

## TEACHER ASSESSMENT ON PERFORMANCE STANDARD 10: COMMUNICATION

### TKES QUICK GUIDE

#### HOW DOES EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IMPACT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT?

Effective communication is the cornerstone of education and the very core of successful teaching. Communication is the ability to convey information with others through a common exchange of ideas, messages, or thoughts. It comes in many forms including, but not limited to, speech, writing, facial expressions, gestures, and signs.

Teaching requires efficient communication with students, colleagues, parents, and other stakeholders, as well as being advocates for our learners. Effective and open communication

promotes an awareness of the interests and needs of others, and it can help teachers have a presence in the classroom that motivates students and facilitates learning. It is through

*“Effective communication between instructors and students is essential for quality instruction”*

Notzer, N., & Abramovitz, R.  
(Clinical Teacher; June 2010;  
Vol. 7, No. 2)

effective communication that teachers establish rapport with their students and facilitate openness and acceptance. The communication skills of a teacher also play an important role in the collaboration with colleagues and other school personnel. Communicating with our professional peers allows us to reach beyond the walls of the classroom to solicit collaboration and support from school colleagues on behalf of our students by sharing best practices and seeking advice and suggestions. Effective communication can also lead to partnerships with parents and other community members, gaining cooperation from families and other stakeholders.

Communicating effectively involves a variety of verbal and written methods (i.e., in person, phone, newsletter, email, website, etc.). While technologies present new opportunities for communicating and can make communication easier and more convenient; stakeholders generally value the opportunity for personal contact and conversation.

#### WAYS TO COMMUNICATE:

##### WITH STUDENTS:

- Be an active listener.
- Provide clear explanations and directions.
- Recognize positive efforts.
- Listen and acknowledge student suggestions.
- Hold student led parent-teacher conferences.

##### WITH PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

- Involve parents in student homework and projects.
- Maintain a website with important information (i.e., homework, projects, notes, conference night, etc.).
- Email parents about major assignments with tips (i.e., upcoming test with standards to review).
- Collaborate with parents in the creation of education plans.
- Provide specific ways parents can volunteer and/or contribute to their child's learning achievement.

##### WITH LEA/SCHOOL PERSONNEL:

- Share best practices with teachers and seek advice and suggestions.
- Collaborate with colleagues to create inter-disciplinary lessons for students.
- Attend a board meeting and highlight the achievements of your students.

##### WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS:

- Invite community business members to speak to your students.
- Attend a city council meeting and/or the city's business association and share various achievements of your school.