

WINCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Winchester, Connecticut

System for Educator Evaluation and Development

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TEACHER EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT MODEL

Purpose and Rationale of the Evaluation System

When teachers succeed, students succeed. Research has proven that no school-level factor matters more to students' success than high-quality teachers. To support our teachers, we need to clearly define excellent practice and results; give accurate, useful information about teachers' strengths and development areas; and provide opportunities for growth and recognition. However, our current evaluation systems often fail to do these things in a meaningful way. Connecticut's new guidelines for educator evaluation strive to change that and to treat our teachers like the hard-working professionals they are. The purpose of the new evaluation model is to fairly and accurately evaluate teacher performance and to help each teacher strengthen his/her practice to improve student learning.

Core Design Principles

The following principles guided the design of this teacher evaluation model, developed in partnership with Education First.

- *Consider multiple, standards-based measures of performance*

An evaluation system that uses multiple sources of information and evidence results in a fair, accurate and comprehensive picture of a teacher's performance. The new model defines four categories of teacher effectiveness: student learning (45%), teacher performance and practice (40%), parent feedback (10%) and school-wide student learning or student feedback (5%). These categories are grounded in research-based, national standards: the Common Core State Standards, as well as Connecticut's standards: The Connecticut Common Core of Teaching (CCT); the Connecticut Framework K-12 Curricular Goals and Standards; the CMT/CAPT Assessments¹; and locally-developed curriculum standards. Starting in 2014 the Smarter Balance Assessment shall replace the CMT/CAPT.
- *Promote both professional judgment and consistency*

Assessing a teacher's professional practice requires evaluators to constantly use their professional judgment. No rubric or formula, however detailed, can capture all of the nuances in how teachers interact with students, and synthesizing multiple sources of information into performance ratings is inherently more complex than checklists or numerical averages. At the same time, teachers' ratings should depend on their performance, not on their evaluators' biases. Accordingly, the model aims to minimize the variance between school leaders' evaluations of classroom practice and support fairness and consistency within and across schools.

¹**Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT):** The CMT is the standard assessment administered to students in Grades 3 through 8. Students are assessed in the content areas of reading, mathematics and writing in each of these grades and science in grades 5 and 8.

Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT): The CAPT is the standard assessment administered to students in Grade 10. Students are assessed in the content areas of reading, mathematics, writing and science.

- *Encourage aligned professional development, coaching and feedback to support teacher growth*

Novice and veteran teachers alike deserve detailed, constructive feedback and professional development, tailored to the individual needs of their classrooms and students. This plan promotes a shared language of excellence to which professional development, coaching and feedback can align to improve practice.

- *Ensure feasibility of implementation*

Launching this new model will require hard work. Throughout each district, educators will need to develop new skills and to think differently about how they manage and prioritize their time and resources. The model aims to balance high expectations with flexibility for the time and capacity considerations in our district.

TEACHER EVALUATION SYSTEM

Evaluation and Support System Overview

The evaluation and support system consists of multiple measures to paint an accurate and comprehensive picture of teacher performance. All teachers will be evaluated in four categories, grouped in two major focus areas: Teacher Practice and Student Outcomes.

1. **Teacher Practice Related Indicators:** An evaluation of the core instructional practices and skills that positively affect student learning. This focus area is comprised of two categories:
 - (a) **Observation of teacher performance and practice (40%)** as defined in the Connecticut Framework for Teacher Evaluation and Support, which articulates four domains and eighteen components of teacher practice
 - (b) **Parent feedback (10%)** on teacher practice through surveys such as Student Climate

2. **Student Outcomes Related Indicators:** An evaluation of teachers' contribution to student academic progress, at the school and classroom level. There is also an option in this focus area to include student feedback. This focus area is comprised of two categories:
 - (a) **Student growth and development (45%)** as determined by the teacher's student learning objectives (SLOs)
 - (b) **Whole-school measures of student learning** as determined by aggregate student learning indicators

Scores from each of the four categories will be combined to produce a summative performance rating of Exemplary, Proficient, Developing or Below Standard. The performance levels are defined as:

Exemplary – Substantially exceeding indicators of performance

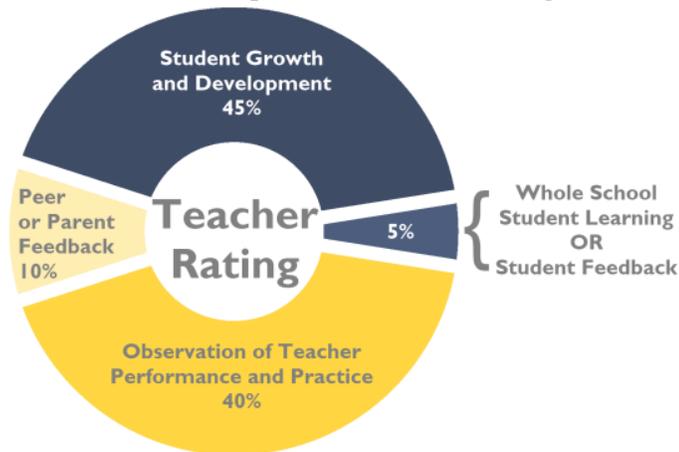
Proficient – Meeting indicators of performance

Developing – Meeting some indicators of performance but not others

Below Standard – Not meeting indicators of performance

Teacher Evaluation Process and Timeline

The annual evaluation process between a teacher and an evaluator (administrator) is anchored by three performance conversations at the beginning, middle and end of the year. The purpose of these conversations is to clarify expectations for the evaluation process, provide comprehensive feedback to each teacher on his/her performance, set development goals and identify development opportunities. These conversations are collaborative and require reflection and preparation by both the evaluator and the teacher in order to be productive and meaningful.



Goal-Setting and Planning:

Timeframe: Target is September 30th; must be completed by **October 15th**

1. *Orientation on Process* – To begin the evaluation process, evaluators meet with teachers, in a group or individually, to discuss the evaluation process and their roles and responsibilities within it. In this meeting, they will discuss any school or district priorities that should be reflected in teacher practice goals and student learning objectives (SLOs), and they will commit to set time aside for the types of collaboration required by the evaluation process.
2. *Teacher Reflection and Goal-Setting* – The teacher examines student data, prior year evaluation and survey results and the Connecticut Framework for Teacher Evaluation and Support to draft a proposed performance and practice goal(s), a parent feedback goal, and

student learning objectives (SLOs) for the school year. The teacher may collaborate in grade-level or subject-matter teams to support the goal-setting process.

3. *Goal-Setting Conference* – The evaluator and teacher meet to discuss the teacher’s proposed goals and objectives in order to arrive at mutual agreement about them. The teacher collects evidence about his/her practice and the evaluator collects evidence about the teacher’s practice to support the review. The evaluator may request revisions to the proposed goals and objectives if they do not meet approval criteria.

Mid-Year Check-In:

Timeframe: **January 1st to February 28th**

1. *Reflection and Preparation* – The teacher and evaluator collect and reflect on evidence to date about the teacher’s practice and student learning in preparation for the check-in.
2. *Mid-Year Conference* – The evaluator and teacher complete at least one mid-year check-in conference during which they review progress on teacher practice goals, student learning objectives (SLOs) and performance on each to date. The mid-year conference is an important point in the year for addressing concerns and reviewing results for the first half of the year. Evaluators can deliver mid-year formative information on components of the evaluation framework for which evidence has been gathered and analyzed. If needed, teachers and evaluators can mutually agree to revisions on the strategies or approaches used and/or mid-year adjustment of SLOs to accommodate changes (e.g., student populations, assignment). They also discuss actions that the teacher can take and supports the evaluator can provide to promote teacher growth in his/her development areas.

End-of-Year Summative Review:

Timeframe: May 15th to June 30th; must be completed by **June 30**

1. *Teacher Self-Assessment* – The teacher reviews all information and data collected during the year and completes a self-assessment for review by the evaluator. This self-assessment may focus specifically on the areas for development established in the goal-setting conference.
2. *Scoring* – The evaluator reviews submitted evidence, self-assessments and observation data to generate category and focus area ratings. The category ratings generate the final, summative rating. After all data, including state test data, are available, the evaluator may adjust the summative rating if the state test data change the student-related indicators significantly to change the final rating. Such revisions should take place as soon as state test data are available and before September 15.
3. *End-of-Year Conference* – The evaluator and the teacher meet to discuss all evidence collected to date and to discuss category ratings. Following the conference, the evaluator

assigns a summative rating and generates a summary report of the evaluation before the end of the school year and before June 30.

Primary and Complementary Evaluators

The primary evaluator for most teachers will be the school principal or assistant principal or district administrator, who will be responsible for the overall evaluation process, including assigning summative ratings. Complementary evaluators may be used to assist the primary evaluator. Complementary evaluators are certified teachers, although they may also have administrative certification. They may have specific content knowledge, such as department heads or curriculum coordinators. Complementary evaluators should be trained as evaluators in order to be authorized to serve in this role.

Complementary evaluators may assist primary evaluators by conducting observations, collecting additional evidence, reviewing student learning objectives (SLOs) and providing additional feedback. A complementary evaluator should share his/her feedback with the primary evaluator as it is collected and shared with teachers.

Primary evaluators will have sole responsibility for assigning final summative ratings and must achieve proficiency on the training modules provided.

Ensuring Fairness and Accuracy: Evaluator Training, Monitoring and Auditing

All evaluators, including complementary observers, are required to complete extensive training on the SEED evaluation and support model. The purpose of training is to provide educators who evaluate instruction with the tools that will result in evidence based classroom observation; professional learning opportunities tied to evaluation feedback and improved student performance. The CSDE will provide districts with training opportunities to support district administrators, evaluators and teachers in implementing the model across their schools. Districts can adapt and build on these tools to provide comprehensive training and support to their schools and to ensure that evaluators are proficient in conducting teacher evaluations.

Winchester Schools Administrators have adopted the SEED model and are expected to engage in the CSDE sponsored one day training. This comprehensive training will give evaluators the opportunity to:

- Understand the nature of learning for students and educators and its relation to the priorities of the *CCT Rubric for Effective Teaching 2015*;
- Establish a common language that promotes professionalism and a culture for learning through the lens of the *CCT Rubric for Effective Teacher 2015*;
- Understand how coaching conversations support growth-producing feedback;
- Establish inter-rater reliability through calibrations of observer interpretations of evidence and judgments of teaching practice; and
- Collaborate with colleagues to deepen understanding of the content.

Participants in the training will have opportunities to interact with colleagues and engage in practice and proficiency exercises to:

- Deepen understanding of the evaluation criteria;
- Define proficient teaching;
- Collect, sort and analyze evidence across a continuum of performance;
- Engage in professional conversations and coaching scenarios; and
- Determine a final summative rating across multiple indicators.

Completion of the multi-day training and demonstration of proficiency using established criteria enable evaluators to begin to engage in the evaluation and support process.

PLEASE NOTE: School districts who have a locally-developed evaluation and support plan can also choose to participate in the CSDE sponsored training opportunities for evaluators, however, if training opportunities are internally developed or contracted with a reputable vendor, the following are points for consideration:

Points for District Consideration

- Development or selection of an evaluation framework/rubric to measure and provide feedback on teacher performance and practice
- Identification of criteria for demonstrating proficiency as an evaluator
- Provision of ongoing calibration activities
- Determination of training and frequency for proficiency status renewal

At the request of a district or employee, the CSDE or a thirdparty entity approved by the CSDE will audit the evaluation components that are combined to determine an individual's summative rating in the event that such components are significantly dissimilar (i.e., include both *exemplary* and *below standard* ratings) ratings in different components. In these cases, the CSDE or a third-party entity will determine a final summative rating. Additionally, there is an annual audit of evaluations. "The CSDE or a third-party designated by the CSDE will audit ratings of *exemplary* and *below standard ratings* by selecting ten districts at random annually and reviewing evaluation evidence files for a minimum of two educators rated *exemplary* and two educators rated *below standard* in those districts selected at random, including at least one classroom teacher rated *exemplary* and at least one teacher rated below standard per district selected." Connecticut Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2.8 (3)

SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

As a standalone, evaluation cannot hope to improve teaching practice and student learning. However, when paired with effective, relevant and timely support, the evaluation process has the potential to help move teachers along the path to exemplary practice.

Evaluation-Based Professional Learning

In any sector, people learn and grow by honestly co-assessing current performance, setting clear goals for future performance, and outlining the supports they need to close the gap. In this plan, every teacher will be identifying his or her professional learning needs in mutual agreement between the teacher and his/her evaluator. This process serves as the foundation for ongoing conversations about the teacher's practice and impact on student outcomes. The professional learning opportunities identified for each teacher should be based on the individual strengths and needs that are identified through the evaluation process. The process may also reveal areas of common need among teachers, which can then be targeted with school-wide professional development opportunities.

Improvement and Remediation Plans

If a teacher's performance is rated as *developing* or *below standard*, it signals the need for the administrator to create an individual teacher improvement and remediation plan. The improvement and remediation plan should be developed in consultation with the teacher and his/her exclusive bargaining representative. Improvement and remediation plans must:

- identify resources, support and other strategies to be provided to address documented deficiencies;
- indicate a timeline for implementing such resources, support and other strategies, in the course of the same school year as the plan is issued; and
- include indicators of success including a summative rating of *proficient* or better at the conclusion of the improvement and remediation plan.

Career Development and Growth

Rewarding exemplary performance identified through the evaluation process with opportunities for career development and professional growth is a critical step in both building confidence in the evaluation system itself and in building the capacity of all teachers.

Examples of such opportunities include, but are not limited to: observation of peers; mentoring early-career teachers; participating in development of teacher improvement and remediation plans for peers whose performance is *developing* or *below standard*; leading Professional Learning Communities; differentiated career pathways; and focused professional development based on goals for continuous growth and development.

TEACHER PRACTICE RELATED INDICATORS

The Teacher Practice Related Indicators half of the teacher evaluation model evaluates the teacher's knowledge of a complex set of skills and competencies and how these are applied in a teacher's practice. It is comprised of two categories:

- Teacher Performance and Practice, which counts for 40%; and
- Parent Feedback, which counts for 10%.

These categories will be described in detail below.

Category #1: Teacher Performance and Practice (40%)

The Teacher Performance and Practice category of the model is a comprehensive review of teaching practice against a rubric of practice, based on multiple observations. It comprises 40% of the summative rating. Following observations, evaluators provide teachers with specific feedback to identify teacher development needs and tailor support to those needs.

Teacher Practice Framework

A diverse group of Connecticut stakeholders reviewed the research and options for a framework of teaching practice and chose to adopt the Connecticut Common Core of Teaching (CCT) standards. The resulting rubric, The Standards for Educator Performance and Practice (see Appendix D), represents the most important skills and knowledge that teachers need to successfully educate each and every one of their students.

The Standards for Educator Performance and Practice is organized into six domains, each with 3-4 components:

Domain 1: Content and Essential Skills

Knowledge and performance related to "Content and Essential Skills" are documented in Domains 1-4.

Observation Process

Research, such as the Gates Foundation's *Measures of Effective Teaching* study, has shown that multiple snapshots of practice conducted by multiple observers provide a more accurate picture of

teacher performance than one or two observations per year. These observations don't have to cover an entire lesson to be valid. Partial period observations can provide valuable information and save observers precious time.

Observations in and of themselves aren't useful to teachers – it's the feedback based on observations that helps teachers to reach their full potential. All teachers deserve the opportunity to grow and develop through observations and timely feedback. In fact, teacher surveys conducted nationally demonstrate that most teachers are eager for more observations and feedback that they can then incorporate into their practice throughout the year.

Therefore, in the teacher evaluation model:

- Teachers who receive and maintain an annual summative performance evaluation designation of proficient or exemplary (or the equivalent annual summative rating in a pre-existing district evaluation plan) during the 2012-13 or any subsequent school year and who are not first or second year teachers shall be evaluated with a minimum of one formal in-class observation no less frequently than once every three years, and three informal in-class observations conducted in accordance with Section 2.3(2)(b)(1) and 2.3(2)(b)(2) in all other years and shall complete one review of practice every year. See 2.0(c) for complete language.
 - o **Formal:** Scheduled observations or reviews of practice² that last at least 30 minutes and are followed by a post-observation conference, which includes both written and verbal feedback.
 - o **Informal:** Non-scheduled observations or reviews of practice that last at least 10 minutes and are followed by written and/or verbal feedback.
- All observations should be followed by feedback, either verbal (e.g., a post-conference, conversation in the hallway) or written (e.g., via email, comprehensive write-up, quick note in mailbox) or both, within two days of an observation.
- In order to capture an authentic view of practice and to promote a culture of openness and comfort with frequent observations and feedback, it's recommended that the majority of observations be unannounced.
- Districts and principals can use their discretion to decide the right number of observations for each teacher based on school and staff needs and in accordance with the Guidelines for Educator Evaluation. A summary of requirements are below:

Teacher Category	Guideline Requirements
Non-tenured Teachers Year 1 and 2 Teachers	At least 3 formal in-class observations; 2 of which include a pre-conference and all of which include a post-conference
<i>Below Standard and Developing</i>	At least 3 formal in-class observations; 2 of which include a pre-conference and all of which must include a post-conference

<i>Proficient and Exemplary in Years 3 and beyond</i>	Minimum of 1 formal in class observation no less frequently than once every 3 years and three informal in-class observations in the other years. There shall be one review of practice every year.
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Pre-conferences and Post-Conferences

Pre-conferences are valuable for giving context for the lesson and information about the students to be observed and for setting expectations for the observation process. Pre-conferences are optional for observations except where noted in the requirements. A pre-conference can be held with a group of teachers, where appropriate.

²Examples of non-classroom observations or reviews of practice include but are not limited to: observation of data team meetings, observations of coaching/mentoring other teachers, review of lesson plans or other teaching artifacts see page 14 for more detail.

Post-conferences provide a forum for reflecting on the observation against the Connecticut Standards for Educator Performance and Practice (a continuum Based on the Connecticut Common Core of Teaching) and for generating action steps that will lead to the teacher's improvement. A good post-conference:

- begins with an opportunity for the teacher to share his/her self-assessment of the lesson observed;
- cites objective evidence to paint a clear picture for both the teacher and the evaluator about the teacher's successes, what improvements will be made, and where future observations may focus;
- involves written and verbal feedback from the evaluator; and
- occurs within two days of the observation.

Classroom observations provide the most evidence for domains 1 through 3 of the Connecticut Standards for Educator Performance and Practice, but both pre-and post-conferences provide the opportunity for discussion of all four domains, including practice outside of classroom instruction (e.g., lesson plans, reflections on teaching).

Non-Classroom Reviews of Practice

Because the new evaluation model aims to provide teachers with comprehensive feedback on their practice as defined by the six domains of the Connecticut Standards for Educator Performance and Practice, all interactions with teachers that are relevant to their instructional practice and professional conduct may contribute to their performance evaluations. These interactions may include, but are not limited to, reviews of lesson/unit plans and assessments, planning meetings, data team meetings, professional learning community meetings, call-logs or notes from parent-teacher meetings, observations of coaching/mentoring other teachers, and attendance records from professional development or school-based activities/events.

Feedback

The goal of feedback is to help teachers grow as educators and become more effective with each and every one of their students. With this in mind, evaluators should be clear and direct, presenting their comments in a way that is supportive and constructive. Feedback should include:

- specific evidence and ratings, where appropriate, on observed components of the Connecticut Standards for Educator Performance and Practice;
- prioritized commendations and recommendations for development actions;
- next steps and supports the teacher can pursue to improve his/her practice; and
- a timeframe for follow up.

Providing both verbal and written feedback after an observation is ideal, but school leaders are encouraged to discuss feedback preferences and norms with their staff.

Teacher Performance and Practice Goal-Setting

As described in the Evaluation Process and Timeline section, teachers develop one to two practice and performance goals that are aligned to the Connecticut Standards for Educator Performance and Practice. These goals provide a focus for the observations and feedback conversations.

At the start of the year, each teacher will work with his or her evaluator to develop their practice and performance goal(s) through mutual agreement. All goals should have a clear link to student achievement and should move the teachers towards *proficient* or *exemplary* on Connecticut Standards for Educator Performance and Practice. Schools may decide to create a school-wide goal aligned to a particular component (e.g., 3b: Using Questioning and Discussion Techniques) that all teachers will include as one of their goals.

Goals should be SMART:

S=Specific and Strategic

M=Measurable

A=Aligned and Attainable

R=Results-Oriented

T=Time-Bound

SMART Goal Example for Teacher Performance and Practice (40%):

By June 2016, I will use higher-order thinking questioning and discussion techniques to actively engage at least 85% of my students in discussions that promote understanding of content, interaction among students and opportunities to extend thinking.

Additional information on SMART goals can be found in Appendix C: Template for Setting SMART Goals. Progress towards goals and action steps for achieving progress should be referenced in feedback conversations following observations throughout the year. Goals and action steps should be formally discussed during the Mid-Year Conference and the End-of-Year Conference. Although performance and practice goals are not explicitly rated as part of the Teacher Performance and Practice category, progress on goals will be reflected in the scoring of Teacher Performance and Practice evidence.

Teacher Performance and Practice Scoring

Individual Observations

Evaluators are not required to provide an overall rating for each observation, but they should provide ratings and evidence for the Framework components that were observed. During observations, evaluators should take evidence-based, scripted notes, capturing specific instances of what the teacher and students said and did in the classroom. Evidence-based notes are factual (e.g., the teacher asks: Which events precipitated the fall of Rome?) and not judgmental (e.g., the teacher asks good questions). Once the evidence has been recorded, the evaluator can align the evidence with the appropriate component(s) on the rubric and then make a judgment about which performance level the evidence supports.

Summative Observation of Teacher Performance and Practice Rating

At the end of the year, primary evaluators must determine a final teacher performance and practice rating and discuss this rating with teachers during the End-of-Year Conference. The final teacher performance and practice rating will be calculated by the evaluator in a three-step process:

- 1) Evaluator holistically reviews evidence collected through observations and interactions (e.g., team meetings, conferences) and uses professional judgment to determine component ratings for each of the 12 components.
- 2) Average components within each domain to a tenth of a decimal to calculate domain-level scores of 1.0-4.0.
- 3) Apply domain weights to domain scores to calculate an overall Observation of Teacher Performance and Practice rating of 1.0-4.0

Each step is illustrated below:

- 1) Evaluator holistically reviews evidence collected through observations and interactions and uses professional judgment to determine component ratings for each of the 18 components.

By the end of the year, evaluators should have collected a variety of evidence on teacher practice from the year's observations and interactions. Evaluators then analyze the consistency, trends, and significance of the evidence to determine a rating for each of the 18 components. Some questions to consider while analyzing the evidence include:

Consistency: What rating have I seen relatively uniform, homogenous evidence for throughout the semester? Does the evidence paint a clear, unambiguous picture of the teacher's performance in this area?

Trends: Have I seen improvement over time that overshadows earlier observation outcomes? Have I seen regression or setbacks over time that overshadows earlier observation outcomes?

Significance: Are some data more valid than others? (Do I have notes or ratings from "meatier" lessons or interactions where I was able to better assess this aspect of performance?)

Once a rating has been determined, it is then translated to a 1-4 score. *Below Standard* = 1 and *Exemplary* = 4. See example below for Domain 1:

Domain 1	Rating	Evaluator's Score
1a	<i>Developing</i>	2
1b	<i>Developing</i>	2
1c	<i>Proficient</i>	3
1d	<i>Exemplary</i>	4

- 2) Average components with each domain to a tenth of a decimal to calculate domain-level scores:

Domain	Averaged Score
1	2.8
2	2.6
3	3.0
4	2.8

- 3) Apply domain weights to domain scores to calculate an overall observation of Teacher Performance and Practice rating of 1.0-4.0.

Each of the domain ratings is weighted according to importance and summed to form one overall rating. Strong instruction and a positive classroom environment are major factors in improving student outcomes. Therefore, Domains 2 and 3 are weighted significantly more at 35%. Planning and Professional Responsibilities are weighted 15%.

Domain	Score	Weighting	Weighted Score
1	2.8	15%	0.4
2	2.6	35%	0.9
3	3.0	35%	1.1
4	2.8	15%	0.4
Total			2.8

Steps 2 and 3 can be performed by district administrators and/or using tools/technology that calculates the averages for the evaluator.

The summative Teacher Performance and Practice category rating and the component ratings will be shared and discussed with teachers during the End-of-Year Conference. This process can also be followed in advance of the Mid-Year Conference to discuss progress toward Teacher Performance and Practice goals/outcomes.

Category #2: Parent Feedback (10%)

Feedback from parents will be used to help determine the remaining 10% of the Teacher Practice Indicators focus area of this plan.

The process described below focuses on:

- (1) conducting a whole-school parent survey (meaning data is aggregated at the school level);
- (2) determining several school-level parent goals based on the survey feedback;
- (3) teacher and evaluator identifying one related parent engagement goal and setting improvement targets;
- (4) measuring progress on growth targets; and
- (5) determining a teacher's summative rating. This parent feedback rating shall be based on four performance levels.

1. Administration of a Whole-School Parent Survey

Parent surveys should be conducted at the whole-school level as opposed to the teacher-level, meaning parent feedback will be aggregated at the school level. This is to ensure adequate response rates from parents.

Parent surveys must be administered in a way that allows parents to feel comfortable providing feedback without fear of retribution. Surveys should be confidential and survey responses should not be tied to parents' names. The parent survey should be administered every spring (by May 15th) and trends analyzed from year-to-year.

NOTE: CSDE recognizes that in the first year of implementation, baseline parent feedback may not be available. Teachers can set a goal based on previously-collected parent feedback, or if none is available, teachers can set a parent *engagement* goal that is not based on formal parent feedback.

The district may use the current school climate survey or use existing survey instruments. School districts are encouraged to work closely with teachers to develop the survey and interpret results. Parent representatives may be included in the process, but if a school governance council exists, the council must be included in this process. Parent surveys deployed by districts should be valid (that is, the instrument measures what it is intended to measure) and reliable (that is, the use of the instrument is consistent among those using it and is consistent over time).

2. Determining School-Level Parent Goals

Principals and teachers should review the parent survey results at the beginning of the school year to identify areas of need and set general parent engagement goals based on the survey results. Ideally, this goal-setting process would occur between the principal and teachers (possibly during faculty meetings) in August or September so agreement could be reached on 2-3 improvement goals for the entire school.

3. Selecting a Parent Engagement Goal and Improvement Targets

After these school-level goals have been set, teachers will determine through consultation and mutual agreement with their evaluators one related parent goal they would like to pursue as part of their evaluation. Possible goals include improving communication with parents, helping parents become more effective in support of homework, improving parent-teacher conferences, etc. Review the Safe School Climate Survey for Parents that can be used to inspire goals.

Teachers will also set improvement targets related to the goal they select. For instance, if the goal is to improve parent communication, an improvement target could be specific to sending more regular correspondence to parents such as sending bi-weekly updates to parents or developing a new website for their class. Part of the evaluator's job is to ensure (1) the goal is related to the overall school improvement parent goals, and (2) that the improvement targets are aligned and attainable.

4. Measuring Progress on Growth Targets

Teachers and their evaluators should use their judgment in setting growth/improvement targets for the parent feedback category. There are two ways a teacher can measure and demonstrate progress on their growth targets. A teacher can (1) measure how successfully they implement a strategy to address an area of need (like the examples in the previous section), and/or (2) they can collect evidence directly from parents to measure parent-level indicators they generate. For example, a teacher could conduct interviews with parents or a brief parent survey to see if they improved on their growth target.

5. Arriving at a Parent Feedback Rating

The Parent Feedback rating should reflect the degree to which a teacher successfully reaches his/her parent goal and improvement targets. This is accomplished through a review of evidence provided by the teacher and application of the following scale:

Exemplary (4)	Proficient (3)	Developing (2)	Below Standard (1)
Exceeded the goal	Met the goal	Partially met the goal	Did not meet the goal

STUDENT OUTCOMES RELATED INDICATORS

The Student Outcomes Related Indicators half of this plan captures the teacher’s impact on students. Every teacher is in the profession to help children learn and grow, and teachers already think carefully about what knowledge, skills and talents they are responsible for nurturing in their students each year. As a part of this process, teachers will document those aspirations and anchor them in data.

Student Related Indicators includes two categories:

- Student growth and development, which counts for 45%; and
- *Either* whole-school student learning *or* student feedback *or* a combination of the two, which counts for 5% of the total evaluation rating.

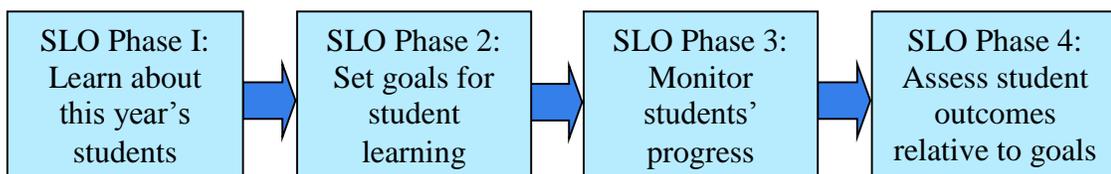
These categories will be described in detail below.

Category #3: Student Growth and Development (45%)

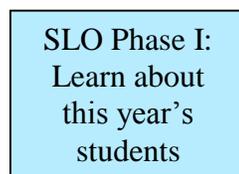
Overview of Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

Each teacher’s students, individually and as a group, are different from other teachers’ students, even in the same grade level or subject at the same school. For student growth and development to be measured for teacher evaluation purposes, it is imperative to use a method that takes each teacher’s assignment, students and context into account. Connecticut, like many other states and localities around the nation, has selected a goal-setting process called Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) as the approach for measuring student growth during the school year.

SLOs will support teachers in using a planning cycle that will be familiar to most educators:



While this process should feel generally familiar, this plan will ask teachers to set more specific and measureable targets than they may have done in the past, and to develop them through consultation with colleagues in the same grade level or teaching the same subject and through mutual agreement with supervisors. The four SLO phases are described in detail below:



This first phase is the discovery phase, just before the start of the school year and in its first few weeks. Once teachers know their rosters, they will access as much information as possible about their new students’ baseline skills and abilities, relative to the grade level or course the teacher is teaching. End-of-year tests from the prior spring, prior grades, benchmark assessments and quick demonstration

assessments are all examples of sources teachers can tap to understand both individual student and group strengths and challenges. This information will be critical for goal setting in the next phase.

Each teacher, through mutual agreement with his/her evaluator, will select either 1 or 2 goal / objectives for student growth. If one goal/objective, each teacher, through mutual agreement with his/her evaluator, will select multiple Indicators of Academic Growth and Development (IAGD). See 2.9(a) for complete language.

One half (22.5%) of the indicators of academic growth and development used as evidence of whether goals/objectives are met shall not be determined by a single isolated standardized test score, but shall be determined through the comparison of data across assessments administered over time, including the state test for those teaching tested grades and subjects or another standardized indicator for other grades and subjects where available. A state test can be used only if there are interim assessments that lead to that test, and such interim assessments shall be included in the overall score for those teaching tested grades and subjects. Those without an available standardized indicator will select, through mutual agreement subject to the local dispute-resolution process of the Guidelines for Educator Evaluation, an additional non-standardized indicator (*see Appendix 2*).

A minimum of 1 non-standardized indicator must be used in rating 22.3% of IAGDs (e.g. performances rated against a rubric, portfolio rated against a rubric, etc.).

One half (22.5%) of the indicators of academic growth and development used as evidence of whether goals/objectives are met shall not be determined by a single isolated standardized test score, but shall be determined through the comparison of data across assessments administered over time, including the state test for those teaching tested grades and subjects or another standardized indicator for other grades and subjects where available. A state test can be used only if there are interim assessments that lead to that test, and such interim assessments shall be included in the overall score for those teaching tested grades and subjects. Those without an available standardized indicator will select, through mutual agreement subject to the local dispute-resolution process of the Guidelines for Educator Evaluation, an additional non-standardized indicator (*see Appendix 2*).

A minimum of 1 non-standardized indicator must be used in rating 22.3% of IAGDs (e.g. performances rated against a rubric, portfolio rated against a rubric, etc.).

SLO Phase 2:
Set 2 SLOs
(goals for learning)

Each teacher will write 1 to 2 Student Growth Goals as measured by Indicators of Academic Growth and Development (IAGDs). If two goals/objectives, only one IAGD is necessary for each goal/objective.

This plan uses a specific definition of “standardized assessment.” As stated in the CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation, a standardized assessment is characterized by the following attributes:

- o Administered and scored in a consistent – or “standard” – manner;
- o Aligned to a set of academic or performance “standards;”
- o Broadly-administered (e.g., nation-or statewide);
- o Commercially-produced; and
- o Often administered only once a year, although some standardized assessments are administered two or three times per year.

To create their SLOs, teachers will follow these four steps:

Step 1: Decide on the Student Learning Objectives

The objectives will be broad goals for student learning. They should each address a central purpose of the teacher’s assignment and it should pertain to a large proportion of his/her students. Each SLO should reflect high expectations for student learning - at least a year’s worth of growth (or a semester’s worth for shorter courses) – and should be aligned to relevant state, national (e.g., common core), or district standards for the grade level or course. Depending on the teacher’s assignment, the objective might aim for content mastery (more likely at the secondary level) or it might aim for skill development (more likely at the elementary level or in arts classes).

Teachers are encouraged to collaborate with grade-level and/or subject-matter colleagues in the creation of SLOs. Teachers with similar assignments may have identical objectives although they will be individually accountable for their own students’ results.

The following are examples of SLOs based on student data:

Teacher Category	Student Learning Objective
6th Grade Science	My students will master critical concepts of science inquiry.
Art	All of my students will demonstrate proficiency in applying the five principles of drawing.

Step 2: Select Indicators of Academic Growth and Development (IAGDs)

An Indicator of Academic Growth and Development (IAGD) is the specific evidence, with a quantitative target, that will demonstrate whether the objective was met. Each SLO must include at least one indicator.

Each indicator should make clear (1) what evidence will be examined, (2) what level of performance is targeted, and (3) what proportion of students is projected to achieve the targeted performance level. Indicators can also address student subgroups, such as high or low-performing students or ELL students. It is through the Phase I examination of student data that teachers will determine what level of performance to target for which students. The Template for Setting SMART Goals should be referenced as a resource for setting SLOs/IAGDs (Appendix C).

Since indicator targets are calibrated for the teacher’s particular students, teachers with similar assignments may use the same evidence for their indicators, but they would be unlikely to have

identical targets. For example, all 2nd grade teachers in a district might use the same reading assessment as their IAGD, but the performance target and/or the proportion of students expected to achieve proficiency would likely vary among 2nd grade teachers.

NOTE: For 4th through 8th grade teachers of English/Language Arts and Math, teachers are encouraged to use the CMT vertical scale scores to set growth targets.

Taken together, an SLO's indicators, if achieved, would provide evidence that the objective was met. Here are some examples of indicators that might be applied to the previous SLO examples:

Sample SLO-Standardized IAGD(s)

Teacher Category	Student Learning Objective	Indicators of Academic Growth and Development (<i>at least one is required</i>)
6th Grade Science	My students will master critical concepts of science inquiry.	1. 78% of my students will score at the proficient or higher level on the science CMT in March 2013.
4th Grade	My 22 students will demonstrate improvement in or mastery of reading comprehension skills by June 2013.	1. All 17 (77%) students assessed on the standard CMT will maintain proficiency, goal or advanced performance, or will gain a proficiency band on 4th grade CMT Reading in March 2013. 2. All 5 students (23%) assessed on the MAS for Reading CMT will achieve at the proficient or goal level on 4th grade CMT Reading MAS in March 2013.

Sample SLO-Non-Standardized IAGD(s)

Teacher Category	Student Learning Objective	Indicators of Academic Growth and Development (<i>at least one is required</i>)
6th Grade Science	My students will master critical concepts of science inquiry.	1. My students will design an experiment that incorporates the key principles of science inquiry. 90% will score a 3 or 4 on a scoring rubric focused on the key elements of science inquiry.
Art	My students will demonstrate proficiency in applying the five principles of drawing.	1. 85% of students will attain a 3 or 4 in at least 4 of 5 categories on the principles of drawing rubric designed by visual arts teachers in our district.

Step 3: Provide Additional Information

During the goal-setting process, teachers and evaluators will document the following:

- the rationale for the objective, including relevant standards;
- any important technical information about the indicator evidence (like timing or scoring plans);
- the baseline data that was used to set each IAGD;
- interim assessments the teacher plans to use to gauge students' progress toward the SLO during the school year (optional); and
- any training or support the teacher thinks would help improve the likelihood of meeting the SLO (optional).

Step 4: Submit SLOs to Evaluator for Approval

SLOs are proposals until the evaluator approves them. While teachers and evaluators should confer during the goal-setting process to select mutually agreed-upon SLOs, ultimately, the evaluator must formally approve all SLO proposals.

The evaluator will examine each SLO relative to three criteria described below. SLOs must meet all three criteria to be approved. If they do not meet one or more criteria, the evaluator will provide written comments and discuss their feedback with the teacher during the fall Goal-Setting Conference. SLOs that are not approved must be revised and resubmitted to the evaluator within ten days.

SLO Approval Criteria

Priority of Content	Quality of Indicators	Rigor of Objective/Indicators
Objective is deeply relevant to teacher's assignment and addresses a large proportion of his/her students.	Indicators provide specific, measurable evidence. The indicators provide evidence about students' progress over the school year or semester during which they are with the teacher.	Objective and indicator(s) are attainable but ambitious and taken together, represent at least a year's worth of growth for students (or appropriate growth for a shorter interval of instruction).

**SLO Phase 3:
Monitor
students’
progress**

Once SLOs are approved, teachers should monitor students’ progress towards the objectives. They can, for example, examine student work products, administer interim assessments and track students’ accomplishments and struggles. Teachers can share their interim findings with colleagues during collaborative time, and they can keep their evaluator apprised of progress.

If a teacher’s assignment changes or if his/her student population shifts significantly, the SLOs can be adjusted during the Mid-Year Conference between the evaluator and the teacher.

**SLO Phase 4:
Assess student
outcomes relative to
SLOs**

At the end of the school year, the teacher should collect the evidence required by their indicators and submit it to their evaluator. Along with the evidence, teachers will complete and submit a self assessment which asks teachers to reflect on the SLO outcomes by responding to the following four statements:

1. Describe the results and provide evidence for each indicator.
2. Provide your overall assessment of whether this objective was met.
3. Describe what you did that produced these results.
4. Describe what you learned and how you will use that going forward.

Evaluators will review the evidence and the teacher’s self-assessment and assign one of four ratings to each SLO: Exceeded (4 points), Met (3 points), Partially Met (2 points), or Did Not Meet (1 point). These ratings are defined as follows:

Exceeded (4)	All or most students met or substantially exceeded the target(s) contained in the indicator(s).
Met (3)	Most students met the target(s) contained in the indicators within a few points on either side of the target(s).
Partially Met (2)	Many students met the target(s) but a notable percentage missed the target by more than a few points. However, taken as a whole, significant progress towards the goal was made.
Did Not Meet (1)	A few students met the target(s) but a substantial percentage of students did not. Little progress toward the goal was made.

For SLOs with more than one indicator, the evaluator may score each indicator separately, and then average those scores for the SLO score, or he/she can look at the results as a body of evidence regarding the accomplishment of the objective and score the SLO holistically.

The final student growth and development rating for a teacher is the average of their two SLO scores. For example, if one SLO was Partially Met, for 2 points, and the other SLO was Met, for 3 points, the student growth and development rating would be 2.5 $[(2+3)/2]$. The individual SLO ratings and the student growth and development rating will be shared and discussed with teachers during the End-of-Year Conference.

NOTE: For SLOs that include an indicator based on state standardized tests, results may not be available in time to score the SLO prior to the June 30 deadline. In this instance, if evidence for other indicators in the SLO is available, the evaluator can score the SLO on that basis. Or, if state tests are the basis for all indicators, then the teacher's student growth and development rating will be based only on the results of the SLO that is based on non-standardized indicators.

However, once the state test evidence is available, the evaluator is required to score or rescore the SLO, then determine if the new score changes the teacher's final (summative) rating. The evaluation rating can be amended at that time as needed, but no later than September 15. See Summative Teacher Evaluation Scoring for details.

Category #4: Whole-School Student Learning Indicator and/or Student Feedback (5%)

Districts can decide to use a whole-school student learning indicator (option 1), student feedback (option 2), or a combination of the two (option 3) to determine this fourth category of SEED.

Option 1: Whole-School Student Learning Indicator

For districts that include the whole-school student learning indicator in teacher evaluations, a teacher's indicator rating shall be equal to the aggregate rating for multiple student learning indicators established for the principal's evaluation rating at that school. For most schools, this will be based on the school performance index (SPI), which correlates to the whole-school student learning on a principal's evaluation.

Option 2: Student Feedback

Districts can use feedback from students, collected through whole-school or teacher-level surveys, to comprise this category of a teacher's evaluation rating.

Research, including the Gates Foundation's *Measures of Effective Teaching* study, has shown that student surveys can be valid and reliable indicators of teacher performance and that student feedback about a teacher is correlated with student performance in that class. Additionally, student surveys provide teachers with actionable information they can use to improve their practice – feedback that teachers would not necessarily receive elsewhere in the evaluation process.

Some educators express concerns about student surveys, including that student survey instruments must not be “popularity contests” and that students must take the surveys seriously. The following implementation approach, drawn from best practices across the country, can mitigate these issues. School districts are encouraged to work closely with their teachers on the development of the student survey category.

Eligible Teachers and Alternative Measures

Student surveys will not be applicable and appropriate for all teachers. Ultimately, school districts should use their judgment in determining whether student surveys should be included in a particular teacher's summative rating. Here are important guidelines to consider:

- Students in grades K-3 should not be surveyed unless an age-appropriate instrument is available.
- Special education students who would not be able to respond to the survey, even with accommodations, should not be surveyed.
- Surveys should not be used to evaluate a teacher if fewer than 15 students would be surveyed or if fewer than 13 students ultimately complete the survey.

When student surveys are not appropriate for a particular teacher, the 5% allocated for student feedback should be replaced with the whole-school student learning indicator described in Option #1.

Survey Instruments

Districts may use these surveys, use existing survey instruments, or develop their own. Student survey instruments should be aligned to the Connecticut Common Core of Teaching (CCT) and the Connecticut Standards for Educator Performance and Practice, whenever possible.

Districts may choose to use different surveys for different grade levels, such as an elementary survey for students in grades 4-6 and a secondary survey for grades 6-12. Districts may also choose to use different surveys for different types of classes. For example, a district might establish a standard survey for all 6-12 classes and then add additional questions for core classes such as English and math.

The surveys selected by a district must be valid (that is, the instrument measures what it is intended to measure) and reliable (that is, the use of the instrument is consistent among those using it and is consistent over time).

Districts are encouraged to use instruments that will offer teachers constructive feedback they can use to improve their practice. Districts may include feedback-only questions that are not used for evaluation purposes and districts may allow individual schools and teachers to add questions to the end of the survey, where feasible.

Survey Administration

Student surveys must be administered in a way that allows students to feel comfortable providing feedback without fear of retribution. Surveys should be confidential, and survey responses must not be tied to students' names.

If a secondary school teacher has multiple class periods, students should be surveyed in all classes. If an elementary school teacher has multiple groups of students, districts should use their judgment in determining whether to survey all students or only a particular group.

Fall Baseline and Feedback Survey

If it is feasible, it is recommended but not required that schools conduct two student feedback surveys each year. The first, administered in the fall, will not affect a teacher's evaluation but could be used as a baseline for that year's targets, instead of using data from the previous school year. The second, administered in the spring, will be used to calculate the teacher's summative rating and provide valuable feedback that will help teachers achieve their goals and grow professionally. Additionally, by using a fall survey as a baseline rather than data from the previous year, teachers will be able to set better goals because the same group of students will be completing both the baseline survey and the final survey. If conducting two surveys in the same academic year is not possible, then teachers should use the previous spring survey to set growth targets.

Establishing Goals

Teachers and their evaluators should use their judgment in setting goals for the student feedback category. In setting a goal, a teacher must decide what he/she wants the goal to focus on. A goal will usually refer to a specific survey question (e.g., "My teacher makes lessons interesting."). However, some survey instruments group questions into categories or topics, such as "Classroom Control" or "Communicating Course Content," and a goal may also refer to a category rather than an individual question.

Additionally, a teacher (or the district) must decide how to measure results for the selected question or topic. CSDE recommends that teachers measure performance in terms of the percentage of students who responded favorably to the question. (Virtually all student survey instruments have two favorable answer choices for each question.) For example, if the survey instrument asks students to respond to questions with “Strongly Disagree,” “Disagree,” “Neutral,” “Agree,” and “Strongly Agree,” performance on a goal would be measured as the percentage of students who responded “Agree” or “Strongly Agree” to the corresponding question. Next, a teacher must set a numeric performance target. As described above, this target should be based on growth or on maintaining performance that is already high. Teachers are encouraged to bear in mind that growth becomes harder as performance increases. For this reason, we recommend that teachers set maintenance of high performance targets (rather than growth targets) when current performance exceeds 70% of students responding favorably to a question.

Finally, where feasible, a teacher may optionally decide to focus a goal on a particular subgroup of students. (Surveys may ask students for demographic information, such as grade level, gender and race.) For example, if a teacher’s fall survey shows that boys give much lower scores than girls in response to the survey question “My teacher cares about me,” the teacher might set a growth goal for how the teacher’s male students respond to that question.

The following are examples of effective goals:

- The percentage of students who “Agree” or “Strongly Agree” with “My teacher believes I can do well” will increase from 50% to 60%.
- The percentage of students who “Agree” or “Strongly Agree” with “My teacher makes what we’re learning interesting” will remain at 75%.
- The percentage of 9th graders who “Agree” or “Strongly Agree” with “I feel comfortable asking my teacher for extra help” will increase from 60% to 70%.

Arriving at a Student Feedback Summative Rating:

In most cases, summative ratings should reflect the degree to which a teacher makes growth on feedback measures, using data from the prior school year or the fall of the current year as a baseline for setting growth targets. For teachers with high ratings already, summative ratings should reflect the degree to which ratings remain high.

This is accomplished in the following steps, undertaken by the teacher being evaluated through mutual agreement with the evaluator:

1. Review survey results from prior period (previous school year or fall survey).
2. Set one measurable goal for growth or performance (see above).
3. Later in the school year, administer surveys to students.
4. Aggregate data and determine whether the teacher achieved the goal.
5. Assign a summative rating, using the following scale to be discussed and finalized with their evaluator during the End-of-Year Conference.

Exemplary	Proficient	Developing	Below Standard
Exceeded the goal	Met the goal	Partially met the goal	Did not meet the goal

Option 3: Whole-School Student Learning Indicator and Student Feedback

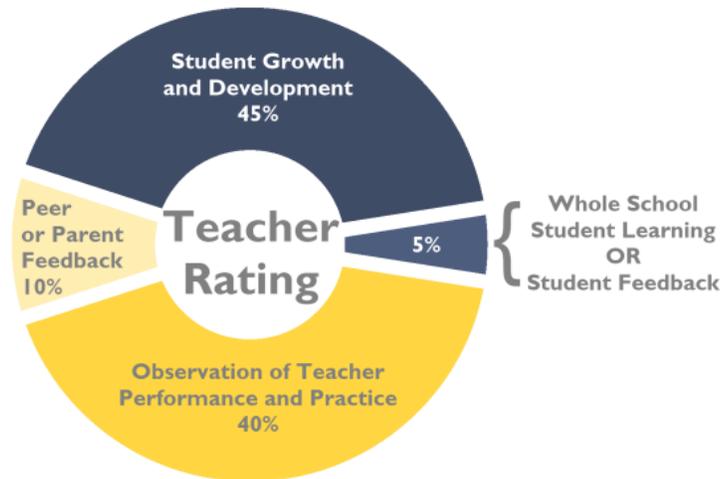
As previously mentioned, districts can use whole-school student learning indicators for certain teachers and feedback from students for others depending on grade level.

NOTE: If the whole-school student learning indicator rating is not available when the summative rating is calculated, then the student growth and development score will be weighted 50 and the whole-school student learning indicator will be weighted 0 (see Summative Teacher Evaluation Scoring- page 36). However, once the state data is available, the evaluator should revisit the final rating and amend at that time as needed, but no later than September 15.

SUMMATIVE TEACHER EVALUATION SCORING

Summative Scoring

The individual summative teacher evaluation rating will be based on the four categories of performance, grouped in two major focus areas: Student Outcomes Related Indicators and Teacher Practice Related Indicators.



Every educator will receive one of four performance ratings:

Exemplary – Substantially exceeding indicators of performance

Proficient – Meeting indicators of performance

Developing – Meeting some indicators of performance but not others

Below Standard – Not meeting indicators of performance

The rating will be determined using the following steps:

- 1) Calculate a Teacher Practice Related Indicators score by combining the observation of teacher performance and practice score and the parent feedback score
- 2) Calculate a Student Outcomes Related Indicators score by combining the student growth and development score and whole-school student learning indicator or student feedback score
- 3) Use Summative Matrix to determine Summative Rating

Each step is illustrated below:

- 1) Calculate a Teacher Practice Related Indicators rating by combining the observation of teacher performance and practice score and the parent feedback score.

The observation of teacher performance and practice counts for 40% of the total rating and parent feedback counts for 10% of the total rating. Simply multiply these weights by the

category scores to get the category points, rounding to a whole number where necessary. The points are then translated to a rating using the rating table below.

Category	Score (1-4)	Weight	Points (score x weight)
Observation of Teacher Performance and Practice	2.8	40	112
Parent Feedback	3	10	30
TOTAL TEACHER PRACTICE RELATED INDICATORS POINTS			142

Rating Table

Teacher Practice Indicators Points	Teacher Practice Indicators Rating
50-80	Below Standard
81-126	Developing
127-174	Proficient
175-200	Exemplary

- 2) Calculate a Student Outcomes Related Indicators rating by combining the student growth and development score and whole-school student learning indicator or student feedback score.

The student growth and development category counts for 45% of the total rating and the whole-school student learning indicator or student feedback category counts for 5% of the total rating. Simply multiply these weights by the category scores to get the focus area points. The points are then translated to a rating using the rating table below.

Category	Score (1-4)	Weight	Points (score x weight)
Student Growth and Development (SLOs)	3.5	45	158
Whole School Student Learning Indicator or Student Feedback	3	5	15
TOTAL STUDENT OUTCOMES RELATED INDICATORS POINTS			173

Rating Table

Student Outcomes Related Indicators Points	Student Outcomes Related Indicators Rating
50-80	Below Standard
81-126	Developing
127-174	Proficient
175-200	Exemplary

3) Use the Summative Matrix to determine Summative Rating

Identify the rating for each focus area and follow the respective column and row to the center of the table. The point of intersection indicates the summative rating. For the example provided, the Teacher Practice Related Indicators rating is *proficient* and the Student Outcomes Related Indicators rating is *proficient*. The summative rating is therefore *proficient*. If the two focus areas are highly discrepant (e.g., a rating of *exemplary* for Teacher Practice and a rating of *below standard* for Student Outcomes), then the evaluator should examine the data and gather additional information in order to make a summative.

		Teacher Practice Related Indicators Rating				
		Exemplary	Proficient	Developing	Below Standard	
Student Outcomes Related Indicators Rating	Exemplary	Exemplary	Exemplary	Proficient	Gather further information	
	Proficient	Proficient	Proficient	Proficient	Gather further information	
	Developing	Proficient	Developing	Developing	Below Standard	
	Below Standard	Gather further information	Below Standard	Below Standard	Below Standard	

Adjustment of Summative Rating Summative ratings must be completed for all teachers by June 30 of a given school year. Should state standardized test data not be available at the time of a final rating, a rating must be completed based on evidence that is available. When the summative rating for a teacher may be significantly impacted by state standardized test data, the evaluator may recalculate the teacher’s summative rating when the data is available and submit the adjusted rating no later than September 15. These adjustments should inform goal setting in the new school year.

Definition of Effectiveness and Ineffectiveness

Each district shall define effectiveness and ineffectiveness utilizing a pattern of summative ratings derived from the new evaluation system. A pattern may consist of a pattern of one. The state model recommends the following patterns:

Novice teachers shall generally be deemed effective if said educator receives at least two sequential *proficient* ratings, one of which must be earned in the fourth year of a novice teacher's career. A *below standard* rating shall only be permitted in the first year of a novice teacher's career, assuming a pattern of growth of *developing* in year two and two sequential *proficient* ratings in years three and four. Superintendents shall offer a contract to any educator he/she deems effective at the end of year four. This shall be accomplished through the specific issuance to that effect.

A post-tenure educator shall generally be deemed ineffective if said educator receives at least two sequential *developing* ratings or one *below standard* rating at any time.

Dispute-Resolution Process

Purpose

This process has been established to resolve conflicts between an employee and her/his evaluator regarding placement in Special Circumstances and/or a summative evaluation. It cannot be used to contest formal or informal evaluations or recommendations for termination and/or nonrenewal. However, this process shall not prevent a teacher/specialist from asserting claims relative to the appraisal of her/his performance in any hearing provided under Connecticut General Statutes 10-151 et seq.

Time Limits

- In that it is important for conflict to be rapidly resolved, the number of days indicated at each step shall be considered maximum. The time limits set may, however, be extended by written agreement of both parties.
- "Days" shall mean days in which the Board of Education office is open.
- If an evaluatee does not initiate the conflict resolution process within ten days of disagreement, s/he shall have waived her/his right to appeal.
- Failure of the evaluatee at any level to appeal to the next level within the specified time shall be deemed to be acceptance of the decision rendered at that level.

Process Steps

1. The evaluatee will meet and discuss the matter with the evaluator for the purpose of informally resolving the matter.
2. When a conflict cannot be resolved between evaluatee and evaluator, the evaluatee may submit a written description of the conflict to the district Professional Growth & Development Committee (PGDC) chairperson within ten days of the signing of the evaluation.
3. Within five days of the receipt of the written description, the PGDC shall establish a Conflict Resolution Panel (CRP) by:

- directing the evaluatee to select a member of the resolution panel;
- directing the evaluator to select a member of the panel;
- selecting the third panel member.

All selections must be made from the current Winchester employees and occur within five days after the panel is convened.

4. Within five days of the CRP selection, the CRP shall meet with both parties. The neutral member shall facilitate the meeting. If, at that meeting, the conflict cannot be resolved, the CRP shall have another ten days to conduct further investigation and submit a written report to the superintendent of schools that recommends a resolution to the conflict. The superintendent shall review the report and the data and make a decision within five days. The superintendent may choose to interview the complainant.

The deadlines outlined in the process shall be adhered to and extended only under unique circumstances mutually agreeable to all parties. Prior to resolution, CRP members shall have no independent or private conversations with either evaluator or evaluatee. In the case where a PGDC member has a conflict of interest regarding a contested summative evaluation or placement, the member(s) shall not serve on the CRP.

Regardless of the level of conflict resolution, the evaluatee has the right to submit a written rebuttal for placement in her/his permanent file.

Appendix A: Key Terms

Academic Achievement

Defined as meeting a uniform and pre-determined level of mastery on subject or grade level standards. Achievement is a set point or “bar” that is the same for all students, regardless of where they begin.

CAPT

The Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) is a statewide assessment to be administered annually to all public school students in Grade 10. The test assesses four content areas: Mathematics, Science, Reading Across the Disciplines (based on a Response to Literature test and a Reading for Information test) and Writing Across Disciplines (based on two Interdisciplinary Writing tests and an Editing and Revising test). Each student who completes the CAPT receives an overall scale score for each of the four content areas. The skills and content assessed by the CAPT are based on Connecticut curriculum frameworks.

CCT

The Connecticut Common Core of Teaching (CCT) articulates essential knowledge, skills and qualities Connecticut teachers need to prepare students to meet the challenges of the 21st century. These foundational skills are grouped into six interrelated domains: (1) Content and Essential Skills, (2) Classroom Environment, Student Engagement and Commitment to Learning, (3) Planning for Active Learning, (4) Instruction for Active Learning, (5) Assessment for Learning; and (6) Professional Responsibilities and Teacher Leadership. The CCT was designed as a guide to help build teacher competence beginning with pre-service and continuing throughout a teacher’s career.

Classroom Assessment

A teacher-developed assessment used by a single teacher for a particular course or group of students. A classroom assessment does not refer to an assessment created by and administered by groups of teachers.

CMT

The Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) is a statewide assessment to be administered annually to all public school students in Grades 3 through 8. The test assesses four content areas: Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science (Grades 5 and 8 only). Each student who completes the CMT receives a total scale score for each content area. The skills and content assessed by the CMT are based on Connecticut curriculum frameworks.

Content Mastery Standard

A score on an assessment that a student must obtain in order to be considered as having achieved mastery. A content mastery standard is typically established somewhere between a passing score and 100%.

DPI

District Performance Index (DPI) indicates overall district-level student performance based on Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) results.

Educator Evaluation and Support System

The evaluation and support system consists of multiple measures to paint an accurate and comprehensive picture of educator performance. All teachers and administrators will be evaluated in four categories, grouped in two major focus areas: Practice Related Indicators and Student Outcomes Related Indicators. The performance levels are defined as:

- Exemplary – Substantially exceeding indicators of performance
- Proficient – Meeting indicators of performance
- Developing – Meeting some indicators of performance but not others
- Below Standard – Not meeting indicators of performance

End-of-Year Conference

The annual evaluation process between a teacher/administrator and evaluator (administrator or designee) is anchored in a minimum of three performance conversations that occur at the beginning, middle and end of the school year. It is expected that the End-of-Year conference will occur in May or June but no later than June 30th. During the End-of-Year conference, the teacher/administrator will present their self-assessment and related documentation for discussion and the evaluator will present his or her evaluation of the teacher/administrator's performance. These conversations are collaborative and require reflection and preparation by both the evaluator and the teacher/administrator in order to be productive and meaningful.

Goal-Setting Conference

The annual evaluation process between a teacher/administrator and evaluator (administrator or designee) is anchored in a minimum of three performance conversations that occur at the beginning, middle and end of the school year. It is expected that the Goal-Setting and Planning conference will occur on or before October 15th but must be completed prior to November 15th. A portion of the conference may include a brief orientation to the new teacher/administrator evaluation process but the main purpose of this conference is for the teacher/administrator and evaluator to discuss school and district priorities and the teacher/administrator's objectives and goals to ensure they are related to school and district priorities.

Growth

Improving skills required to achieve mastery on a subject or grade level standard over a period of time. Growth differentiates mastery expectations based on baseline performance.

IAGD

An Indicator of Academic Growth and Development (IAGD) is the specific evidence, with quantitative targets, that will demonstrate whether a Student Learning Objective (SLO) was met. Each SLO must include at least one IAGD. Each IAGD must make clear (1) what evidence will be examined, (2) what level of performance is targeted and (3) what proportion of students is projected to achieve the targeted performance level.

Improvement and Remediation Plan

If a teacher's performance is rated as developing or below standard, it signals the need for the administrator to create an individual teacher improvement and remediation plan. The improvement and remediation plan should be developed in consultation with the teacher along with his/her exclusive bargaining representative. An improvement and remediation plan must:

- identify resources, support and other strategies to be provided to address documented deficiencies;
- establish a timeline for implementing such resources, support, and other strategies, in the course of the same school year as the plan is issued; and
- include indicators of success including a summative rating of proficient or better at the conclusion of the improvement and remediation plan.

[Mid-Year Check-In](#)

The annual evaluation process between a teacher/administrator and evaluator is anchored in a minimum of three performance conversations that occur at the beginning, middle and end of the school year. The evaluator and teacher/administrator must complete at least one Mid-Year Conference at which they review progress on the teacher/administrator's goals and objectives to date. The Mid-Year Conference is an important point in the year for addressing concerns, reviewing results and adjusting goals and objectives as needed. Evaluators can deliver mid-year formative information on categories of the evaluation framework for which evidence has been gathered and analyzed. If needed, teachers/administrators and evaluators can mutually agree to revise goals and/or objectives.

[Parent Feedback](#)

A whole-school parent survey (data is aggregated at the school level) must be conducted each spring and trends analyzed from year-to-year to inform teacher practice. Parent surveys must be confidential and survey responses should not be tied to parents' names. Survey results may be used to identify a parent engagement goal and related improvement target.

[PEAC](#)

The Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC) is a diverse group of educators who created the Connecticut Guidelines for Educator Evaluation in June 2012. Connecticut's System for Educator Evaluation and Development, SEED, is a new pilot model for the evaluation and development of teachers and is aligned with the Connecticut Guidelines for Educator Evaluation.

[Peer Feedback](#)

Ten Percent of a teacher's evaluation may be based on peer OR parent feedback. Peer feedback can be provided by way of observation or focus groups and must be rated among four performance levels. In the SEED model, the 10% category is represented by parent feedback in lieu of peer feedback.

[Post-Conference](#)

A post-conference follows a formal observation or review of practice and may or may not follow an informal observation or review of practice. Post-conferences provide a forum for reflecting on the observation/review of practice against the CT Framework for Teacher Evaluation and Support and for generating action steps that will lead to the teacher's improvement.

[Pre-Conference](#)

A pre-conference precedes a formal observation or review of practice and allows the teacher to provide the context for the lesson/practice session and information about the students to be observed. It is also an opportunity for the evaluator to set expectations for the observation process.

[Professional Growth Plan](#)

A Professional Growth Plan is co-created with mutual agreement between a teacher and his/her evaluator and serves as the foundation for ongoing conversations about the teacher's practice and

impact on student outcomes. Professional learning opportunities identified in a Professional Growth Plan should be based on the individual strengths and needs of a teacher that are identified through the evaluation process.

School Assessment

Assessments developed by groups of teachers that are mandated or optional for use school-wide (e.g., end-of-course assessment written by science teachers and used in all chemistry courses in the school).

SEED

Connecticut's System for Educator Evaluation and Development, known as SEED, outlines a new model for the evaluation and support of educators in Connecticut and is aligned to the Connecticut Guidelines for Educator Evaluation approved by the State Board of Education on June 27, 2012. Detailed information about the model can be found in the SEED Handbook.

SLO

A Student Learning Objective (SLO) is an academic goal that teachers/administrators and evaluators set for groups of students. In the SEED Handbook, there are differences between how SLOs are defined within the teacher model and the administrator model. The table below outlines these differences.

Administrator SLOs

Administrator SLOs combine the three areas of teacher SLO into one SMART statement. They are written like a SMART goal and include target, measurement and time within a single SLO. They should:

- Align to district and school learning goals
- Provide a measure
- Be written in SMART format
- Focus on priority areas

Teacher SLOs

Teacher SLOs contain three component parts: **Broad goals** for student learning that address a central purpose, **a rationale** that explains why this is an important area of improvement, and **at least one IAGD which is the specific evidence, with a quantitative target**, that will demonstrate whether the objective was met.

SMART Goal

At the start of the school year, each educator will work with his or her evaluator to develop their practice and performance goal(s) and SLOs through mutual agreement. All goals should have a clear link to student achievement and school/district priorities.

Goals should be SMART:

S=Specific and Strategic

M=Measurable

A=Aligned and Attainable

R=Results-Oriented

T=Time-Bound

Smarter Balanced Assessments

Smarter Balanced Assessments go beyond multiple-choice questions to include extended response and technology enhanced items, as well as performance tasks that allow students to demonstrate critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. Performance tasks challenge students to apply their knowledge and skills to respond to complex real-world problems. They can best be described as collections of questions and activities that are coherently connected to a single theme or scenario. These activities are meant to measure capacities such as depth of understanding, writing and research skills, and complex analysis, which cannot be adequately assessed with traditional assessment questions. The performance tasks will be taken on a computer (but will not be computer adaptive) and will take one to two class periods to complete. The Smarter Balanced Assessments are aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and will replace CMT and CAPT assessments.

SPI

SPI is the School Performance Index and indicates overall student performance in a school based on Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) results.

Statewide Assessment

An assessment that is mandated for use state-wide. Currently, Connecticut's statewide summative assessment system consists of the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT), the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT), the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist and the CMT/CAPT Modified Assessment System (MAS).

Student Outcomes Related Indicators

An evaluation of a teacher's contribution to student academic progress, at the school and classroom level. There is an option in this focus area to include student feedback. This focus area is comprised of two categories:

- **Student growth and development (45%)** as determined by academic progress related to a teacher's student learning objectives (SLOs), and
- **Whole-school measure of student learning or student feedback (5%)** as determined by aggregate student learning indicators or student surveys.

Teacher Observations

Each teacher should be observed between five and eight times each year through both formal and informal observation. In the SEED model, formal and informal are defined as follows:

- **Formal:** Scheduled observation or review of practice that lasts at least 30 minutes and is followed by a post-observation conference which includes verbal and written feedback.
- **Informal:** Non-scheduled observation or review of practice that lasts at least 10 minutes and is followed by written and/or verbal feedback.

If a district is implementing the SEED model, it is required that all teachers be observed six times-three formal observations and three informal observations-during the first year of implementation.

Teacher Practice Related Indicators

An evaluation of the core instructional practices and skills that positively affect student learning. In the SEED model, this focus area is comprised of two categories:

- ***Observation of teacher performance and practice (40%)*** as defined in the Connecticut Framework for Teacher Evaluation and Support, which articulates four domains and eighteen components of teacher practice; and
- ***Parent feedback (10%)*** on teacher practice through surveys.

Whole-School Student Learning Indicators

For districts that include whole-school student learning indicators in teacher evaluations, a teacher's indicator ratings shall be represented by the aggregate rating for the multiple student learning indicators established by the administrator's evaluation rating.

Appendix B: Connecticut Common Core of Teaching (Foundational Skills)

http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/educatorstandards/Board_Approved_CCT_2-3-2010.pdf

Appendix C: Template for Setting SMART Goals

The SMART goal-setting process ensures that every goal is measurable and clear. The advantages of the SMART goal-setting process are:

- Provides a structured approach to a complex task;
- Gives a clear framework for creating meaningful and achievable goals;
- Accommodates all kinds of goals;
- Is easy to teach others how to develop;
- Helps to define goals in terms that can be widely understood; and
- Requires thinking through the implementation as well as the outcome.

The characteristics of SMART goals are:

- **Specific and Strategic**
 - The goal should be well defined enough that anyone with limited knowledge of your intent should understand what is to be accomplished.
- **Measurable**
 - Goals need to be linked to some form of a common measure that can be used as a way to track progress toward achieving the goal.
- **Aligned and Attainable**
 - The goal must strike the right balance between being attainable and aligned to standards but lofty enough to impact the desired change.
- **Results-Oriented**
 - All goals should be stated as an outcome or result.
- **Time-Bound**
 - The time frame for achieving the goal must be clear and realistic.

SMART goals Dos and Don'ts

DO:

Create a plan
Start small
Write it down
Be specific
Track your progress
Celebrate your success
Ask for support sooner than later
Make commitments

DON'T:

Expect to accomplish without effort
Focus on too much at once
Forget to make a deadline
Deal in absolutes
Expect perfection
Keep your goal on a shelf
Beat yourself up over shortcomings
Try to accomplish it alone

Forget that you CAN DO IT!