Teach, Reflect, Learn
Building Your Capacity for Success in the Classroom

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How Important is the Teacher?


“Success [in education] hinges on what happens at the classroom level.”

“Improved classroom instruction is the prime factor to produce student achievement gains.”


The one factor that can make the most difference in improving student achievement is a "knowledgeable, skillful teacher" in front of the classroom.


“The single most important factor affecting student achievement is teachers... Students who are assigned to several ineffective teachers in a row have significantly lower achievement and gains in achievement than those who are assigned to several highly effective teachers in sequence.”
How Important are Teachers?

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High Value-Added Teachers Result in Positive Life Outcomes

- Having a higher value-added teacher for even one year in grades 4-8, has substantial positive long-term impacts on a student’s life outcomes:
  - Likelihood of attending college (LPC)
  - Likelihood of teen pregnancy (LTP)
  - Lifetime income (LPI)
  - Retirement savings (LPS)


“One can conclude that the question as to whether effective teachers make a significant difference in student achievement has been answered. They do!”
Reflection

The Continuum of Self-Reflection

Unaware  Conscious  Action  Refinement

Reflective Cycle

- How effectively do I respond to ongoing assessments?
- How aware am I of my students, the content, and the lesson?
- How do I know whether my actions affect student learning?
- How effectively do I plan and deliver all aspects of my teaching?
Student Learning is at the Heart of Teacher Reflection.

- How intentionally do I plan and deliver all aspects of my teaching?
- How do I know whether my actions affect student learning?
- How aware am I of my students, the content, and pedagogy?
- How effectively do I respond to the results of ongoing assessments?

Capability to Adjust Actions

Awareness of Instructional Reality

Looks Like
Carefully observing students throughout the day and keeping anecdotal notes.
Teacher reads ahead in the curriculum to identify where misconceptions or difficulty may arise.

Sounds Like
"Kim, explain your thinking behind the answer here. Tell me more about thoughts when you were solving this problem."
"Class, before we start this unit, I want you to write down all that you know on this topic, so that I can tailor my instruction to fit your needs."
Intentionality of Actions

**Looks Like**
- Deliberately using a specific instructional strategy to engage a specific group of students.
- Utilizing a backward design process for curriculum planning.

**Sounds Like**
- "Class, rotate centers please. Group 3, it's your turn for guided reading.
- "Yesterday we struggled to connect x, y, & z; so today we're going to approach it a different way..."
Ability to Accurately Assess

Looks Like
- Teacher walking around the classroom listening to conversations, stopping to talk with a student about his or her thinking.
- Teacher analyzing student work to pinpoint where misconceptions may lie.

Sounds Like
- "Explain your thinking to your neighbor and have your neighbor repeat back to you what they heard. Clarify any misconceptions."
- "On the count of three, show me your work on your white boards."

Capability to Adjust Actions

Looks Like
- Recognizing the class is talkative today and embedding more discussion time into the lesson to keep students engaged.
- Making the split-second decision to engage the class in a powerful discussion, as the conversation has veered away from the planned lesson.

Sounds Like
- "Class – start your work. Sam, Eam, and Sarah meet me at the back table for a quick reteach."
- "Tomas, swap places on the rug with Diana. I’d like you to partner with Scalf for the rest of today’s lesson."
The Continuum of Self-Reflection

Unaware Conscious Action Refinement

Unaware Stage
- Build Awareness

Conscious Stage
- Be Intentional

Action Stage
- Accurately Assess

Refinement Stage
- Cultivate Responsiveness

5 Access points:
1. Individually
2. Looking at students
3. Collaborating with teammates
4. Working with a coach
5. Partnering with an administrator
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Take the 6 Week Challenge!