

# A Common Vision of Great Teaching

## The Colorado Teacher Quality Standards

Excellent teaching is vital to every student's success: teachers have the honored role of helping to prepare their students for the world ahead.

To have maximum impact on student learning, teachers must develop and evolve along with their students. This involves self-reflection, increased levels of meaningful feedback on instructional practice and an overall commitment to continuously refining their craft.

Identifying the complex components of quality teaching is a fundamental step in supporting teachers' professional growth as well as developing a fair and reliable evaluation process; both aspects of the Great Teachers and Leaders Act. The statewide Teacher Quality Standards provide this shared understanding of the essentials of great teaching—a common vision.

Just as the Colorado Academic Standards provide common expectations for student learning, the Teacher Quality Standards outline the knowledge and skills required of an excellent teacher. They are the core of the evaluation process and offer a tool for teacher self-reflection, goal setting and ongoing professional growth.

The Teacher Quality Standards are foundational to providing every student with what they deserve—excellent teachers who are consistently supported in their efforts to improve their practice and influence student learning in new and powerful ways.



Students have the greatest chance to succeed when their teachers receive meaningful feedback and are supported in their efforts to continuously improve their craft.

### QUALITY STANDARD I

#### Teachers demonstrate mastery of and pedagogical expertise in the content they teach.

The elementary teacher is an expert in literacy and mathematics and is knowledgeable in all other content that he or she teaches (e.g., science, social studies, arts, physical education, or world languages). The secondary teacher has knowledge of literacy and mathematics and is an expert in his or her content endorsement area(s).

**ELEMENT A:** Teachers provide instruction that is aligned with the Colorado Academic Standards and their district's organized plan of instruction.

**ELEMENT B:** Teachers develop and implement lessons that connect to a variety of content areas/disciplines and emphasize literacy and mathematics.

**ELEMENT C:** Teachers demonstrate knowledge of the content, central concepts, inquiry, appropriate evidence-based instructional practices, and specialized characteristics of the disciplines being taught.

### QUALITY STANDARD II

#### Teachers establish a safe, inclusive and respectful learning environment for a diverse population of students.

**ELEMENT A:** Teachers foster a predictable learning environment characterized by acceptable student behavior and efficient use of time in which each student has a positive, nurturing relationship with caring adults and peers.

**ELEMENT B:** Teachers demonstrate an awareness of, a commitment to, and respect for multiple aspects of diversity, while working toward common goals as a community of learners.

**ELEMENT C:** Teachers engage students as individuals, including those with diverse needs and interests, across a range of ability levels by adapting their teaching for the benefit of all students.

**ELEMENT D:** Teachers work collaboratively with the families and/or significant adults for the benefit of students.

### QUALITY STANDARD III

**Teachers plan and deliver effective instruction and create an environment that facilitates learning for their students.**

**ELEMENT A:** Teachers demonstrate knowledge about the ways in which learning takes place, including the levels of intellectual, physical, social, and emotional development of their students.

**ELEMENT B:** Teachers use formal and informal methods to assess student learning, provide feedback, and use results to inform planning and instruction.

**ELEMENT C:** Teachers integrate and utilize appropriate available technology to engage students in authentic learning experiences.

**ELEMENT D:** Teachers establish and communicate high expectations and use processes to support the development of critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.

**ELEMENT E:** Teachers provide students with opportunities to work in teams and develop leadership.

**ELEMENT F:** Teachers model and promote effective communication.

### QUALITY STANDARD IV

**Teachers demonstrate professionalism through ethical conduct, reflection, and leadership.**

**ELEMENT A:** Teachers demonstrate high standards for professional conduct.

**ELEMENT B:** Teachers link professional growth to their professional goals.

**ELEMENT C:** Teachers are able to respond to a complex, dynamic environment.

**ELEMENT D:** Teachers demonstrate leadership in the school, the community, and the teaching profession.

