

## **Observing the Students**

### **Focus**

This observation asks you to look at the students, to recognize their variety of diversities, and to look for evidence of the classroom teacher adjusting and being sensitive to the potential needs of the students in the class.

### **Questions and Prompts:**

Describe the students in the class. Think broadly about their differences. Go beyond race and ethnicity. What appears to be the range of ability levels, socioeconomic differences, languages spoken, personalities, etc. that are present among the students.

How does the teacher engage all students in the lesson(s)? Does instruction involve students in a variety of learning strategies or techniques? Describe. Which mode seemed to be most effective? Were different learning styles being addressed? If yes, give examples. If you were a student in the class you observed, would your learning style needs have been addressed?

How involved were students in learning activities? Describe an example of the level of student involvement?

How did the teacher work with a variety of students such as the reluctant learner? the shy student? the English learner? the physically / emotionally / academically challenged student?

Did it appear that the teacher had modified instruction to better serve the needs of culturally diverse students? What evidence, if any, can you report?

Did you observe any instances of students being excluded from learning because their needs were not being met? Describe how this was displayed? How did it seem to impact the student and his or her behavior during instruction?