Teachers articulate assessment criteria to students and provide parameters for success.
- d. Teachers equip students with assessment skills and strategies.
- e. Students practice various formats of assessments using authentic curriculum.

## **Standard VI: Professional Responsibilities and Collaboration**

**Teachers demonstrate professional responsibility and engage relevant stakeholders to maximize student growth, development, and learning.**

### **Element VI.1:**

Teachers uphold professional standards of practice and policy as related to students' rights and teachers' responsibilities.

#### **Performance Indicators:**

- a. Teachers demonstrate a high standard of honesty, integrity, ethical conduct, and confidentiality when interacting with students, families, colleagues, and the public.
- b. Teachers are proactive and advocate to meet the needs of students.
- c. Teachers use self-reflection and stakeholders' feedback to inform and adjust professional behavior.
- d. Teachers advocate, model, and manage safe, legal, and ethical use of information and technology, including respect for intellectual property and the appropriate documentation of sources.
- e. Teachers complete training in response to state and local requirements and jurisdictions.

### **Element VI.2:**

Teachers engage and collaborate with colleagues and the community to develop and sustain a common culture that supports high expectations for student learning.

#### **Performance Indicators:**

- a. Teachers support and promote the shared school and district vision and mission to support school improvement.
- b. Teachers participate actively as part of an instructional team.
- c. Teachers share information and best practices with colleagues to improve practice.
- d. Teachers demonstrate an understanding of the school as an organization within a historical, cultural, political, and social context.
- e. Teachers collaborate with others both within and outside the school to support student growth, development, and learning.
- f. Teachers collaborate with the larger community to access and share learning resources.

### **Element VI.3:**

Teachers communicate and collaborate with families, guardians, and caregivers to enhance student development and success.

Performance Indicators:

- a. Teachers invite families, guardians, and caregivers to share information to enhance and increase student development and achievement.
- b. Teachers communicate in various ways student performance, progress, and expectations for student growth, and provide opportunities for discussion.
- c. Teachers suggest strategies and ways in which families can participate in and contribute to their students' education.

**Element VI.4:**

Teachers manage and perform non-instructional duties in accordance with school district guidelines or other applicable expectations.

Performance Indicators:

- a. Teachers collect required data and maintain timely and accurate records (e.g., plan books, lunch counts, attendance records, student records, etc.)
- b. Teachers manage time and attendance in accordance with established guidelines.
- c. Teachers maintain classroom and school resources and materials.
- d. Teachers participate in school and district events.

**Element VI.5:**

Teachers understand and comply with relevant laws and policies as related to students' rights and teachers' responsibilities.

Performance Indicators:

- a. Teachers communicate relevant regulations and policies to stakeholders.
- b. Teachers maintain confidentiality regarding student records and information.
- c. Teachers report instances of child abuse, safety violations, bullying, and other concerns in accordance with regulations and policies.
- d. Teachers adhere to board policies, district procedures, and contractual obligations.
- e. Teachers access resources to gain information on standards of practice, relevant law, and policy that relate to students' rights and teachers' responsibilities.

## **Standard VII: Professional Growth**

**Teachers set informed goals and strive for continuous professional growth.**

### **Element VII.1:**

Teachers reflect on their practice to improve instructional effectiveness and guide professional growth.

#### Performance Indicators:

- a. Teachers examine and analyze formal and informal evidence of student learning.
- b. Teachers recognize the effect of their prior experiences and possible biases on their practice.
- c. Teachers use acquired information to identify personal strengths and weaknesses and to plan professional growth.

### **Element VII.2:**

Teachers set goals for, and engage in, ongoing professional development needed to continuously improve teaching competencies.

#### Performance Indicators:

- a. Teachers set goals to enhance personal strengths and address personal weaknesses in teaching practice.
- b. Teachers engage in opportunities for professional growth and development.

### **Element VII.3:**

Teachers communicate and collaborate with students, colleagues, other professionals, and the community to improve practice.

#### Performance Indicators:

- a. Teachers demonstrate a willingness to give and receive constructive feedback to improve professional practice.
- b. Teachers participate actively as part of an instructional team to improve professional practice.
- c. Teachers receive, reflect, and act on constructive feedback from others in an effort to improve their own professional practice.



**Element VII.4:**

Teachers remain current in their knowledge of content and pedagogy by utilizing professional resources.

Performance Indicators:

- a. Teachers benefit from, contribute to, or become members of appropriate professional organizations.
- b. Teachers access and use professional literature and other professional development opportunities to increase their understanding of teaching and learning.
- c. Teachers expand their knowledge of current research as it applies to curriculum, instruction, and assessment methods.