Descriptors of Observational Competencies - Directions: Check those items which the pre-service teacher has demonstrated.   Student _____

KNOWLEDGE (Planning, Pedagogy and Content)

1. Uses data to adapt instruction to individual differences in needs, learning styles and multiple intelligences.
   - A.___ Differentiates instruction based on student needs
   - B.___ Organizes instruction to focus on student strengths.
2. Consistently demonstrates mastery of content knowledge
   - A.___ Plans instruction focused on major concepts.
3. Translates New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards into developmentally appropriate content
   - A.___ Plans for mastery of NJCC standards and indicators.
   - B.__ Sequences content to facilitate learning
4. Incorporates appropriate pedagogical knowledge in planning lessons.
   - A.___ Plans for appropriate motivation techniques to initiate lesson.
   - B.___ Includes the full range of critical and creative thinking strategies (e.g., Bloom's Taxonomy).
   - C.___ Incorporates cooperative groups and/or other active learning strategies.
   - D.___ Plans for guided and independent skills practice to reinforce learning.
5. Utilizes a variety of traditional and authentic assessment procedures to evaluate student progress.
   - A.___ Aligns assessment tasks to lesson objectives.
   - B.___ Maintains accurate records of student progress and communicates results.
   - C.___ Designs rubric to evaluate student performance task.
   - D.___ Plans for students' self-assessments.
6. Writes comprehensive and developmentally appropriate lesson/unit plans.
   - A.___ Writes clear objectives, linked to NJ Core Curriculum Standards
   - B.___ Plans logical, sequenced instruction.
   - C.___ Selects appropriate teaching materials, including technologies.
   - D.___ Links major concepts to students' prior knowledge.
   - E.___ Plans integrated learning experiences across disciplines.

UNDERSTANDING – (Dispositions)

7. Communicates high expectations for all students.
   - A.___ Nurtures students' desire to learn and achieve
   - B.___ Sets appropriate goals, based upon on-going assessment.
8. Demonstrates respect for diversity and cultural differences.
   - A.___ Values individual differences, including race, gender, ethnicity, ability socioeconomic status, and sexual orientation.
   - B.___ Enables boys and girls to equally participate in all activities and educational opportunities.
9. Demonstrates an openness to learning new ideas and becoming a lifelong learner.
   - A.___ Seeks to expand knowledge through professional activities (e.g, reads, attends conferences, in-service)
   - B.___ Seeks to learn from students as well as teach them.
10. Reflects upon teaching: "What do I do? Why do I do it? How can I do it better?"
   - A.___ Maintains a reflective journal.
   - B.___ Understands the teaching-learning assessment connection.
   - C.___ Improves student learning outcomes through reflection.
   - D.___ Reflects on professional and personal attitudes/behaviors, and modifies them based on feedback.
11. Exemplifies high professional and ethical standards.
   - A.___ Models honesty, fairness and respect for individuals and for the laws of society.
   - B.___ Abides by the NEA/CEC Code of Ethics and the policies and procedures of the school
   - C.___ Demonstrates reliability and punctuality.
   - D.___ Dresses appropriately and is well-groomed.

APPLICATION (Skills)

12. Demonstrates effective communication skills.
   - A.___ Uses standard English to model clear, logical oral and written communication,
   - B.___ Uses verbal and non-verbal communication effectively.
   - C.___ Writes legibly and spells accurately.
13. Creates a physically and psychologically safe environment.
   - A.___ Complies with safety rules and regulations in the learning environment.
   - B.___ Demonstrates sensitivity to students' feelings.
   - C.___ Reinforces students' efforts and achievements.
   - D.___ Promotes development of good character and values.
14. Manages the learning environment.
   - A.___ Organizes the learning environment and materials/equipment in an orderly manner.
   - B.___ Creates a stimulating and inviting environment.
   - C.___ Establishes routines, enforces rules and plans logical consequences.
   - D.___ Uses instructional time effectively.
   - E.___ Facilitates smooth transitions.
15. Develops a sense of community in the learning environment.
   - A.___ Practices effective listening, conflict resolution and group-facilitation skills.
   - B.___ Establishes rapport with students.
   - C.___ Fosters an environment of respect, trust and cooperation among students.
16. Poses questions related to problems and issues which require inquiry and critical thinking.
   - A.___ Relates content to real world issues by asking essential questions.
   - B.___ Uses questioning and "scaffolding" strategies to stimulate student critical thinking.
   - C.___ Encourages student to question information and ideas to promote divergent thinking.
17. Teaches for understanding.
   - A.___ Uses active student learning strategies
   - B.___ Creates meaningful learning experiences by relating learning to everyday life.
   - C.___ Uses a variety of teaching techniques e.g., problem solving, technology, cooperative learning, demonstrations, discussion, lecture.
   - D.___ Uses multi-cultural materials when appropriate.
18. Works collaboratively with colleagues and families.
   - A.___ Establishes open and appropriate lines of communication with colleagues/supervisory personnel.
   - B.___ Participates actively and responsibly in school-wide activities.
   - C.___ Collaborates with parents and school community members to support student learning.
   - D.___ Seeks opportunities to build strong partnerships with parents and community members.
   - E.___ Participates in programs which involve parents in school-related organizations and activities.
19. Demonstrates resourcefulness.
   - A.___ Shows initiative in locating instructional resources beyond the school environment.
   - B.___ Uses community resources to enhance student learning.
20. Demonstrates an interest in applying new technologies to teaching and learning.
   - A.___ Integrates technologies into lessons.
   - B.___ Utilizes technologies for research and professional development.

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____DATE _____

COOP. TEACHER/UNIVERSITY SUPERVISOR
SIGNATURE _____DATE _____

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