# 5 Dimensions of Teaching and Learning™

## Instructional Framework Version 4.0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SD™</th>
<th>Subdimension</th>
<th>The Vision</th>
<th>Guiding Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose</strong></td>
<td>Standards</td>
<td>• The lesson is based on grade-level standards, is meaningful and relevant beyond the task at hand (e.g., relates to a broader purpose or context such as problem-solving, citizenship, etc.), and helps students learn and apply transferable knowledge and skills.</td>
<td>• How do the standard and learning target relate to content knowledge, habits of thinking in the discipline, transferable skills, and students’ assessed needs as learners (re: language, culture, academic background)?</td>
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<td>Learning Target and Teaching Points</td>
<td>• The lesson is intentionally linked to other lessons (previous and future) in support of students meeting standard(s).</td>
<td>• How do the standard and learning target relate to the ongoing work of this classroom? To the intellectual lives of students beyond this classroom? To broader ideals such as problem-solving, citizenship, etc.?</td>
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<td>Intellectual Work</td>
<td>• The learning target is clearly articulated, linked to standards, embedded in instruction, and understood by students.</td>
<td>• What is the learning target(s) of the lesson? How is it meaningful and relevant beyond the specific task/activity?</td>
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<td>Engagement Strategies</td>
<td>• The learning target is measurable. The criteria for success are clear to students and the performance tasks provide evidence that students are able to understand and apply learning in context.</td>
<td>• Is the task/activity aligned with the learning target? How does what students are actually engaged in doing help them to achieve the desired outcome(s)?</td>
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<td>Talk</td>
<td>• The teaching points are based on knowledge of students’ learning needs (academic background, life experiences, culture and language) in relation to the learning target(s).</td>
<td>• How are the standard(s) and learning target communicated and made accessible to all students?</td>
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<td><strong>Student Engagement</strong></td>
<td>• Students’ classroom work embodies substantive intellectual engagement (reading, thinking, writing, problem-solving and meaning-making).</td>
<td>• How do students communicate their understanding about what they are learning and why they are learning it?</td>
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<td>• Students take ownership of their learning to develop, test and refine their thinking.</td>
<td>• How does the learning target clearly communicate what students will know and be able to do as a result of the lesson? What will be acceptable evidence of student learning?</td>
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<td>• Engagement strategies capitalize on and build upon students’ academic background, life experiences, culture and language to support rigorous and culturally relevant learning.</td>
<td>• How do teaching point(s) support the learning needs of individual students in meeting the learning target(s)?</td>
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<td>• Engagement strategies encourage equitable and purposeful student participation and ensure that all students have access to, and are expected to participate in, learning.</td>
<td>• What is the frequency of teacher talk, teacher-initiated questions, student-initiated questions, student-to-student interaction, student presentation of work, etc.?</td>
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<td>• Student talk reflects discipline-specific habits of thinking and ways of communicating.</td>
<td>• What does student talk reveal about the nature of students’ thinking?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Student talk embodies substantive and intellectual thinking.</td>
<td>• Where is the locus of control over learning in the classroom?</td>
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| **Curriculum & Pedagogy** | • Instructional materials (e.g., texts, resources, etc.) and tasks are appropriately challenging and supportive for all students, are aligned with the learning target and content area standards, and are culturally and academically relevant.  
• The lesson materials and tasks are related to a larger unit and to the sequence and development of conceptual understanding over time. | • How does the learning in the classroom reflect authentic ways of reading, writing, thinking and reasoning in the discipline under study? (e.g., How does the work reflect what mathematicians do and how they think?)  
• How does the content of the lesson (e.g., text or task) influence the intellectual demand (e.g. the thinking and reasoning required)? How does it align to grade-level standards?  
• How does the teacher scaffold the learning to provide all students with access to the intellectual work and to participation in meaning-making?  
• What does the instruction reveal about the teacher’s understanding of how students learn, of disciplinary habits of thinking, and of content knowledge?  
• How is students’ learning of content and transferable skills supported through the teacher’s intentional use of instructional strategies and materials?  
• How does the teacher differentiate instruction for students with different learning needs—academic background, life experiences, culture and language? |
| **Curriculum & Pedagogy** | | • How does the teacher use multiple forms of assessment to inform instruction and decision-making?  
• How does the teacher use observable systems and routines for recording and using student assessment data (e.g., charts, conferring records, portfolios, rubrics).  
• Assessment criteria, methods and purposes are transparent and match the learning target.  
• The teacher uses observable systems and routines for recording and using student assessment data (e.g., charts, conferring records, portfolios, rubrics).  
• The teacher uses different instructional strategies, based on planned and/or in-the-moment decisions, to address individual learning needs.  
• The teacher provides scaffolds for the learning task that support the development of the targeted concepts and skills and gradually releases responsibility, leading to student independence. |
| **Curriculum & Pedagogy** | • The teacher makes decisions and utilizes instructional approaches in ways that intentionally support his/her instructional purposes.  
• Instruction reflects and is consistent with pedagogical content knowledge and is culturally responsive, in order to engage students in disciplinary habits of thinking.  
• The teacher uses different instructional strategies, based on planned and/or in-the-moment decisions, to address individual learning needs. | • How does the instruction provide opportunities for all students to demonstrate learning? How does the teacher capitalize on those opportunities for the purposes of assessment?  
• How does the teacher gather information about student learning? How comprehensive are the sources of data from which he/she draws?  
• How does the teacher’s understanding of each student as a learner inform how the teacher pushes for depth and stretches boundaries of student thinking?  
• How does the teacher’s instruction reflect planning for assessment?  
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• How does the teacher capitalize on those opportunities for the purposes of assessment? |
| **Curriculum & Pedagogy** | • Students assess their own learning in relation to the learning target.  
• The teacher creates multiple assessment opportunities and expects all students to demonstrate learning.  
• Assessment methods include a variety of tools and approaches to gather comprehensive and quality information about the learning styles and needs of each student (e.g., anecdotes, conferring, student work samples, etc.).  
• The teacher uses observable systems and routines for recording and using student assessment data (e.g., charts, conferring records, portfolios, rubrics).  
• Assessment criteria, methods and purposes are transparent and match the learning target. | • How does the teacher’s instruction reflect planning for assessment?  
• How does the teacher gather information about student learning? How comprehensive are the sources of data from which he/she draws?  
• How does the teacher’s understanding of each student as a learner inform how the teacher pushes for depth and stretches boundaries of student thinking?  
• How does the teacher’s instruction reflect planning for assessment? |
| **Curriculum & Pedagogy** | • The teacher uses formative assessment data to make in-the-moment instructional adjustments, modify future lessons, and give targeted feedback to students. | • How does the teacher's instruction reflect planning for assessment?  
• How does the teacher use multiple forms of assessment to inform instruction and decision-making?  
• How does the teacher adjust instruction based on in-the-moment assessment of student understanding?  
• How does the teacher's instruction reflect planning for assessment? |
| **Use of Physical Environment** | • The physical arrangement of the room (e.g., meeting area, resources, student seating, etc.) is conducive to student learning.  
• The teacher uses the physical space of the classroom to assess student understanding and support learning (e.g., teacher moves around the room to observe and confer with students).  
• Students have access to resources in the physical environment to support learning and independence (e.g., libraries, materials, charts, technology, etc.).  
• Students have access to resources in the physical environment to support learning and independence (e.g., libraries, materials, charts, technology, etc.). | • How does the physical arrangement of the classroom, as well as the availability of resources and space to both the teacher and students, purposefully support and scaffold student learning?  
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• How and to what extent do the systems and routines of the classroom facilitate student ownership and independence?  
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• How is students’ learning of content and transferable skills supported through the teacher’s intentional use of instructional strategies and materials?  
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| **Classroom Environment & Culture** | • Classroom systems and routines facilitate student responsibility, ownership and independence.  
• Available time is maximized in service of learning. | • What is the climate for learning in this classroom? How do relationships (teacher-student, student-student) support or hinder student learning?  
• What do discourse and interactions reveal about what is valued in this classroom?  
• What are sources of status and authority in this classroom (e.g., reasoning and justification, intellectual risk-taking, popularity, aggressiveness, etc.)?  
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| **Classroom Culture** | • Classroom discourse and interactions reflect high expectations and beliefs about all students’ intellectual capabilities and create a culture of inclusivity, equity and accountability for learning.  
• Classroom norms encourage risk-taking, collaboration and respect for thinking. | • What is the climate for learning in this classroom? How do relationships (teacher-student, student-student) support or hinder student learning?  
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