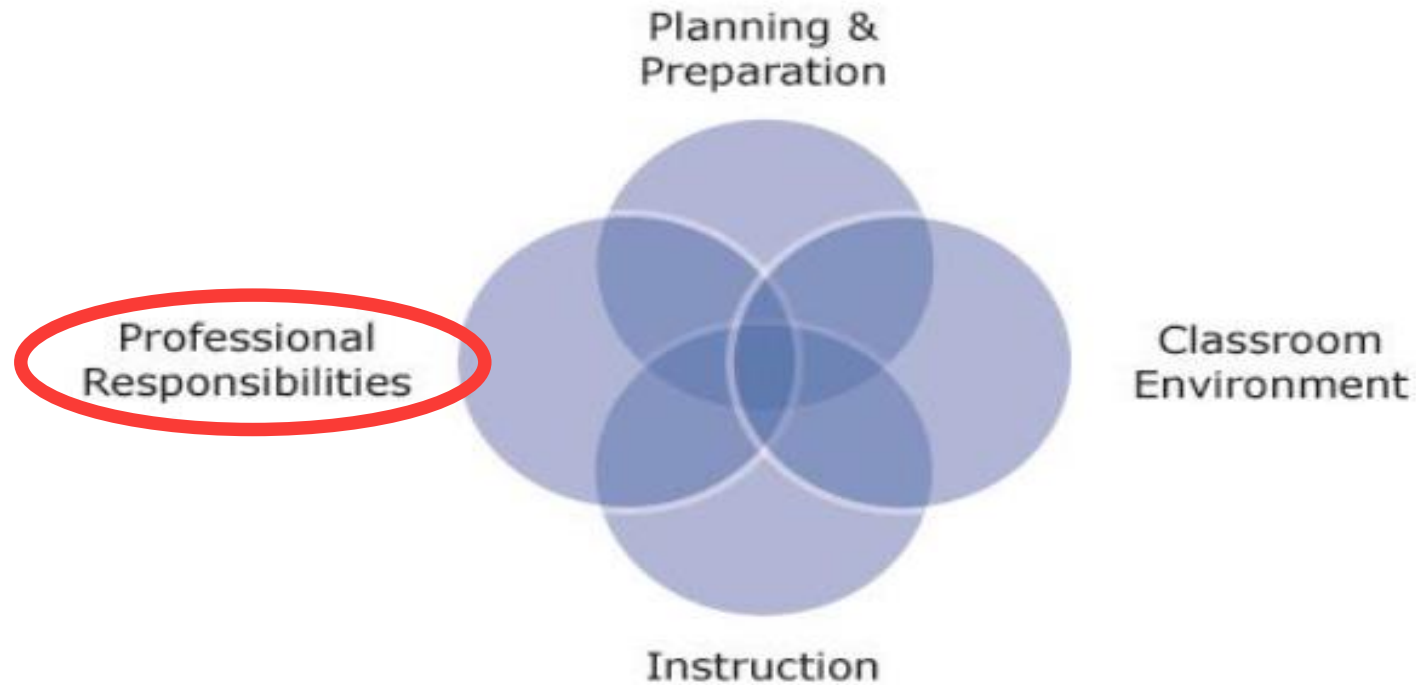


# PGES

Professional Growth and Effectiveness System

# KY Adapted Framework for Teaching



## 4A Reflecting on Teaching

Reflecting on teaching encompasses the teacher's thinking that follows any instructional event – an analysis of the many decisions made both in planning and implementation of a lesson. By considering these elements in light of the impact they had on student learning, teachers can determine where to focus their efforts in making revisions and what aspects of the instruction they will continue in future lessons. Teachers may reflect on their practice through collegial conversations, journal writing, examining student work, informal observations and conversations with students, or simply thinking about their teaching. Reflecting with accuracy, specificity, and ability to use what has been learned in future teaching is a learned skill; mentors, coaches, and supervisors can help teachers acquire and develop the skill of reflecting on teaching through supportive and deep questioning. Over time, this way of thinking and analyzing instruction through the lens of student learning becomes a habit of mind, leading to improvement in teaching and learning.

## 4B Maintaining Accurate Records

An essential responsibility of professional educators is keeping accurate records of both instructional and non-instructional events. This record keeping includes student completion of assignments, student progress in learning, and records of non-instructional activities that are part of the day-to-day functions in a school setting, including such things as the return of signed permission slips for a field trip and money for school pictures. Proficiency in this component is vital because these records inform interactions with students and parents and allow teachers to monitor learning and adjust instruction accordingly. The methods of keeping records vary as much as the type of information that is being recorded. For example, records of formal assessments may be recorded electronically with the use of spreadsheets and databases that allow for item analysis and individualized instruction. A less formal means of keeping track of student progress may include anecdotal notes that are kept in student folders.

## 4C Communicating with Families

Although the ability of families to participate in their child's learning varies widely due to other family or job obligations, it is the responsibility of teachers to provide opportunities for them to both understand the instructional program and their child's progress.

Teachers establish relationships with families by communicating to them about both the instructional program and about individual students, and they invite families to be part of the educational process itself. The level of family participation and involvement tends to be greater at the elementary level when young children are just beginning school. However, the importance of regular communication with families of adolescence cannot be overstated. A teacher's effort to communicate with families conveys an essential caring on the part on the part of the teacher, a quality valued by families of students of all ages.

## 4D Participating in a Professional Community

Schools are, first of all, environments to promote the learning of students. But in promoting student learning, **teachers must work with colleagues to share strategies, plan joint efforts, and plan for the success of individual students. Schools are, in other words, professional organizations for teachers**—organizations whose full potential is realized only when teachers regard themselves as members of a professional community. This community is characterized by mutual support and respect and by recognition of the responsibility of all teachers to be constantly seeking ways to improve their practice and to contribute to the life of the school. Inevitably, teachers' duties extend beyond the doors of their classrooms and include activities related to the entire school and/or larger district. These activities include such things as school and district curriculum committees or engagement with the parent-teacher organization. With experience, teachers assume leadership roles in these activities.

## 4E Growing and Developing Professionally

As in other professions, the complexity of teaching requires continued growth and development in order to remain current. Conscientiousness about continuing to stay informed and increasing their skills allows teachers to become ever more effective and to exercise leadership among their colleagues. The academic disciplines themselves evolve, and educators constantly refine their understanding of how to engage students in learning; thus growth in content, pedagogy, and information technology are essential to good teaching. Networking with colleagues through such activities such as joint planning, study groups, and lesson study provides opportunities for teachers to learn from one another. These activities allow for job-embedded professional development. In addition, professional educators increase their effectiveness in the classroom by belonging to professional organizations, reading professional journals, attending educational conferences, and taking university classes. As they gain experience and expertise, educators find ways to contribute to their colleagues and to the profession.

## 4F Showing Professionalism

Expert teachers demonstrate professionalism in service both to students and to the profession. Teaching at the highest levels of performance in this component is student focused, putting students first, regardless of how this sense of priority might challenge long-held assumptions, past practices, or simply what is easier or more convenient for teachers.

Accomplished teachers have a strong moral compass and are guided by what is the best interest of students. Such educators display professionalism in a number of ways. For example, they conduct their interactions with colleagues with honesty and integrity. They know their students' needs and seek out resources in order to step in and provide help that may extend beyond the classroom. Teachers advocate for their students in ways that might challenge traditional views and the educational establishment, seeking greater flexibility in the ways school rules and policies are applied. These dedicated educators also display their professionalism in the ways they approach problem solving and decision making, with student needs in mind. Finally, teachers consistently adhere to school and district policies and procedures but are willing to work to improve those that may be outdated or ineffective.