

New Mexico Teacher Competencies for Licensure Levels I, II, and III Assessment Criteria

New Mexico is one of the most diverse states in the nation, and this diversity is reflected in the strengths and needs of New Mexico's students. The ability of a highly qualified teacher to address the learning needs of all New Mexico's students, including those students who learn differently as a result of disability, culture, language, or socioeconomic status, forms the framework for the New Mexico Teacher Competencies for Licensure Levels I, II, and III-A Assessment Criteria Benchmarks.

1. The teacher accurately demonstrates knowledge of the content area and approved curriculum		
Provisional Teacher - LEVEL I	Professional Teacher - LEVEL II	Master Teacher - LEVEL III
A. Utilizes and enhances approved curriculum.	A. Enhances and extends approved curriculum.	A. Contributes to the refinement and development of the approved curriculum.
B. Gives clear explanations relating to lesson content and procedures.	B. Gives clear explanations relating to lesson content and procedures.	B. Provides clear explanations relating to lesson content and procedures in multiple ways and is aware of knowledge and preconceptions that students can bring to the subject.
C. Communicates accurately in the content area.	C. Communicates accurately in the content area.	C. Communicates accurately in the content area and can create multiple paths to the subject matter.
D. Shows interrelatedness of one content area to another.	D. Integrates other subjects into the content curriculum.	D. Can articulate to students the interrelatedness of the disciplines.

2. The teacher appropriately utilizes a variety of teaching methods and resources for each area taught.		
Provisional Teacher - LEVEL I	Professional Teacher - LEVEL II	Master Teacher - LEVEL III
A. Provides opportunities for students to work independently, in small groups, and in large groups.	A. Designs appropriate opportunities for large group, small group, and independent student learning experiences.	A. Designs and engages students in large group, small group, and independent work activities.
B. Uses a variety of methods, including demonstrations, lectures, student initiated work, group work, questioning, and independent practice.	B. Selects from a variety of teaching methods (demonstrations, lectures, student projects, group work, independent practice) for specific instructional goals and purposes.	B. Demonstrates effective selection and use of a variety of methods to make knowledge accessible to all students.
C. Uses a variety of resources such as field trips, supplemental printed materials, manipulatives, and technology.	C. Integrates a variety of resources into instruction, including field trips, supplemental printed materials, manipulatives, and technology.	C. Demonstrates effective integration of a variety of resources and learning experiences into the curriculum.

Assessment Criteria *Benchmarks* for New Mexico Teacher Competencies for Licensure Levels I, II, and III

II. The teacher appropriately utilizes a variety of teaching methods and resources for each area taught (continued)		
D. Provides opportunities for students to apply, practice, and demonstrate knowledge and skills learned through various modalities.	D. Demonstrates understanding and appropriate application of learning styles, modalities, and intelligences theories.	D. Designs opportunities for students to apply, practice, and demonstrate knowledge and skills based on knowledge of learning modalities, style preferences, and intelligences.
E. Implements necessary modifications and adaptations in instruction and curriculum so that students with disabilities have access to the general education curriculum in the least restrictive environment.	E. Designs and implements necessary modifications and adaptations in instruction and curriculum so that students with disabilities have access to the general education curriculum in the least restrictive environment.	E. Engages with colleagues and parents to collaboratively design and implement necessary modifications and adaptations in instruction and curriculum so that students with disabilities have access to the general education curriculum in the least restrictive environment.

3. The teacher communicates with and obtains feedback from students in a manner that enhances student learning and understanding.		
Provisional Teacher - LEVEL I	Professional Teacher - LEVEL II	Master Teacher - LEVEL III
A. Explains and/or demonstrates the relevance of topics and activities.	A. Effectively explains, demonstrates or communicates the relevance of topics and activities.	A. Engages students in explaining and/or demonstrating the relevance of topics and activities.
B. Communicates to students the instructional intent, directions, or plan.	B. Consistently communicates to students the instructional intent, directions, and plans.	B. Involves students in establishing instructional direction and plans.
C. Establishes and states expectations for student performance.	C. Establishes and states expectations for student performance	C. Establishes and states expectations for student performance.
D. Clarifies actions, directions, and explanations when students do not understand.	D. Presents directions and explanations in a variety of ways to insure student understanding.	D. Presents directions and explanations in a variety of ways to insure student understanding.
E. Actively solicits communication from students about their learning.	E. Solicits communication from students about their learning for the purposes of ongoing instructional planning.	E. Engages students in the analysis and evaluation of their learning and adjusts instruction based on student feedback.
F. Communicates regularly with students about their progress.	F. Communicates regularly with students about their progress.	F. Communicates regularly with students about their progress.

4. The teacher comprehends the principles of student growth, development and learning, and applies them appropriately.		
Provisional Teacher - LEVEL I	Professional Teacher - LEVEL II	Master Teacher - LEVEL III
A. Instructs students in the use of cognitive thinking skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, divergent thinking, inquiry, and decision-making.	A. Consistently integrates the use of cognitive thinking skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, divergent thinking, inquiry, and decision-making into instruction.	A. Consistently integrates the use of cognitive thinking skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, divergent thinking, inquiry, and decision-making into instruction.
B. Uses teaching techniques that address student learning levels, rates, and styles.	B. Adapts teaching techniques to accommodate a range of student learning levels, rates, styles and special needs.	B. Selects the most effective teaching techniques to address a variety of student learning levels, rates, styles and needs as well as diverse interests and backgrounds.
C. Uses materials and media that address student learning levels, rates, and styles.	C. Adapts materials and media to address a range of student learning levels, rates, styles and special needs.	C. Selects the most effective materials and media to address a variety of student learning levels, rates, styles and needs.
D. Uses resources such as community service agencies, school personnel, and parents to meet student learning levels, rates and styles.	D. Selects from a variety of community service agencies, specialized school personnel, and parents to address different learning levels, rates, styles, and needs.	D. Integrates community resources, service agencies, other school personnel, parents, and community members into the curriculum.

5. The teacher effectively utilizes student assessment techniques and procedures.		
Provisional Teacher - LEVEL I	Professional Teacher - LEVEL II	Master Teacher - LEVEL III
A. Uses a variety of assessment tools and strategies.	A. Selects appropriate assessment tools and strategies for specific learning outcomes.	A. Designs and uses multiple methods of measuring student understanding and growth.
B. Uses information gained from ongoing assessment for remediation and instructional planning.	B. Uses formative and summative assessment for remediation and instructional planning.	B. Integrates assessment data from multiple sources into instructional planning and improvement.
C. Maintains documentation of student progress.	C. Maintains documentation of student progress.	C. Maintains documentation of student progress.
D. Communicates student progress to students and families in a timely manner.	D. Consistently maintains communication with students and families about student progress.	D. Develops a two-way system of communicating with students and families about student progress.

6. The teacher manages the educational setting in a manner that promotes positive student behavior and a safe and healthy environment.		
Provisional Teacher - LEVEL I	Professional Teacher - LEVEL II	Master Teacher - LEVEL III
A. Serves as a model for constructive behavior patterns.	A. Identifies, explains, and models constructive behavior patterns.	A. Integrates the teaching of constructive, pro-social behaviors into regular instruction.
B. Executes routine tasks effectively and efficiently.	B. Establishes and teaches effective and efficient routines.	B. Establishes and teaches effective and efficient routines.
C. Establishes and states expectations for student behavior.	C. Establishes and reinforces expectations for student behaviors that promote citizenship in a classroom community.	C. Engages students in establishing expectations for building a learning community in the classroom.
D. Handles transitions effectively.	D. Maintains smoothness and momentum during classroom transitions.	D. Maintains smoothness and momentum during instructional transitions.
E. Has materials and media ready for student use.	E. Prepares and arranges material in advance for easy student accessibility.	E. Establishes an environment where materials and media are available and ready for student use.
F. Minimizes distractions and interruptions.	F. Minimizes distractions and interruptions.	F. Minimizes distractions and interruptions.
G. Manages student behavior effectively and appropriately.	G. Monitors and directs student behavior effectively and appropriately.	G. Develops a classroom management system that promotes acceptable and appropriate student behavior.
H. Identifies hazards, assesses risks, and takes appropriate action.	H. Identifies hazards, assesses risks, and takes appropriate action.	H. Identifies hazards, assesses risks and takes appropriate action.

7. The teacher recognizes student diversity and creates an atmosphere conducive to the promotion of positive student involvement and self-concept.		
Provisional Teacher - LEVEL I	Professional Teacher - LEVEL II	Master Teacher - LEVEL III
A. Demonstrates sensitivity and responsiveness to the personal ideas, learning needs, interests, and feelings of students with disabilities and/or from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (e.g., Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, as well as other recent immigrant groups).	A. Acknowledges and validates the ideas, learning needs, interests, and feelings of students with disabilities and/or from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (e.g., Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, as well as other recent immigrant groups).	A. Adjusts practice based on observation and knowledge of students with disabilities and/or from culturally and linguistically diverse groups (e.g., Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, as well other recent immigrant groups).
B. Acknowledges student performance and achievement.	B. Consistently recognizes student performance and achievements.	B. Creates curriculum designs that include student performance and acknowledgment of achievement.
C. Acknowledges that every student can learn.	C. Understands how students differ in their approaches to learning and adjusts instruction to meet diverse needs.	C. Demonstrates an awareness of the influences of context, disability, language, and culture on student learning.
D. Provides opportunities for each student to succeed and understands how students differ in their approaches to learning based on diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds and exceptionalities.	D. Designs opportunities for each student to succeed, based on individual learning needs.	D. Provides accommodations and interventions that allow each student to succeed based on individual learning needs.
E. Provides students with opportunities for active involvement and creativity.	E. Designs specific activities that require active involvement and creativity.	E. Engages students in learning experiences that promote creativity, critical and divergent thinking.
F. Provides opportunities for students to be responsible for their behavior and learning.	F. Designs opportunities that require and reinforce student responsibility for learning.	F. Designs opportunities that require and reinforce student responsibility for learning.
G. Promotes positive student/teacher relationships.	G. Develops students' self-esteem, motivation, character, and sense of civic responsibility.	G. Fosters the development of respect for individual, cultural, linguistic, disability, and religious differences.
H. Encourages high student expectations.	H. Establishes and communicates high expectations for all students.	H. Engages students in setting high standards for performance.
I. Demonstrates an awareness and respect for each student's background, experience, learning ability, language, and culture.	I. Demonstrates knowledge of different student backgrounds, experiences, learning abilities, languages, and cultures and incorporates this knowledge into curricular decisions and instructional methodology.	I. Treats all students equitably, recognizing and planning for individual differences in cultures, languages, learning abilities, backgrounds, and experiences.

8. The teacher demonstrates a willingness to examine and implement change, as appropriate.		
Provisional Teacher - LEVEL I	Professional Teacher - LEVEL II	Master Teacher - LEVEL III
A. Seeks out information on methodology, research and current trends in education to enhance and improve the quality of learning.	A. Seeks out information on methodology, research and current trends in education to enhance and improve the quality of learning.	A. Demonstrates the ability to reason, take multiple perspectives, be creative, and take reasoned risks to improve teaching.
B. Implements a variety of strategies to enhance learning.	B. Demonstrates knowledge of best practices that enhance learning.	B. Collaborates with colleagues in the research and design of improved instructional strategies
C. Recognizes that change entails risk and modifications may be needed.	C. Participates in instructional improvement and school reform initiatives.	C. Assumes a leadership role in the study and implementation of instructional improvement and school reform initiatives.

9. The teacher works productively with colleagues, parents and community members.		
Provisional Teacher - LEVEL I	Professional Teacher - LEVEL II	Master Teacher - LEVEL III
A. Collaborates with colleagues.	A. Actively promotes collegial relations with other school personnel.	A. Serves as a role model for collaborative working relations across the profession.
B. Communicates with parents on a regular basis.	B. Provides a system for interactive communication between teacher and parents.	B. Demonstrates knowledge of specific school, family, and community resources that can support student learning.
C. Uses conflict resolution strategies when necessary.	C. Uses conflict resolution strategies as appropriate.	C. Assists colleagues in the use of conflict resolution strategies.
D. Involves parents and community in the learning environment.	D. Promotes active roles for parents and community members in student learning.	D. Engages parents and community members productively in the work of the school.
E. Communicates in a professional manner with colleagues, parents, and community members regarding educational matters.	E. Communicates in a professional manner with colleagues, parents, and community members regarding educational matters.	E. Works collaboratively and creatively with colleagues, parents, and community members regarding educational matters.