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Domain 1:1b Demonstrating Knowledge of Students

Ineffective

Materials are not organized or based on student need and/or age appropriate Teacher cannot provide student data on goals or skill areas and fails to utilize objective data to report or monitor progress. For example, teacher reports "student is doing a great job." Teacher is unfamiliar with items and/or activities that serve as reinforcers Inclusion decisions and opportunities are not based on individual student data to ensure a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment Teacher has incorrect personal and/or demographic information on formal paperwork An 11th grader is saying animal sounds when shown a picture of an animal (the teacher cannot explain the link between skill and general education curriculum and skill is not age appropriate) (1b.l)

Minimally Effective

Teacher gathers and organizes some materials based on student individualized needs but does not always include age appropriate materials/activities nor has a plan to expand students' interests Teacher provides objective data (percentage correct, cumulative graphs for skill acquisition, DIBELS scores, DRA scores, etc.) for some goals or skill areas for some students to report and monitor progress Teacher is familiar with students' preferred items, but does not utilize them consistently or uses a limited pool based on teacher preference Teacher reviews individualized inclusion schedule and opportunities based on individual student data in order to ensure a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment as determined by individual student data Teacher can explain the core deficits of students with autism and the criteria for having an intellectual disability (1b.ME)

Effective

Teacher gathers and organizes all instructional materials based on student individualized needs and that are age appropriate. In addition, if and when students have limited skills or interests, teacher systematically plans on expanding students' interests to more age appropriate activities Teacher provides objective data (percentage correct, cumulative graphs for skill acquisition, DIBELS scores, DRA scores, etc.) for some goals or skill areas for all students to report and monitor progress Teacher reviews and documents individualized inclusion schedule and opportunities based on individual student data frequently in order to ensure a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment as determined by individual student data Teachers can show preference assessments administered or completed and plan based on these assessments (1b.E)

Highly Effective

Teacher gathers and organizes all instructional materials based on student individualized needs and that are age appropriate, including developing materials when necessary. In addition, if and when students have limited skills or interests. teacher systematically plans on expanding students' interests to more age appropriate activities Teacher provides objective data (percentage correct, cumulative graphs for skill acquisition, DIBELS scores, DRA scores, etc.) for some goals or skill areas for all students to report and monitor progress. In addition, teacher uses language and supplemental resources to effectively communicate to all team members, including parents and team who will instruct student in the future (when applicable for both transition to different grade level, community setting or work related activities). For example, teacher develops a portfolio that includes a summary of skills student has acquired, a brief video segment to show student progress and clear information related to purpose of the goals, teaching procedures, and student progress Teacher reviews and documents individualized inclusion schedule and opportunities based on individual student data frequently in order to ensure a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment as determined by individual student data. Teacher also elicits input from the student's team and parents when making decisions (1b.HE)

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Ineffective

Instruction does not take student interests into account Chosen skills are random and not developmentally sequenced Students' instructional groupings are not purposeful nor based on data Teacher expects students to follow complex behavioral chains or directives regardless of student base knowledge or competence in sub-skills Teacher does not scaffold instruction based on student need. Instruction is designed for 50% of students or less Teacher has no evidence of any classroom staff or team trainings (1e.l)

Minimally Effective

Certain types of instruction during the day are tied to student interests Teacher selects some skills based on data from assessments Activities are taught in isolated situations or groups For some tasks, teacher expects students to follow complex behavioral chains regardless of student base knowledge or competence in sub-skills Group instruction includes two or more students and data is being collected on skill acquisition during the "group" including group/choral responses, clear targets (derived from a skill sequence), and general engagement (participation data collected using time sampling) Teacher sometimes scaffolds instruction by first modeling expectations for the student, then assisting the student in task completion, and then requiring the student to perform the task with more independence Teacher informally meets with classroom staff to ensure instruction is similar across staff for an individual student (1e.ME)

Effective

The majority of instruction is directly tied to student interests by capturing and contriving motivation in order to increase frequency of correct responding The majority of skills are selected and taught consistent with performance levels on assessment tools Activities provide opportunity (or a systematic plan to teach prerequisite skills) for skill generalization across environments and people Teacher uses a task analysis to break down complex or multi-step tasks into smaller increments that can be systematically taught and modified based on student need Teacher scaffolds instruction to ensure student success by first modeling expectations for the student, then assisting the student in task completion, and slowly requiring the student to perform the task with more independence Group instruction includes two or more students and data is being collected on skill acquisition during the "group" including group/choral responses. clear targets (derived from a skill sequence), and general engagement (participation data collected using time sampling) Instructional student groups are organized thoughtfully to maximize learning, increase opportunities to respond, build on student strengths, and flexible as driven by student data (1e.E)

Highly Effective

Highly Effective

All instruction is directly tied to student interests by capturing and contriving motivation in order to increase frequency of correct responding All skills are selected and taught consistent with performance levels on assessment tools Activities provide opportunity (or a systematic plan to teach prerequisite skills) for skill generalization across environments and people Group instruction includes two or more students and data is being collected on skill acquisition during the "group" including group/choral responses, clear targets (derived from a skill sequence), and general engagement (participation data collected using time sampling). Teacher consistently and carefully aligns instruction with Pennsylvania Academic Standards Teacher scaffolds instruction to ensure student success by first modeling expectations for the student, then assisting the student in task completion, and slowly requiring the student to perform the task with more independence for all demonstrated novel tasks presented Teacher has evidence of formal training that occurs at intervals of at least every month (documentation can include a training log, lists of when staff has read manuals, or other written or graphed documents) Teacher can provide documentation of guided practice to classroom staff (1e.HE)

Domain 2:2a Environment of Respect and Rapport

Ineffective Minimally Effective Effective

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Teacher makes remarks about student problem behavior and/or deficits in front of students Classroom staff does not take student interests and motivations into account when programming (age appropriateness is never considered). For example, a high school student is seen sitting on staff's lap during lunch or has unlimited access to reinforcers regardless of behavior If student is engaging in problem behavior, teacher raises his voice and continues to raise his voice, and/or threatens punishment, until compliance is gained Teacher does not follow behavior plan written for student exhibiting problem behavior. For example, behavior plan is changed by the instructor in a way that results in the student engaging in problem behavior and thereby being ostracized by peers There are no plans to provide opportunities for independence or socialization outside of special education setting. For example, students eat in the classroom isolated from general education peers Teacher cannot produce up-to-date communication logs with parents or regular education teachers (2a.I)

Teacher generally communicates with students and students are communicating or learning to communicate on their current functional level Classroom staff uses student motivations at various times throughout the school day (age appropriateness is sometimes considered). For example, staff considers student motivation. Barney, but no systematic plan is in place to condition a more age appropriate reinforcer If student is engaging in problem behavior, teacher attempts to use a firm but neutral tone while redirecting but after a protracted period teacher raises their voice, or allows the student to escape the demand Classroom staff does not consistently follow behavior plan written for student exhibiting problem behavior Teacher sometimes plans for socialization and independent activities in other school environments. For example, students with special needs sit at a separate table at lunch. They are physically with peers but not seated among peers or have opportunity to interact with peers Teacher can produce up-to-date communication logs with parents or regular education teachers to extend the environment of respect and rapport to all individuals working for the good of children in the classroom (2a.ME)

Teacher regularly communicates with students and students are communicating or learning to communicate on their current functioning level, using an appropriate response form and based on individualized data Classroom staff uses students' motivation to guide programming (considering age appropriateness as an end goal). For example, high school student may currently have motivation for Barney but staff has plan in place for conditioning more age appropriate reinforcers If student is engaging in problem behavior, teacher uses a firm but neutral tone while redirecting and does not allow student to contact reinforcement Classroom staff consistently follows behavior plan written for student exhibiting problem behavior and keeps data on the problem behavior. Also, teacher makes changes to the behavior plan based on data Teacher meaningfully and systematically plans for independence and socialization for majority of students in all school environments as well as has data systems in place to monitor individual goals and social skills programs. For instance, students have goals for asking peers for information about topics that interest them, these skills are targeted across environments Teacher can produce up-todate communication logs with parents and regular education teachers to extend the environment of respect and rapport to all individuals working for the good of children in the classroom (2a.E)

Teacher regularly and enthusiastically communicates with students and students are actively communicating and excited about learning to communicate on their current functioning level, using the most appropriate response form based on individualized data Classroom staff always uses individualized student motivation to quide programming across all school settings (considering age appropriateness as an end goal). For example, teacher extends the environment of respect and rapport to even include visitors, and/or peers, in the classroom If student is engaging in problem behavior, teacher uses a firm but neutral tone while redirecting and does not allow student to contact reinforcement, in compliance with the student's positive behavior support plan Classroom staff consistently follows behavior plan written for student exhibiting problem behavior and keeps data on the problem behavior, makes decisions based on the data. as well as keeping data on the fidelity of implementation across staff Teacher meaningfully and systematically plans for independence and socialization for all students in all school environments as well as has data systems in place to monitor individual goals and social skills programs. For instance, students have goals for asking peers for information about topics that interest them, these skills are initially taught with peers in special education setting and then targeted across environments to assess generalization of targeted social skill Teacher can produce up-to-date communication logs with parents. regular education teachers, related service providers, outside agency supports, etc. to extend the environment of respect and rapport to all individuals working for the good of children in the classroom (2a.HE)

2c Managing Classroom Procedures

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Classroom schedule and lessons are not planned ahead of time and students and staff are unaware of classroom routines or schedule. For example, Paraprofessional asks teacher, "What would you like me to do with Tommy now?" Classroom schedule is unavailable, inaccurate, or not followed during the observation. For example, teacher is heard telling staff who to work with and what task to complete. Students are expected to transition without staff assistance regardless of ability level (2c.1)

Classroom schedule is planned for most of the school day and does not allow for flexible adjustments when necessary Classroom schedule indicates staff/student assignments, specifies instruction and is correlated with targeted programs and data systems for some students for certain parts of the day Staff assists students during some transitions to facilitate follow-through of directives given. For example, teacher says to a kindergarten student, "Johnny, go check your schedule and go where you are supposed to be", while Johnny is observed to wander and not follow through (2c.ME)

Classroom schedule is planned, yet flexible, for staff and student changes and needs. For example, if a schedule interruption occurs, there is a quick system to account for indicates staff/student assignments. specifies instruction, location of instruction and is correlated with targeted programs and data systems for all students for the majority of time periods throughout the day. For example, staff is observed to transition from one instructional session to another without being prompted by the teacher and instruction matches what is specified on the schedule Staff assists students during transitions with the minimal amount of prompts necessary to ensure success. For example, staff members take responsibility to ensure students transition successfully. Students are not expected to transition independently by checking a schedule, if not ready to do so (2c.E)

Classroom schedule is planned, yet flexible, for staff and student changes and needs. Classroom schedule is accessible and visible to all people in the classroom environment Classroom schedule indicates staff/student assignments, specifies instruction, location of instruction and is correlated with targeted programs and data systems for all students for all time periods throughout the day. For example, all staff is observed to transition from one instructional session to another without being prompted by the teacher. All instruction is individualized based on student and matches what is specified on the schedule All classroom staff takes responsibility for safe and prompt transitions for all students by providing the minimal amount of prompts necessary to ensure success (2c.HE)

Domain 3: 3a Communicating with Students

Ineffective Minimally Effective Effective Highly Effective

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Response forms for communication have not been identified according to assessment (vocal, picture exchange/selection based, AAC, sign language, writing) Students' names are never paired with reinforcement and always with instructions and tasks Teacher is delivering instruction without taking into consideration the complexity of their language in comparison to the students' specific language delay or instructional level No systematic teaching procedures (errorless teaching, direct instruction, etc.) are used to teach new skills and procedures use are not evidence based (no scientific research to support procedures used) (3a.I)

Some students have a means of communication or currently have program in place to be taught a means of communication (vocal, picture exchange/selection based, AAC, sign language, writing) based on a comprehensive developmental language assessment Sometime students' names are paired with reinforcement, not with demands Teacher delivers instruction using sporadic and inconsistent language that matches student instructional level Teacher uses some evidence based procedures however, procedures are not implemented systematically or with fidelity. (For example teacher may be using prompts; however no systematic plan in place to fade prompts.) (3a.ME)

All students have a means of communication or currently have program in place to be taught a means of communication (vocal, picture exchange/selection based. AAC. sign language, writing) based on a comprehensive developmental language assessment Most of the time students' names are paired with reinforcement, not with demands Teacher is using language that matches students' instructional level Systematic teaching procedures (errorless teaching, direct instruction, etc.) are used to teach new skills and procedures used are based on evidence (scientific research supports the procedures used) Teacher actively avoids the use of extra verbiage or extraneous information when speaking to students (3a.E)

All students have a means of communication or currently have program in place to be taught a means of communication (vocal, picture exchange/selection based, AAC, sign language, writing) based on a comprehensive developmental language assessment and frequent use of communication with response form selected is evident across all environments Students' names are always observed to be paired with reinforcement, not with demands Teacher is using language that matches students' instructional levels and teacher has clear evidence of expanding student language Systematic teaching procedures (errorless teaching, direct instruction, etc.) are used to teach new skills and procedures used are based on evidence (scientific research supports the procedures used) and conducts formative assessment and ongoing analysis to make instructional decisions in the moment (3a.HE)

3b Questioning and Discussion Techniques

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Limited to no differentiation of instruction is observed Expectation of student responding is not correlated to their instructional level, resulting in many student errors Observed instruction does not encourage active student responding Questions posed are above the students' current level of understanding, so the answers are provided by staff to students or not present at all. For example, teacher poses an open-ended guestion to a group of students that most students are unable to answer via their current response form During group instruction, no data is being collected on student responding and student responses are inconsistent or nonexistent There is no evidence of teacher using a prompt hierarchy or consistent error correction system in place for when student errors occur (3b.1)

Teacher is observed making some accommodations and modifications for groups of students, but it is not consistently observed Teacher is observed to provide some students with instruction that encourages active responding Some questions may be rapid-fire, and convergent with a single correct answer; other questions may be open-ended but without data to determine appropriateness for student level During group instruction, some students are responding to teacher instruction, however rate of responding is low/inconsistent. Teacher poses questions intermittently with little regard for students' response forms. Some students are able to answer some questions Conversational skills are not directly being taught, but when elicited, are being reinforced by staff (3b.ME)

Teacher is observed making modifications, accommodations, and differentiates instruction according to individual student needs Teacher is observed to provide students with instruction that encourages independent initiation and active responding at their appropriate instructional level across environments Questions may be rapid-fire and convergent with a single correct answer following the principles of behavioral momentum, fast-paced instruction, and teaching to fluency based on student need During group instruction, students are actively responding to a majority of teacher instruction given and provided opportunity for high rates of responding. Additionally, data is being collected on student level of responding during group Teacher is teaching prerequisite skills necessary to communicate with peers and/or formulate questions driven by a research validated language assessment Conversational skills are being taught and encouraged at students' instructional levels Students are being taught to express their wants and needs. At least 5 opportunities are provided for a chosen student within a 30 minute observation Teacher uses a prompt hierarchy and teaching procedures that prevent errors from occurring that do not include wait time longer than 4 seconds (3b.E)

In addition to the characteristics examples of "proficient." teacher is able to clearly provide a plan for students to learn more complex language skills aligned to the general education curriculum and respond to or initiate discussions involving those concepts Questions may be rapid-fire, and convergent with a single correct answer following the principles of behavioral momentum, fastpaced instruction, and teaching to fluency based on student need. Open-ended questions are individualized and based on previously mastered skills During group instruction, all students are actively responding to a majority of teacher instructions given (and if they do not actively respond, staff uses a consistent system for error correction at the individual student level). Data is being collected on student level of responding during group If basic requesting skills are secure, students are being taught to request information from peers, removal of undesired activities or higher level questioning Conversation skills are being taught and encouraged at students' instructional levels and training for the natural environment application (with peers, in general education, and or community settings) Students are engaged in allotted time for peer interactions based on individual students' instructional levels (conditioning tolerating peers in their environment, to peerto-peer manding, to advanced reciprocated social interactions) When using a Direct Instruction program, all classroom staff demonstrate consistent use of hand signals (across all staff) to elicit consistent and predictable student responding on cue and individually error correct for student errors (3b.HE)

3c Engaging Students in Learning

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Students are not consistently required to respond to questions and have very little opportunity to actively respond Students are not observed generalizing and using acquired skills in the natural environment and no time is allotted in the schedule for teaching these skills During a timed observation, students are seen looking away from the group lesson or away from the instructor more often than towards the materials or instruction Teacher says. "Yes, my students are engaged, they are quiet and happy." Teacher is working with a student but does not intersperse easy tasks with difficult tasks (e.g. only works on news skills or only has tasks the student has previously mastered with no new skills targeted) Teachers cannot provide evidence that students in their classroom are learning skills similar (or prerequisite skills necessary) to those in the general education classroom (3c.I)

Students have opportunities to respond to teacher questions at their appropriate level. For example, the teacher reads a passage to students and asks questions without regard to ability level of students Some students are observed generalizing and using acquired skills in the natural environment either across people, places or events, or time is allotted in the schedule for teaching these skills During a timed observation, some students are attending to teacher/materials and responding to directions during group instruction Most students are observed to be actively responding for some parts of the school day Teacher is working with a student but sometimes intersperses easy tasks with difficult tasks Teachers can provide evidence that some students in their classroom are learning skills similar (or prerequisite skills necessary) to those in the general education classroom (3c.ME)

All students have frequent opportunities to respond at their appropriate level. For example, during group instruction (2 or more students) individual turns are given to students' that are customized to their current acquired skill set Higher-order thinking skills are demonstrated by generalizing skills to the natural environment (across people, places, and events) as observed during specific times for skill generalization or natural environment training (NET) During a timed observation, the majority of students are attending to teacher/materials and responding to directions during group instruction. The teacher is able to individualize instruction based on student need as well as prompt students to respond after a "wait time" of no more than 5 seconds latency encouraging participation, engagement, and fluency to respond All students are observed to be actively responding for some parts of the school day Teacher is working with a student and intersperses easy tasks with difficult tasks to ensure success and provide practice of previously mastered skills Teachers can provide evidence that students in their classroom are learning skills similar (or prerequisite skills necessary) to those in the general education classroom (3c.E)

All students have frequent opportunities to respond at their appropriate level across all staff and some classmates Data systems are in place to evaluate higher-order thinking skills demonstrated by generalizing skills to the natural environment (across people, places, and events) as observed during daily planned specific times for skill generalization or natural environment training (NET) During a timed observation, the majority of students are attending to teacher/materials and responding to directions during group instruction. The teacher is able to individualize instruction based on student need as well as prompt students to respond after a "wait time" of no more than 5 seconds latency encouraging participation, engagement, and fluency to respond. Teacher takes accurate data on student engagement during group instruction, graphs the data daily and makes immediate decisions based on the data All students are observed to be actively responding for the majority of the school day Teacher is working with a student and is able to organize materials and provide instruction that consistently intersperses easy tasks with difficult tasks Teachers can provide evidence that students in their classroom are learning skills similar (or prerequisite skills necessary) to those in the general education classroom as well as provides opportunities to promote engagement with general education peers (3c.HE)

3d Using Assessment in Instruction

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For students with significant language delays, there is a lack of data collection on skill acquisition There is no set prompt hierarchy to prevent student errors from occurring Teachers have no systematic way of conducting formal or informal preferences assessments to determine what reinforcers should be used through the day During a timed observation, student receives little or no feedback on behaviors or the majority of feedback is general Teacher is not observed to use the principles of shaping to differentially reinforce student responses Cross disciplinary do not play a role in determining instructional levels in the classroom Teacher does not make adjustment to instruction despite repeated student errors and lack of acquisition (3d.1)

For students with significant language delays, teachers have a data collection system to monitor skill acquisition for some areas being targeted Teacher sometimes uses a prompt hierarchy and teaching procedures that prevent some errors from occurring Teachers use general classroom interests to choose reinforcers used during the instructional day During a timed observation, student feedback is specific, immediate, and contingent on specific targeted behavior or response 75% of the time Teacher sometimes carefully observes students' behaviors in order to use the principle of shaping to differentially reinforce approximations to a targeted behavior or response At least one cross disciplinary assessments (such as gross motor, fine motor, speech and language, articulation, activities of daily living, preference, play and social) has been used to determine instructional levels in the classroom Teacher collects weekly data and makes adjustment to instruction; however the adjustments are not correlated with the data (3d.ME)

For students with significant language delays, teacher has ongoing data collection to monitor skill acquisition as observed during daily data collection times Teacher uses a consistent prompt hierarchy and teaching procedures that prevent errors from occurring to ensure skill acquisition Teachers use informal preference assessments consistently to choose student specific reinforcers used during the instructional day Observed student feedback is specific, immediate, and contingent on specific targeted behavior or response Teacher carefully observes students' behaviors in order to use the principle of shaping to differentially reinforce successful closer approximations to a targeted behavior or response Cross disciplinary assessments (such as gross motor, fine motor, speech and language, articulation, activities of daily living, preference, play and social) are used to determine instructional levels in the classroom Teacher is observed to actively adjust instruction based on daily analysis of data. For example, teacher references a social skill curricular sequence, based on student assessment or target levels for social interactions with peers (3d.E)

For students with significant language delays, teacher has ongoing data collection to monitor skill acquisition as observed during daily data and demonstrates use of ongoing analysis using formative assessment of student responding Teacher has instructed all staff to use a consistent prompt hierarchy and teaching procedures that prevent errors from occurring and to ensure skill acquisition. Teacher holds the staff accountable to the skills they have been taught All staff use daily documented informal preference assessments consistently to choose student specific reinforcers used during the instructional day Observed student feedback is specific, immediate, and contingent on specific targeted behavior or response across all classroom staff and all students Teacher carefully and consistently observes students' behaviors in order to use the principle of shaping to differentially reinforce successful closer approximations to a targeted behavior or response. Current acceptable approximations are shared across staff working with individual students on a daily basis Comprehensive cross disciplinary assessments (such as gross motor, fine motor, speech and language, articulation, activities of daily living, preference, play and social) are used to determine instructional levels in the special education classroom, general education classroom, school, and therapy settings. For example, teacher references and provides evidence of a social skill curricular sequence which is being implemented in special education setting and in the general education setting Teacher is observed to actively adjust instruction based on daily analysis of data as well as ongoing assessment of student responding during instruction (3d.HE)

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4c Communicating with Families

Ineffective

Teacher has no evidence of communication with parents outside of progress reports, and school scheduled parent/teacher conferences There is a lack of family input in the students' educational plans (4c.l)

Minimally Effective

Teacher sporadically communicates with parents regarding individualized student needs and progress. Teacher uses a checklist with ratings of how the student performed for some parts of the day that are non-specific. Teacher uses a communication book but information is vague, general, and non-conducive to increase parent involvement. Family goals and perspectives are noted in the educational plan (4c.ME)

Effective

Parent communication and involvement are evident in the educational planning and delivery process (e.g., logs, records, or documentation) Teacher uses communication log that is brief but provides explicit information that is clear to parents and informs them at a level that allows for active parent involvement Family goals and perspectives are incorporated into the educational plan (4c.E)

Highly Effective

Teacher frequently communicates with parents regarding individualized student strengths, needs, progress, and ensures parent understanding of current programming and data Family goals and perspectives are elicited often, documented, and incorporated into all aspects of the educational plan Teacher offers after school training to parents on effective interventions to assist with follow-through in the home (4c.HE)

4f Showing Professionalism

Ineffective

Teacher refers to her student with special needs in a derogatory manner Teacher makes inappropriate offensive comments in student's presence Teacher does not take the time to review students IEP's with special education Para-professionals assigned to the classroom Teacher constantly points out the errors that Paraprofessionals are making and does not take the time to teach them the necessary skills to successfully support the students (4f.1)

Minimally Effective

Teacher takes time to review students' IEPs with Paraprofessionals assigned but does not ensure understanding and implementation (4f.ME)

Effective

Teachers are able to specifically point out strengths of staff assigned to classroom as well as provides feedback and training on areas of need Teacher completes surveys and questionnaires when asked by parents for physicians or behavioral health providers about student's current functional and educational level (4f. E)

Highly Effective

Teacher spends time outside of the school day when asked by parents to participate via phone as a member of the student's team during a meeting with behavioral health providers Teacher spends time outside of the school day to correspond via email with a home tutor about current targets as requested by parents (4f.HE)