

APPENDIX B3- Alignment of the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) With APS Best Instructional Practices

Domain/ Dimension	Grades Observed	Description of CLASS Dimensions	Alignment with			
			Differentiation ¹	Responsive Education ²	Danielson ³	SIOP ⁴
Emotional Support						
Positive Climate	Pre-K - 12	Reflects the emotional connection and relationships among teachers and students, and the warmth, respect, and enjoyment communicated by verbal and non-verbal interactions.		X	X	
Teacher Sensitivity	Pre-K - 12	Encompasses the teacher’s awareness and responsiveness to the academic, social-emotional, and developmental needs of individual students and the entire class. At the younger levels, it also includes the teacher’s ability to consistently provide comfort, reassurance, and encouragement.	X	X	X	X
Regard for <i>Child/Adolescent</i> Perspective	Pre-K – 3	<i>Child:</i> At the younger levels, it captures the degree to which the educator’s interactions with children and classroom activities place an emphasis on children’s interests, motivations, and points of view and encourage child responsibility and autonomy.	X	X	X	X
	4-12	<i>Adolescent:</i> At the older levels, it focuses on the extent to which the teacher is able to meet and capitalize on the social and developmental needs and goals of (pre)adolescents by providing opportunities for student autonomy and leadership. Also considered are the extent to which student ideas and opinions are valued and content is made useful and relevant to (pre)adolescents.	X	X	X	X
Classroom Organization						
Behavior Management	Pre-K - 12	Encompasses the teacher’s use of clear behavioral expectations and effective methods to prevent and redirect misbehavior.		X	X	
Productivity	Pre-K - 12	Considers how well the teacher manages time and routines so that instructional time is maximized.			X	
Negative Climate ⁵	Pre-K - 12	Reflects the overall level of expressed negativity among teachers and students in the classroom; the frequency, quality, and intensity of teacher and student negativity are important to observe.		X	X	
Instructional Support						
Concept Development	Pre-K – 3	Measures the educator’s use of instructional discussions and activities to promote children’s higher-order thinking skills and cognition and the educator’s focus on understanding rather than on rote instruction.	X		X	X

¹ Differentiation or differentiated instruction is an approach that recognizes that all students must master a common body of knowledge and skills, but each student learns a different way and needs an approach most appropriate to his or her learning needs. Differentiation relates to content (what students learn), process (how students learn), and product (how students demonstrate what they’ve learned). Students differ in readiness (prior mastery of knowledge, understandings, and skills), interest (curiosity and passion to know, understand, or do more), and how they prefer to learn (Tomlinson, 1999).² Responsive education or culturally responsive teaching is a pedagogy that recognizes the importance of including students’ cultural references in all aspects of learning (Ladson-Billings, 1994).

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			Differentiation ¹	Responsive Education ²	Danielson ³	SIOp ⁴
Content Understanding	4-12	Refers to both the depth of the lesson content and the approaches used to help students comprehend the framework, key ideas, and procedures in an academic discipline. At a high level, this refers to interactions among the teacher and students that lead to an integrated understanding of facts, skills, concepts, and principles.		X	X	X
Analysis and Inquiry	4-12	Assesses the degree to which the teacher facilitates students' use of higher-level thinking skills, such as analysis, problem solving, reasoning, and creation through the application of knowledge and skills. Opportunities for demonstrating metacognition, i.e. thinking about thinking, are also included.	X	X		X
Instructional Learning Formats ⁶	Pre-K - 12	Focuses on the ways in which the teacher maximizes students' interest and engagement in learning. This includes the teacher's use of interesting and engaging lessons and materials, active facilitation, and clarity of learning objectives.	X	X	X	X
Quality of Feedback	Pre-K - 12	Assesses the degree to which feedback expands and extends learning and understanding and encourages student participation. (At the secondary level, significant feedback may be provided by peers)		X	X	X
Language Modeling	Pre-K-3	Captures the quality and amount of the educator's use of language-stimulation and language-facilitation techniques.			X	X
Instructional Dialogue	4-5	Captures the purposeful use of dialogue- structured, cumulative questioning and discussion which guide and prompt students- to facilitate students' understanding of content and language development. The extent to which these dialogues are distributed across all students in the class and across the class period is important to this rating.			X	X
Student Engagement	4-12	Intended to capture the degree to which all students in the class are focused and participating in the learning activity presented or facilitated by the teacher. The difference between passive engagement and active engagement is of note in this rating.		X	X	X

³ Danielson's Domains of Teaching Responsibility frame the APS teacher evaluation process and are based on Charlotte Danielson's Enhancing Professional Practice. The domains are the areas in which T-Scale employees are evaluated and are the foundation for Best Instructional Practices. For classroom-based teachers they include: Planning and Preparation, Classroom Environment, Instruction and Professional Responsibilities. For non-classroom-based teachers the domains are: Planning and Preparation, Environment, Delivery of Service, and Professional Responsibilities.

⁴ Sheltered instruction Observation Protocol (SIOp) is an approach to teaching that promotes content-area learning and language development for English language learners. Teachers adapt grade-level content lessons to the students' levels of English proficiency, while focusing on English language development to help students increase their proficiency in academic English. ⁵ This dimension falls under the Emotional Support domain at the pre-K and lower elementary levels.

⁶ This dimension falls under the Classroom Organization domain at the pre-K and lower elementary levels.