

Domain 2: The Classroom Environment

Component	2a: Creating an Environment of Respect and Rapport
<p><i>2a: Creating an environment of respect and rapport</i></p>	<p>An essential skill of teaching is that of managing relationships with students and ensuring that those among students are positive and supportive. Teachers create an environment of respect and rapport in their classrooms by the ways they interact with students and by the interaction they encourage and cultivate among students. An important aspect of respect and rapport relates to how the teacher responds to students and how students are permitted to treat one another. Patterns of interactions are critical to the overall tone of the class. In a respectful environment, all students feel valued and safe.</p> <p>The elements of component 2a are listed below and are evaluated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher interactions with students, including both words and actions <i>A teacher’s interactions with students set the tone for the classroom. Through their interactions, teachers convey that they are interested in and care about their students.</i> • Student interactions with other students, including both words and actions <i>As important as a teacher’s treatment of students is, how students are treated by their classmates is arguably even more important to students. At its worst, poor treatment causes students to feel rejected by their peers. At its best, positive interactions among students are mutually supportive and create an emotionally healthy school environment. Teachers model and teach students how to engage in respectful interactions with one another and acknowledge respectful interactions among students.</i> <p>Indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Respectful talk and turn taking</i> • <i>Respect for students’ background and lives outside of the classroom</i> • <i>Teacher and student body language</i> • <i>Physical proximity</i> • <i>Warmth and caring</i> • <i>Politeness</i> • <i>Encouragement</i> • <i>Active listening</i> • <i>Fairness</i>

	Unsatisfactory	Basic	Proficient	Distinguished
<i>2a: Creating an environment of respect and rapport</i>	Patterns of classroom interactions, both between the teacher and students and among students, are mostly negative, inappropriate, or insensitive to students' ages, cultural backgrounds, and developmental levels. Interactions are characterized by sarcasm, put-downs, or conflict. Teacher does not deal with disrespectful behavior.	Patterns of classroom interactions, both between the teacher and students and among students, are generally appropriate but may reflect occasional inconsistencies, favoritism, and disregard for students' ages, cultures, and developmental levels. Students rarely demonstrate disrespect for one another. Teacher attempts to respond to disrespectful behavior, with uneven results. The net result of the interactions is neutral: conveying neither warmth nor conflict.	Teacher-student interactions are friendly and demonstrate general caring and respect. Such interactions are appropriate to the ages of the students. Students exhibit respect for the teacher. Interactions among students are generally polite and respectful. Teacher responds successfully to disrespectful behavior among students. The net result of the interactions is polite and respectful, but impersonal.	Classroom interactions among the teacher and individual students are highly respectful, reflecting genuine warmth, caring, and sensitivity to students as individuals. Students exhibit respect for the teacher and contribute to high levels of civility among all members of the class. The net result of interactions is that of connections with students as individuals
Critical Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher uses disrespectful talk towards students. Student body language indicates feelings of hurt or insecurity. • Students use disrespectful talk towards one another with no response from the teacher. • Teacher displays no familiarity with or caring about individual students' interests or personalities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quality of interactions between teacher and students, or among students, is uneven, with occasional disrespect. • Teacher attempts to respond to disrespectful behavior among students, with uneven results. • Teacher attempts to make connections with individual students, but student reactions indicate that the efforts are not completely successful or are unusual. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk between teacher and students and among students is uniformly respectful. • Teacher responds to disrespectful behavior among students. • Teacher makes superficial connections with individual students. 	<p>In addition to the characteristics of "proficient,"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher demonstrates knowledge and caring about individual students' lives beyond school. • When necessary, students correct one another in their conduct towards classmates. • There is no disrespectful behavior among students. • The teacher's response to a student's incorrect response respects the student's dignity
Possible Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student slumps in his/her chair following a comment by the teacher. • Students roll their eyes at a classmate's idea; the teacher does not respond. • Many students talk when the teacher and other students are talking; the teacher does not correct them. • Some students refuse to work with other students. • Teacher does not call students by their names. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students attend passively to the teacher, but tend to talk, pass notes, etc. when other students are talking. • A few students do not engage with others in the classroom, even when put together in small groups. • Students applaud half-heartedly following a classmate's presentation to the class. • Teacher says "Don't talk that way to your classmates," but student shrugs his/her shoulders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher greets students by name as they enter the class or during the lesson. • The teacher gets on the same level with students, such as kneeling beside a student working at a desk. • Students attend fully to what the teacher is saying. • Students wait for classmates to finish speaking before beginning to talk. • Students applaud politely following a classmate's presentation to the class. • Students help each other and accept help from each other. • Teacher and students use courtesies such as "please/thank you, excuse me." • Teacher says "Don't talk that way to your classmates," and the insults stop. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher inquires about a student's soccer game last weekend (or extracurricular activities or hobbies). • Students say "Shhh" to classmates while the teacher or another student is speaking. • Students clap enthusiastically for one another's presentations for a job well done. • The teacher says: "That's an interesting idea, Josh, but you're 'forgetting....'"

Component	2b: Establishing a Culture for Learning
<p><i>2b: Establishing a culture for learning</i></p>	<p>“A culture for learning” refers to the atmosphere in the classroom that reflects the educational importance of the work undertaken by both students and teacher. It describes the norms that govern the interactions among individuals about the activities and assignments, the value of hard work and perseverance, and the general tone of the class. The classroom is characterized by high cognitive energy, by a sense that what is happening there is important, and that it is essential to get it right. There are high expectations for all students. The classroom is a place where the teacher and students value learning and hard work.</p> <p>Elements of component 2b are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of the content and of learning <i>In a classroom with a strong culture for learning, teachers convey the educational value of what the students are learning.</i> • Expectations for learning and achievement <i>In classrooms with robust cultures for learning, all students receive the message that, while the work is challenging, they are capable of achieving it if they are prepared to work hard.</i> • Student pride in work <i>When students are convinced of their capabilities, they are willing to devote energy to the task at hand, and they take pride in their accomplishments. This pride is reflected in their interactions with classmates and with the teacher.</i> <p>Indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Belief in the value of the work</i> • <i>Expectations are high and supported through both verbal and nonverbal behaviors</i> • <i>Quality is expected and recognized</i> • <i>Effort and persistence are expected and recognized</i> • <i>Confidence in ability is evidenced by teacher and students language and behaviors</i> • <i>Expectation for all students to participate</i>

	Unsatisfactory	Basic	Proficient	Distinguished
<i>2b: Establishing a culture for learning</i>	The classroom culture is characterized by a lack of teacher or student commitment to learning, and/or little or no investment of student energy into the task at hand. Hard work is not expected or valued. Medium to low expectations for student achievement are the norm with high expectations for learning reserved for only one or two students.	The classroom culture is characterized by little commitment to learning by teacher or students. The teacher appears to be only “going through the motions,” and students indicate that they are interested in completion of a task, rather than quality. The teacher conveys that student success is the result of natural ability rather than hard work; high expectations for learning are reserved for those students thought to have a natural aptitude for the subject.	The classroom culture is a cognitively busy place where learning is valued by all with high expectations for learning the norm for most students. The teacher conveys that with hard work students can be successful; students understand their role as learners and consistently expend effort to learn. Classroom interactions support learning and hard work.	The classroom culture is a cognitively vibrant place, characterized by a shared belief in the importance of learning. The teacher conveys high expectations for learning by all students and insists on hard work; students assume responsibility for high quality by initiating improvements, making revisions, adding detail and/or helping peers.
Critical Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher conveys that the reasons for the work are external or trivializes the learning goals and assignments. • The teacher conveys to at least some students that the work is too challenging for them. • Students exhibit little or no pride in their work. • Class time is devoted more to socializing than to learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher’s energy for the work is neutral: indicating neither a high level of commitment nor “blowing it off.” • The teacher conveys high expectations for only some students. • Students comply with the teacher’s expectations for learning, but don’t indicate commitment on their own initiative for the work. • Many students indicate that they are looking for an “easy path.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher communicates the importance of learning, and that with hard work all students can be successful in it. • The teacher demonstrates a high regard for student abilities. • Teacher conveys an expectation of high levels of student effort. • Students expend good effort to complete work of high quality. 	<p>In addition to the characteristics of “Proficient,”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher communicates a genuine passion for the subject. • Students indicate that they are not satisfied unless they have complete understanding. • Student questions and comments indicate a desire to understand the content, rather than, for example, simply learning a procedure for getting the correct answer. • Students recognize the efforts of their classmates. • Students take initiative in improving the quality of their work.
Possible Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher tells students that they’re doing a lesson because it’s on the test, in the book, or is district directed. • Teacher says to a student: “Why don’t you try this easier problem?” • Students turn in sloppy or incomplete work. • Students don’t engage in work and the teacher ignores it. • Students have not completed their homework and the teacher does not respond. • Almost all of the activities are “busy work.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher says: “Let’s get through this.” • Teacher says: “I think most of you will be able to do this.” • Students consult with one another to determine how to fill in a worksheet, without challenging classmates’ thinking. • Teacher does not encourage students who are struggling. • Some students get to work after an assignment is given or after entering the room. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher says: “This is important; you’ll need to speak grammatical English when you apply for a job.” • Teacher says: “This idea is really important! It’s central to our understanding of history.” • Teacher says: “Let’s work on this together: it’s hard, but you all will be able to do it well.” • Teacher hands a paper back to a student, saying “I know you can do a better job on this.” The student accepts it without complaint. • Students get right to work right away when an assignment is given or after entering the room. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher says “It’s really fun to find the patterns for factoring polynomials.” • Student asks a classmate to explain a concept or procedure since s/he didn’t quite follow the teacher’s explanation. • Students question one another on answers. • Student asks the teacher whether s/he can re-do a piece of work since s/he now sees how it could be strengthened. • Students work even when the teacher isn’t working with them or directing their efforts.

Component	2c: Managing Classroom Procedures
<p><i>2c: Managing classroom procedures</i></p>	<p>A smoothly functioning classroom is a prerequisite to good instruction and high levels of student engagement. Teachers establish and monitor routines and procedures for the smooth operation of the classroom and the efficient use of time. Hallmarks of a well-managed classroom are that instructional groups are used effectively, non-instructional tasks are completed efficiently, and transitions between activities and management of materials and supplies are skillfully done in order to maintain momentum and maximize instructional time. The establishment of efficient routines, and teaching students to employ them, may be inferred from the sense that the class “runs itself.”</p> <p>Elements of Component 2c are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of instructional groups <i>Teachers help students to develop the skills to work purposefully and cooperatively in groups, with little supervision from the teacher</i> • Management of transitions <i>Many lessons engage students in different types of activities – large group, small group, independent work. It’s important that little time is lost as students move from one activity to another; students know the “drill” and execute it seamlessly</i> • Management of materials and supplies <i>Experienced teachers have all necessary materials to hand, and have taught students to implement routines for distribution and collection of materials with a minimum of disruption to the flow of instruction</i> • Performance of non-instructional duties <i>Overall, little instructional time is lost in activities such as taking attendance, recording the lunch count, or the return of permission slips for a class trip.</i> <p>Indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Smooth functioning of all routines</i> • <i>Little or no loss of instructional time</i> • <i>Students playing an important role in carrying out the routines</i> • <i>Students know what to do, where to move</i>

	Unsatisfactory	Basic	Proficient	Distinguished
<i>2c Managing classroom procedures</i>	Much instructional time is lost due to inefficient classroom routines and procedures. There is little or no evidence of the teacher managing instructional groups, transitions, and/or the handling of materials and supplies effectively. There is little evidence that students know or follow established routines.	Some instructional time is lost due to only partially effective classroom routines and procedures. The teacher’s management of instructional groups, transitions, and/or the handling of materials and supplies is inconsistent, leading to some disruption of learning. With regular guidance and prompting, students follow established routines.	There is little loss of instructional time due to effective classroom routines and procedures. The teacher’s management of instructional groups and/or the handling of materials and supplies are consistently successful. With minimal guidance and prompting, students follow established classroom routines.	Instructional time is maximized due to efficient classroom routines and procedures. Students contribute to the management of instructional groups, transitions, and/or the handling of materials and supplies. Routines are well understood and may be initiated by students.
Critical Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Students not working with the teacher are disruptive to the class.</i> • <i>There are no established procedures for distributing and collecting materials.</i> • <i>Procedures for other activities are confused or chaotic.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Small groups are only partially engaged while not working directly with the teacher.</i> • <i>Procedures for transitions, and distribution/collection of materials, seem to have been established, but their operation is rough.</i> • <i>Classroom routines function unevenly.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The students are productively engaged during small group work.</i> • <i>Transitions between large and small group activities are smooth.</i> • <i>Routines for distribution and collection of materials and supplies work efficiently.</i> • <i>Classroom routines function smoothly.</i> 	<p>In addition to the characteristics of “proficient,”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Students take the initiative with their classmates to ensure that their time is used productively.</i> • <i>Students themselves ensure that transitions and other routines are accomplished smoothly.</i> • <i>Students take initiative in distributing and collecting materials efficiently.</i>
Possible Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>When moving into small groups, students are confused as to where they are supposed to go, whether they should take their chairs, etc.</i> • <i>There are long lines for materials and supplies or distributing supplies is time-consuming.</i> • <i>Students bump into one another lining up or sharpening pencils.</i> • <i>Roll-taking consumes much time at the beginning of the lesson and students are not working on anything.</i> • <i>Most students ask what they are to do or look around for clues from others.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Some students not working with the teacher are not productively engaged in learning.</i> • <i>Transitions between large and small group activities are rough but they are accomplished.</i> • <i>Students are not sure what to do when materials are being distributed or collected.</i> • <i>Students ask some clarifying questions about procedures</i> • <i>The attendance or lunch count consumes more time than it would need if the procedure were more routinized.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Students get started on an activity while the teacher takes attendance.</i> • <i>Students move smoothly between large and small group activities.</i> • <i>The teacher has an established timing device, such as counting down, to signal students to return to their desks.</i> • <i>Teacher has an established attention signal, such as raising a hand, or dimming the lights.</i> • <i>One member of each small group collects materials for the table.</i> • <i>There is an established color-coded system indicating where materials should be stored.</i> • <i>In small group work, students have established roles, they listen to one another, summarize g different views, etc.</i> • <i>Clean-up at the end of a lesson is fast and efficient.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Students redirect classmates in small groups not working directly with the teacher to be more efficient in their work.</i> • <i>A student reminds classmates of the roles that they are to play within the group.</i> • <i>A student re-directs a classmate to the table s/he should be at following a transition.</i> • <i>Students propose an improved attention signal.</i> • <i>Students independently check themselves into class on the attendance board.</i>

<p>Domain 2:</p>	<p>The Classroom Environment</p>
<p>2d. Managing Student Behavior</p>	<p>In order for students to be able to engage deeply with content, the classroom environment must be orderly; the atmosphere must feel business-like and productive, without being authoritarian. In a productive classroom, standards of conduct are clear to students; they know what they are permitted to do, and what they can expect of their classmates. Even when their behavior is being corrected, students feel respected; their dignity is not undermined. Skilled teachers regard positive student behavior not as an end in itself, but as a prerequisite to high levels of engagement in content.</p> <p>Elements of Component 2d are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expectations <i>It is clear, either from what the teacher says, or by inference from student actions, that expectations for student conduct have been established and that they are being implemented</i> • Monitoring of student behavior <i>Experienced teachers seem to have eyes “in the backs of their heads;” they are attuned to what’s happening in the classroom and can move subtly to help students, when necessary, re-engage with the content being addressed in the lesson. At a high level, such monitoring is preventive and subtle, which makes it challenging to observe</i> • Response to student misbehavior <i>Even experienced teachers find that their students occasionally violate one or another of the agreed-upon standards of conduct; how the teacher responds to such infractions is an important mark of the teacher’s skill. Accomplished teachers try to understand why students are conducting themselves in such a manner (are they unsure of the content? Are they trying to impress their friends?) and respond in such a way that they respect the dignity of the student. The best responses are those that address misbehavior early in an episode, although this is not always possible.</i> <p>Indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Clear standards of conduct, possibly posted, and possibly referred to during a lesson</i> • <i>Absence of acrimony between teacher and students concerning behavior</i> • <i>Teacher awareness of student conduct</i> • <i>Preventive action when needed by the teacher</i> • <i>Fairness</i> • <i>Absence of misbehavior</i> • <i>Reinforcement of positive behavior</i>

	Unsatisfactory	Basic	Proficient	Distinguished
<i>2d Managing Student Behavior</i>	There appear to be no established standards of conduct, and little or no teacher monitoring of student behavior. Students challenge the standards of conduct. Response to students' misbehavior is repressive, or disrespectful of student dignity.	Standards of conduct appear to have been established, but their implementation is inconsistent. Teacher tries, with uneven results, to monitor student behavior and respond to student misbehavior. There is inconsistent implementation of the standards of conduct.	Student behavior is generally appropriate. The teacher monitors student behavior against established standards of conduct. Teacher response to student misbehavior is consistent, proportionate and respectful to students and is effective.	Student behavior is entirely appropriate. Students take an active role in monitoring their own behavior and that of other students against standards of conduct. Teachers' monitoring of student behavior is subtle and preventive. Teacher's response to student misbehavior is sensitive to individual student needs and respects students
<i>Critical Attributes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The classroom environment is chaotic, with no apparent standards of conduct.</i> • <i>The teacher does not monitor student behavior.</i> • <i>Some students violate classroom rules, without apparent teacher awareness.</i> • <i>When the teacher notices student misbehavior, s/he appears helpless to do anything about it.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Teacher attempts to maintain order in the classroom but with uneven success; standards of conduct, if they exist, are not evident.</i> • <i>Teacher attempts to keep track of student behavior, but with no apparent system.</i> • <i>The teacher's response to student misbehavior is inconsistent: sometimes very harsh; other times lenient.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Standards of conduct appear to have been established.</i> • <i>Student behavior is generally appropriate.</i> • <i>The teacher frequently monitors student behavior.</i> • <i>Teacher's response to student misbehavior is effective.</i> • <i>Teacher acknowledges good behavior.</i> 	In addition to the characteristics of "proficient," <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Student behavior is entirely appropriate; no evidence of student misbehavior.</i> • <i>The teacher monitors student behavior without speaking – just moving about.</i> • <i>Students respectfully intervene as appropriate with classmates to ensure compliance with standards of conduct.</i>
<i>Possible Examples</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Students are talking among themselves, with no attempt by the teacher to silence them.</i> • <i>An object flies through the air without apparent teacher notice.</i> • <i>Students are running around the room, resulting in a chaotic environment.</i> • <i>Their phones and other electronics distract students and teacher doesn't do anything.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Classroom rules are posted, but neither teacher nor students refers to them.</i> • <i>The teacher repeatedly asks students to take their seats; they ignore him/her.</i> • <i>To one student: "Where's your late pass? Go to the office." To another: "You don't have a late pass? Come in and take your seat; you've missed enough already."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Upon a non-verbal signal from the teacher, students correct their behavior.</i> • <i>The teacher moves to every section of the classroom, keeping a close eye on student behavior.</i> • <i>The teacher gives a student a "hard look," and the student stops talking to his/her neighbor.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A student suggests a revision in one of the classroom rules.</i> • <i>The teacher notices that some students are talking among themselves, and without a word, moves nearer to them; the talking stops.</i> • <i>The teacher asks to speak to a student privately about misbehavior.</i> • <i>A student reminds his/her classmates of the class rule about chewing gum.</i>

Component	2e: Organizing Physical Space
	<p>The use of the physical environment to promote student learning is a hallmark of an experienced teacher. Its use varies, of course, with the age of the students: in a primary classroom, centers and reading corners may structure class activities, while with older students, the position of chairs and desks can facilitate, or inhibit, rich discussion. Naturally, classrooms must be safe (no dangling wires or dangerous traffic patterns), and all students must be able to see and hear what’s going on so they can participate actively. Both the teacher and students make effective use of computer (and other) technology.</p> <p>Elements of this component are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and accessibility <i>Physical safety is a primary consideration of all teachers; no learning can occur if students are unsafe or if they don’t have access to the board or other learning resources.</i> • Arrangement of furniture and use of physical resources. <i>Both the physical arrangement of a classroom and the available resources provide opportunities for teachers to advance learning; when these are skillfully used students can engage with the content in a productive manner. At the highest levels of performance, the students themselves contribute to the physical environment.</i> <p>Indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Pleasant, inviting atmosphere</i> • <i>Safe environment</i> • <i>Accessibility for all students</i> • <i>Furniture arrangement suitable for the learning activities</i> • <i>Effective use of physical resources, including computer technology, by both teacher and students</i>

	Unsatisfactory	Basic	Proficient	Distinguished
<i>2e: Organizing physical space</i>	The physical environment is unsafe, or many students don't have access to learning. There is poor alignment between the arrangement of furniture and resources, including computer technology, and the lesson activities.	The classroom is safe, and essential learning is accessible to most students. The teacher's use of physical resources, including computer technology, is moderately effective. Teacher may attempt to modify the physical arrangement to suit learning activities, with partial success.	The classroom is safe, and learning is accessible to all students; teacher ensures that the physical arrangement is appropriate to the learning activities. Teacher makes effective use of physical resources, including computer technology.	The classroom is safe, and learning is accessible to all students including those with special needs. Teacher makes effective use of physical resources, including computer technology. The teacher ensures that the physical arrangement is appropriate to the learning activities. Students contribute to the use or adaptation of the physical environment to advance learning.
Critical Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>There are physical hazards in the classroom, endangering student safety.</i> • <i>Many students can't see or hear the teacher or the board.</i> • <i>Available technology is not being used, even if available and its use would enhance the lesson.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The physical environment is safe, and most students can see and hear.</i> • <i>The physical environment is not an impediment to learning, but does not enhance it.</i> • <i>The teacher makes limited use of available technology and other resources.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The classroom is safe, and all students are able to see and hear.</i> • <i>The classroom is arranged to support the instructional goals and learning activities.</i> • <i>The teacher makes appropriate use of available technology.</i> 	In addition to the characteristics of "proficient," <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Modifications are made to the physical environment to accommodate students with special needs.</i> • <i>There is total alignment between the goals of the lesson and the physical environment.</i> • <i>Students take the initiative to adjust the physical environment.</i> • <i>Teachers and students make extensive and imaginative use of available technology</i>
Possible Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>There are electrical cords running around the classroom.</i> • <i>There is a pole in the middle of the room; some students can't see the board.</i> • <i>A white board is in the classroom, but it is facing the wall, indicating that it is rarely, if ever, used.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The teacher ensures that dangerous chemicals are stored safely.</i> • <i>The classroom desks remains in two semicircles, even though the activity for small groups would be better served by moving the desks to make tables for a portion of the lesson.</i> • <i>The teacher tries to use a computer to illustrate a concept, but requires several attempts to make it work.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>There are established guidelines concerning where backpacks are left during class to keep the pathways clear; students comply.</i> • <i>Desks are moved to make tables so students can work together, or in a circle for a class discussion.</i> • <i>The use of an Internet connection enriches the lesson.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Students ask if they can shift the furniture to better suit small group work, or discussion.</i> • <i>A student closes the door to shut out noise in the corridor, or lowers a blind to block the sun from a classmate's eyes.</i> • <i>A student suggests an application of the white board for an activity.</i>