

Tool: Observation Guides

Timing: Throughout the novice experience

Purpose: To incorporate in Mentoring and Peer Coaching activities, Future Growth Plans, Recommendations in the Evaluation cycle. To use in focusing Preservice teachers observations.

Novice teachers need opportunities to observe in classrooms. It is clear that focused observations are more productive than nonspecific, or general observations. Observations should focus on specific behaviors, actions, activities, events, and/or areas identified in the research as “best practice” or effective teaching behaviors. Observations can target such areas as questioning, classroom management, classroom arrangements, and behavior management techniques. By focusing on one area at a time, novices may find it easier to incorporate these critical elements into their own practice.