

INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES POLICY



GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES

Instructional Practices used in the classroom will be based on quality research and evidence and address:

1. Positive Learning Culture

- an environment of respect and rapport — teacher-student and student-student
- belief in the ability of every student to learn and achieve
- dedication to the learning opportunities and support needed for each student to learn

2. Understanding of the Science of Learning

- recognition and response to individual needs, interests, and cultural heritage
- activities, lessons, and assessments are congruent with the *Kentucky Academic Standards*
- student understanding of the expectations for learning
- students are actively and intellectually engaged in learning
- teachers and students use questioning and discussion techniques
- monitoring of student learning with formative assessment and self-assessment
- feedback provided to students along with multiple opportunities to learn

3. Communication with Families

- information about the instructional program and ways to be engaged
- information about the child's strengths and areas for growth

—Characteristics are based on the Kentucky-adapted version of the *Danielson Framework for Teaching*

The three characteristics above, will be used in the following work:

- a. council, administration, and team/department **planning** of specific expectations
(See KASC's example below. It's important that the school decides the specific instructional practices expected in school.)
- b. teacher/staff **planning** and implementation of instructional practices
- c. discussions of **issues regarding instructional practices**

SPECIFIC CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

KASC strongly recommends the council works with all school shareholders to develop what everyone can expect in a classroom in your school. This serves many purposes, some of which include:

- Makes it clear what the school values
- Provides an agreed-upon list of the kind of instructional practices deemed to be most effective (this is especially important to address turnover and getting new staff up to speed)
- Gives families and students a better understanding of the learning experiences

KASC has seen this done in various ways. Two optional examples are shown below. The specifics need to match your school's priorities.

[insert school name] Instruction Guarantee
Some ideas... Student assignments will be grade appropriate
Learning experiences will be intellectually engaging
Students will have multiple opportunities to learn content

Expected Student Learning Experiences	
Weekly	Some ideas... Receive actionable feedback; Use technology in real-life ways; etc
Per nine weeks	Some ideas... Present to an audience; publish a writing piece; incorporate the performing arts; etc.
Each semester	Some ideas... Do real-life projects; connect with real-world experts in person or digitally; etc.

In addition to being based on best practices research and reflecting our school values, the *Specific Classroom Expectations for Instructional Practices* will enable our students to meet the Kentucky Learning Goals and **will not be in conflict with school board policies.**

Kentucky Learning Goals (KRS 158.6451)

(1) ...Schools shall:

(a) expect a high level of achievement of all students.

(b) develop their students' ability to:

1. Use basic communication and mathematics skills for purposes and situations they will encounter throughout their lives;
2. Apply core concepts and principles from mathematics, the sciences, the arts, the humanities, social studies, and practical living studies to situations they will encounter throughout their lives;
3. Become self-sufficient individuals of good character exhibiting the qualities of altruism, citizenship, courtesy, hard work, honesty, human worth, justice, knowledge, patriotism, respect, responsibility, and selfdiscipline;
4. Become responsible members of a family, work group, or community, including demonstrating effectiveness in community service;
5. Think and solve problems in school situations and in a variety of situations they will encounter in life;
6. Connect and integrate experiences and new knowledge from all subject matter fields with what they have previously learned and build on past learning experiences to acquire new information through various media sources; and
7. Express their creative talents and interests in visual arts, music, dance, and dramatic arts.

POLICY EVALUATION

We will evaluate this policy through our annual policy review process.

Date(s) Reviewed or Revised: