



***NYSUT's Teacher Practice Rubric \*2014 Edition\****  
***Aligned with the New York State Teaching Standards***

**Buffalo Public Schools**

**Approved NYSUT Indicators to be used with Teacher APPR Observation**

**Standard 1: 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.**

*It is not enough for teachers to know and understand childhood or adolescent developmental norms. Teachers must also know their students: their strengths and weaknesses, their interests, their readiness levels and skill sets, and the outside influences that affect their learning: family dynamics, cultural customs, and socio-economic status. Furthermore, teachers must demonstrate this knowledge and understanding and also incorporate appropriate 21st Century\* in the planning and preparation of their lessons.*

**Element 1.1: Teachers demonstrate knowledge of child and adolescent development, including students' cognitive, language, social, emotional, and physical developmental levels.**

**NYSED Indicators:** *Demonstrates an understanding of the developmental characteristics of their students; create developmentally appropriate lessons that address student learning differences and needs; Teachers implement lessons and modify instruction based upon student developmental needs.*

	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Ineffective</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>Highly Effective</b>
A.	<i>Demonstrates and plans using knowledge of developmental characteristics of their students.</i>	Teacher is unable to demonstrate in planning, the developmental characteristics of their students.	Teacher demonstrates in planning, some knowledge of the developmental characteristics of their students.	Teacher demonstrates in planning, an accurate knowledge of the typical developmental characteristics of their students, as well as exceptions to the general patterns.	In addition to accurate knowledge of the typical developmental characteristics of their students, and exceptions to the general patterns, teacher demonstrates in planning the extent to which individual students follow the general patterns.

*\*21st Century Skills include critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, collaboration, communication, information literacy, global and cultural awareness.*

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**Element I.2:** Teachers demonstrate research-based knowledge of learning and language acquisition theories and processes.

**NYSED Indicators:** *Design lesson plans and adjust instruction to include a variety of strategies that support the learning needs of each student. Design lesson plans to include a variety of strategies that support the language acquisition needs of each student. Teachers explain their instructional decisions identifying research.*

	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Ineffective</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>Highly Effective</b>
A.	<i>Uses strategies to support learning and language acquisition.</i>	Teacher designs lessons with few strategies that support student learning and language acquisition needs.	Teacher designs lessons to include some instructional strategies that support the learning and language acquisition needs of some students.	Teacher designs lessons to include several instructional strategies that support the learning and language acquisition needs of most students.	Teacher designs lessons to include several instructional strategies that support the learning and language acquisition needs of each student.

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**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.**

*A teacher translates instructional outcomes into learning experiences for students through the design of instruction. Even in classrooms where students assume considerable responsibility for their learning, teachers must design instruction that is coherent and balanced between careful planning and flexibility in execution. Teachers design instruction that reflects the needs of 21st Century learners and include opportunities to collaborate, innovate, create and solve problems using high-level cognitive processes and communication tools and media.*

**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.**

**NYSED Indicators:** *Facilitate students' ability to develop diverse social and cultural perspectives. Incorporate perspectives from varied disciplines and use and model interdisciplinary skills in their instruction. Provide opportunities for students to engage in individual and collaborative critical thinking and problem solving. Teachers model and encourage effective use of interpersonal communication skills to build student capacity for collaboration. Create opportunities for students to apply disciplinary and cross-disciplinary knowledge to personal experiences and real world problems.*

	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Ineffective</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>Highly Effective</b>
B.	<i>Incorporates individual and collaborative critical thinking and problem solving.</i>	Teacher does not plan opportunities for students to engage in individual and collaborative critical thinking and problem solving.	Teacher plans occasional opportunities for students to engage in individual and collaborative critical thinking and problem solving.	Teacher plans frequent opportunities for students to engage in individual and collaborative critical thinking and problem solving that align with 21st Century Skills*. The teacher models effective interpersonal skills.	Teacher plans on-going opportunities for students to engage in individual and collaborative critical thinking and problem solving that align with 21st Century Skills*. The teacher models and encourages effective use of interpersonal skills to build student capacity for collaboration.

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**Element II.5:** Teachers design relevant instruction that connects students' prior understanding and experiences to new knowledge.

**NYSED Indicators:** Determine current levels of student understanding and knowledge of content through questioning techniques, discussion, and other methods. Address common misconceptions in the content area through instructional methods. Design learning experiences that connect students' prior knowledge and instruction.

	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Ineffective</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>Highly Effective</b>
A.	<i>Designs instruction using current levels of student understanding.</i>	Teacher does not use students' responses to questions, discussion or other sources to determine student understanding and knowledge of content nor considers possible misconceptions when planning instruction.	Teacher use of students' responses to questions, discussion or other sources is limited in determining student understanding and knowledge of content and may or may not consider common misconceptions when planning instruction.	Teacher use of students' responses to questions, discussion, and other sources is appropriate, determines student understanding and knowledge of content, and considers common misconceptions when planning instruction.	Teacher use of individual students' responses to questions, discussion, and other sources is appropriate to determine current levels of knowledge and understanding of content and routinely considers common misconceptions when planning instruction.

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**Element II.6:** Teachers evaluate and utilize curricular materials and other appropriate resources to promote student success in meeting learning goals.

**NYSED Indicators:** *Organize physical space to reflect an awareness of learner needs and curricular goals. Incorporate a knowledge and understanding of technology in their lessons to enhance student learning. Organize and effectively use time to achieve learning goals. Select and adapt curricular materials to align with state standards and meet diverse learning needs. Access appropriate resources to meet specific learning differences or needs.*

	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Ineffective</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>Highly Effective</b>
A.	<i>Organizes time.</i>	Teacher does not consider time allocations to achieve learning goals.	Teacher occasionally considers time allocations but those times may be either too long or too short to achieve the learning goals.	Teacher frequently assigns reasonable time allocations to achieve the learning goals and adjusts if students need more or less time.	Teacher always assigns reasonable time allocations to achieve the learning goals and adjusts if students need more or less time.

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**Standard III: Instructional Practice**

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

*Effective instruction is the critical interactive work that teachers undertake when they bring complex content to life for students. Teachers design instruction to integrate content areas and weave together knowledge of students, content, assessment, and reflection in the instructional process. Teachers use available technologies to scaffold student learning. There is an emphasis on teacher facilitation and fostering student ownership, problem solving, inquiry, real-life connections and relevance. Teachers prepare students for the future by fostering creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration.*

**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.**

**NYSED Indicators:** *Align instruction to standards. Implement instruction proven to be effective in prior research. Students are actively and cognitively engaged through teacher facilitation of student-to-student and student-to-teacher interactions.*

	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Ineffective</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>Highly Effective</b>
B.	<i>Engages students.</i>	Teacher's instructional practices engage students at a low level of cognitive challenge. Students have little interaction with the teacher or with peers.	Teacher's instructional practices engage students at an insufficient level of cognitive challenge. Students have occasional opportunities to interact with the teacher and/or with peers.	Teacher's instructional practices engage students at an appropriately high level of cognitive challenge. Students have regular and ongoing opportunities to interact with the teacher and with peers.	Teacher's instructional practices engage students at an appropriately high level of cognitive challenge. Students have regular and ongoing opportunities to interact with the teacher and with peers. Students initiate interactions to deepen cognitive engagement.

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**Element III.2: Teachers communicate clearly and accurately with students to maximize their understanding and learning. NYSED**

**Indicators:** *Students understand directions and procedures. Teachers use a variety of questioning techniques to advance student learning and reflection. Students' comments and questions are acknowledged and utilized to advance learning. Students understand lesson content through teachers' use of oral, written and graphic methods. Adjust communication in response to student needs.*

	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Ineffective</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>Highly Effective</b>
A.	<i>Provides directions and procedures.</i>	Teacher directions and procedures are confusing to students. Teacher does not adjust explanation to meet student needs.	Teacher directions and procedures are clarified after initial student confusion. Teacher attempts to adjust explanations to meet student needs.	Teacher directions and procedures are clear to students. Teacher adjusts explanations to meet student needs.	Teacher directions and procedures are clear, complete, and anticipate possible student misunderstanding. Teacher adjusts explanations to meet the needs of individual students.
B.	<i>Uses questioning techniques to engage students.</i>	Teacher's questions are largely closed in nature. Questions do not invite a thoughtful response or further discussion. Techniques result in few students having an opportunity to respond.	Teacher's questions are a combination of open and closed questions. Some questions invite a thoughtful response and/or further discussion. Techniques result in some students having an opportunity to respond.	Most of teacher's questions are open in nature and engage students in deeper thinking and further discussion. Techniques require most students to respond.	Teacher's questions are open in nature and challenge students to think and demonstrate reasoning. Techniques require all students to respond. Students formulate questions to advance their understanding.
C.	<i>Responds to students.</i>	Teacher ignores students' questions/comments and/or provides a response that shuts down student learning.	Teacher responds to some students' questions/comments. Response gives students the answer rather than challenge student thinking.	Teacher responds to students' questions/comments. Responses challenge student thinking.	Teacher and students respond to students' questions/comments. Responses challenge all students' thinking.

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**Element III.3: Teachers set high expectations and create challenging learning experiences for students.**

**NYSED Indicators:** *Articulate high expectations for all students. Students have a clear understanding of measures of success. Teachers challenge and support all students by incorporating various instructional strategies, experiences and resources.*

	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Ineffective</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>Highly Effective</b>
<i>B.</i>	<i>Implements challenging learning experiences.</i>	Teacher is unable to articulate student expectations and does not challenge or support all students through instructional strategies, learning experiences and/or resources.	Teacher articulates low expectations for some students and attempts to challenge and support all students through instructional strategies, learning experiences and/or resources, but efforts are ineffective or limited.	Teacher articulates high expectations for most students and persists in seeking approaches to challenge and support all students, drawing on a broad repertoire of strategies, learning experiences, and resources.	Teacher articulates high expectations for all students and persists in seeking approaches to challenge and support all students, drawing on a broad repertoire of strategies, experiences, and resources.

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**Element III.6:** Teachers monitor and assess student progress, seek and provide feedback, and adapt instruction to student needs.

**NYSED Indicators:** Utilize various types of formative assessment during instruction to monitor and check for student understanding and assess progress. Seek and provide feedback during and after instruction. Adjust the pace of instruction, focus of instruction, and method of delivery based on student progress.

	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Ineffective</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>Highly Effective</b>
B.	<i>Provides feedback during and after instruction.</i>	Teacher's feedback to students is limited, infrequent and/or irrelevant.	Teacher's feedback to students is inconsistent in timeliness, frequency and/or relevance. Feedback inconsistently advances student learning.	Teacher's feedback to students is timely, frequent, and relevant. Feedback frequently advances student learning.	Teacher's feedback to students is timely, frequent, and relevant. Feedback consistently advances student learning. Students use the feedback to advance their own learning.

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**Standard IV: Learning Environment**

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

*The classroom environment is a critical aspect of a teacher's skill in promoting learning. Students can't concentrate on academic content if they don't feel comfortable in the classroom. If the atmosphere is negative, if students fear ridicule, if the environment is chaotic, no one - neither students nor teacher - can focus on learning. Teachers who excel in Standard 4 create an atmosphere of excitement about the importance of learning and the significance of the content. Skills in Standard 4 are demonstrated through classroom interactions and observations.*

**Element IV.1: Teachers create a mutually respectful, safe, and supportive learning environment that is inclusive of every student.**

**NYSED Indicators:** *Caring and respectful in interactions with students. Embrace student diversity as an asset in the classroom. Recognize and reinforce positive interactions among students. Create a climate of acceptance and respect. Create an environment where students feel a sense of responsibility to one another.*

	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Ineffective</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>Highly Effective</b>
A.	<i>Interactions with students.</i>	Teacher-student interactions are inappropriate to the age or culture of the students. The classroom climate is not conducive to feeling accepted or free to take learning risks.	Teacher-student interactions are generally appropriate but may reflect occasional inconsistencies, favoritism, or disregard for students' cultures. Only some students feel accepted and free to take learning risks.	Teacher-student interactions demonstrate general caring and respect. Interactions are appropriate to the ages and cultures of the students. Teacher creates a supportive environment where students feel accepted and free to take learning risks.	Teacher-student interactions reflect genuine respect, caring, and cultural understanding for individual students, as well as groups of students. Teacher creates a supportive learning environment where all students feel accepted and free to take learning risks.

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**Element IV.2: Teachers create an intellectually challenging and stimulating learning environment.**

**NYSED Indicators:** *Encourage students to set high standards and expectations for their own performance. Motivate students to initiate their own learning and strive to achieve challenging learning goals. Promote students' curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. Students are actively engaged in learning. Students openly express their ideas. Students show pride in their work and accomplishments.*

	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Ineffective</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>Highly Effective</b>
A.	<i>Promotes student pride in work and accomplishments.</i>	Teacher does not promote a sense of pride in student work or accomplishment Teacher discourages students from expressing their ideas, and/or initiating their own learning and achievement. Students are not motivated to complete work or are unwilling to persevere.	Teacher inconsistently promotes a sense of pride in student work or accomplishment. Teachers consistently create an environment where students express their ideas, take initiative and have high expectations for their own learning and achievement. Students minimally accept the responsibility to complete quality work or to persevere.	Teacher consistently promotes a sense of pride in student work or accomplishment, creates an environment where students are encouraged to express their ideas, take initiative and have high expectations for their own learning and achievement. Students accept the teacher's insistence on work of high quality and demonstrate perseverance.	Teacher consistently promotes a sense of pride in student work or accomplishment, creates an environment where all students are expected to express their ideas, take initiative and have high expectations and pride for their own learning and achievement. Students monitor their own progress as they strive to meet challenging learning goals.
B.	<i>Promotes student curiosity and enthusiasm.</i>	Teacher conveys a negative attitude, suggesting that learning is not important or has been mandated. Students are not cognitively engaged or enthusiastic about learning.	Teacher conveys importance of learning, but with little conviction. Some students are cognitively engaged and enthusiastic.	Teacher conveys enthusiasm for learning and demonstrates consistent commitment to its value. Students are cognitively engaged and enthusiastic about appropriately challenging learning.	Teacher and students convey enthusiasm for learning and are committed to its value. Students are cognitively engaged and strive to meet challenging learning goals.

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**Element IV.3: Teachers manage the learning environment for the effective operation of the classroom.**

**NYSUT Indicators:** *Establish, communicate, and maintain clear standards and expectations for student behavior. Develop, implement, and adapt routines and procedures to manage activities and transitions. Facilitate instructional groupings to maximize student participation, cooperation, and learning. Students exhibit respectful classroom interactions.*

	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Ineffective</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>Highly Effective</b>
B.	<i>Manages instructional groups.</i>	Teacher's grouping/ managing results in students who are not working with the teacher, are not productively engaged in learning.	Teacher's grouping/ managing results in some students being productively engaged in learning while independent of the teacher.	Teacher's grouping/ managing results in work being well organized and most students are productively engaged in learning while independent of the teacher.	Teacher's grouping/ managing results in group work being well organized and all students are productively engaged, with students assuming responsibility for productivity while independent of the teacher.

**Element IV.4: Teachers organize and utilize available resources (e.g. physical space, time, people, technology) to create a safe and productive learning environment.**

**NYSUT Indicators:** *Arrange and adapt the physical environment to accommodate individual and group learning needs. Ensure that all students have equitable access to available resources and technologies. Effectively use the services and skills of available volunteers and paraprofessionals. Know and implement policies and procedures to ensure classroom safety.*

	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Ineffective</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>Highly Effective</b>
C.	<i>Establishes classroom safety.</i>	Teacher does not implement classroom safety procedures.	Teacher inconsistently implements classroom safety procedures.	Teacher regularly implements classroom safety procedures.	Teacher and students implement classroom safety procedures.

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**Standard V: Assessment for Student Learning**

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

*Assessment is an integral part of the instructional process. The design of instruction must account for a range of assessment strategies: formative and summative, formal and informal. High quality assessment practice makes students fully aware of criteria and performance standards, informs teacher's instructional decisions, and leverages both teacher and student feedback. Further, these practices also incorporate student self-assessment and teacher analysis and reflection to inform instruction.*

**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.**

**NYSED Indicators:** *Communicate the purposes of the assessments they use. Prepare all students for the demands of particular assessment formats and provide accommodations, including appropriate accommodations in testing conditions for students with exceptional learning needs. Articulate assessment criteria to students and provide parameters for success. Students practice various formats of assessments using authentic curriculum. Equip students with assessment skills and strategies.*

	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Ineffective</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>Highly Effective</b>
B.	<i>Provides preparation and practice.</i>	Teacher does not prepare students for assessment formats using authentic curriculum, skills and strategies.	Teacher minimally prepares students for assessment formats by using authentic curriculum, skills, and strategies.	Teacher adequately prepares students for assessment formats by using authentic curriculum, skills, and strategies.	Teacher thoroughly prepares students for assessment formats by using authentic curriculum, skills, and strategies.

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**Standard VI: Professional Responsibilities and Collaboration**

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

*Teaching professionals display the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct; they are intellectually honest and conduct themselves in ways consistent with a comprehensive moral code. Educators recognize that the purpose of schools is to educate students and embrace a responsibility to ensure, that to the best of their ability, every student will learn. Teachers are keenly alert to and advocate for the needs of their students. Educators demonstrate a commitment to professional standards, problem solving and decision-making. Professional educators comply with school, district, state and federal regulations and procedures.*

**Element VI.4: Teachers manage and perform non-instructional duties in accordance with school district guidelines or other applicable expectations.**

**NYSED Indicators:** *Collect required data and maintain timely and accurate records (e.g. plan books, lunch counts, attendance records, student records, etc.). Manage their time and attendance in accordance with established guidelines. Maintain classroom and school resources and materials. Participate in school and district events.*

	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Ineffective</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>Highly Effective</b>
A.	<i>Maintains records.</i>	Teacher does not collect required data and/or records are in disarray, incomplete, or error-filled.	Teacher collects required data, monitoring is required to maintain accuracy.	Teacher collects required data that is timely and accurately maintained.	Teacher's system for collecting and maintaining required data is highly effective and accurate.

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