

DOMAIN 1 FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER: PLANNING AND PREPARATION				
COMPONENT	UNSATISFACTORY	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	PROFICIENT	EXCELLENT
1a Demonstrating Knowledge of Content and Pedagogy	The teacher's plans and practice demonstrate little knowledge of the content, prerequisite relationships between aspects of the content, or the instructional practices specific to that discipline.	The teacher's plans and practice demonstrate some awareness of the important concepts vs. concepts in the discipline, prerequisite relationships between them, and the instructional practices specific to that discipline.	The teacher's plans and practice demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the content, prerequisite relationships between important concepts, and the instructional practices specific to that discipline.	The teacher's plans and practice demonstrate extensive knowledge of the content and the structure of the discipline. The teacher actively builds on knowledge of prerequisites and misconceptions when describing instruction or seeking causes for student misunderstanding.
1b Demonstrating Knowledge of Students	The teacher demonstrates little or no knowledge of students' backgrounds, cultures, skills, language proficiency, interests, and special needs, and does not seek such understanding.	The teacher indicates the importance of understanding students' backgrounds, cultures, skills, language proficiency, interests, and special needs, and attains this knowledge for the class as a whole.	The teacher actively seeks knowledge of students' backgrounds, cultures, skills, language proficiency, interests, and special needs, and attains this knowledge for groups of students.	The teacher actively seeks knowledge of students' backgrounds, cultures, skills, language proficiency, interests, and special needs from a variety of sources, and attains this knowledge for individual students.
1c Setting Instructional Outcomes	Instructional outcomes are unsuitable for students, represent trivial or low-level learning, or are stated only as activities. Outcomes do not permit suitable methods of assessment.	Instructional outcomes are set but are of moderate rigor and are suitable for some students. They consist of a combination of activities and learning outcomes, some of which permit suitable methods of assessment. Outcomes reflect more than one type of learning, but the teacher makes no attempt at coordination or integration.	Instructional outcomes are clear and stated in terms of student learning rather than student activities, reflecting high level learning and curriculum standards. Outcomes are suitable for most students in the class, represent different types of learning, and can be assessed. The outcomes reflect opportunities for coordination. IEP goals align with Illinois Learning Standards or Essential Elements as appropriate.	Instructional outcomes are clear and stated in terms of student learning rather than student activities, reflecting rigorous learning and curriculum standards. Outcomes represent different types of content, offer opportunities for both coordination and integration, and take account of the needs of individual students. IEP goals align with Illinois Learning Standards or Essential Elements as appropriate.
1d Demonstrating Knowledge of Resources	The teacher demonstrates little or no familiarity with resources to enhance own knowledge, to use in teaching, or for students who need them. The teacher does not seek such knowledge.	The teacher demonstrates some familiarity with resources available through the school or district to enhance own knowledge, to use in teaching, or for students who need them. The teacher does not seek to extend such knowledge.	The teacher demonstrates full awareness of the resources available through the school or district to enhance own knowledge, to use in teaching, or for students who need them.	The teacher seeks out resources in and beyond the school or district in professional organizations, on the Internet, and in the community to enhance own knowledge, to use in teaching, and for students who need them.
1e Designing Coherent Instruction	The series of learning experiences is poorly aligned with the instructional outcomes and does not represent a coherent structure. The experiences are suitable for only some students.	The series of learning experiences demonstrates partial alignment with instructional outcomes, and some of the experiences are likely to engage students in significant learning. (The lesson or unit has a recognizable structure and reflects partial knowledge of students and resources.) Some IEP goals and services are in alignment with eligibility.	The teacher coordinates knowledge of content, of students, and of resources to design a series of learning experiences aligned to instructional outcomes and suitable for all groups of students. The lesson or unit has a clear structure and is likely to engage students in significant learning. All IEP goals and services are in alignment with eligibility.	The teacher coordinates knowledge of content, of students, and of resources, to design a series of learning experiences aligned to instructional outcomes, differentiated where appropriate to make them suitable to all students and likely to engage them in significant learning. The lesson is clear and allows for different learning pathways according to student needs with services in alignment with goals and eligibility.
1f Designing Student Assessments	The teacher's plan for assessing student learning contains no clear criteria or standards, is poorly aligned with the instructional outcomes, or is inappropriate for many students. The results of assessment have minimal impact on the design of future instruction.	The teacher's plan for student assessment is partially aligned with the instructional outcomes, without clear criteria, and inappropriate for at least some students. (The teacher intends to use assessment results to plan for future instruction for the class as a whole.)	The teacher's plan for student assessment is aligned with the instructional outcomes, uses clear criteria, and is appropriate to the needs of students. (The teacher intends to use assessment results to plan for future instruction for groups of students.) Present levels and goals of IEPs align with the data that is collected and will be progress monitored.	The teacher's plan for student assessment is fully aligned with the instructional outcomes that align with student goals, with clear criteria and standards that show evidence of student development. Assessment methodologies may have been adapted for individuals, and the teacher intends to use assessment results to plan future instruction for individual students.

DOMAIN 2 FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER: CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT				
COMPONENT	UNSATISFACTORY	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	PROFICIENT	EXCELLENT
2a Creating an Environment of Respect and Rapport	Classroom interactions between the teacher and students and or among students, are negative, inappropriate, or insensitive to students' cultural backgrounds, levels of development, or individuality, and are characterized by sarcasm, put-downs, displays of disrespect, or conflict.	Classroom interactions, both between the teacher and students and among students, are generally appropriate and free from conflict, but may be characterized by occasional displays of insensitivity or lack of responsiveness to cultural, developmental, or individual differences among students.	Classroom interactions between the teacher and students and among students are polite and respectful, reflecting general warmth and caring, and are appropriate to the cultural, developmental, or individual differences among groups of students.	Classroom interactions between the teacher and individual students are highly respectful, reflecting genuine warmth and caring and sensitivity to students' cultures, levels of development, and individuality. Students themselves ensure high levels of civility among members of the class.
2b Establishing a Culture for Learning	The classroom environment conveys a negative culture for learning, characterized by low teacher commitment to the subject, low expectations for student achievement, and little or no student pride in work.	The teacher's attempt to create a culture for learning is partially successful, with little teacher commitment to the subject, modest expectations for student achievement, and little student pride in work. Both the teacher and students appear to be only "going through the motions."	The classroom culture is characterized by high expectations for most students and genuine commitment to the subject by both teacher and students, with students demonstrating pride in their work.	High levels of student energy and teacher passion for the subject create a culture for learning in which everyone shares a belief in the importance of the subject and all students hold themselves to high standards of performance—for example, by initiating improvements to their work.
2c Managing Classroom Procedures	Much instructional time is lost because of inefficient classroom routines and procedures for transitions, handling of supplies, and performance of non-instructional duties.	Some instructional time is lost because of classroom routines and procedures for transitions, handling of supplies, and performance of non-instructional duties are only partially effective.	Little instructional time is lost because of classroom routines and procedures for transitions, handling of supplies, and performance of non-instructional duties, which occur smoothly.	Students contribute to the seamless operation of classroom routines and procedures for transitions, handling of supplies, and performance of non-instructional duties.
2d Managing Student Behavior	There is no evidence that standards of conduct have been established and little or no teacher monitoring of student behavior. Response to student misbehavior is repressive or disrespectful of student dignity.	It appears that the teacher has made an effort to establish standards of conduct for students. The teacher tries, with uneven results, to monitor student behavior and respond to student misbehavior.	Teacher is aware of student behavior, has established a clear standard of conduct, and responds to student misbehavior in ways that are appropriate and respectful of all students.	Standards of conduct are clear, with evidence of student participation in setting them. The teacher's monitoring of student behavior is subtle and preventive, and the teacher's response to student misbehavior is sensitive to individual student needs. Students take an active role in monitoring the standards of behavior.
2e Organizing Physical Space	The physical environment is unsafe, or some students don't have access to learning. Alignment between the physical arrangement and the lesson activities is poor.	The classroom is safe, and essential learning is accessible to most students; the teacher's use of physical resources is moderately effective. The teacher may attempt to modify the physical arrangement to suit learning activities, with partial success.	The classroom is safe, and learning is accessible to all students; the teacher ensures that the physical arrangement is appropriate to the learning activities.	The classroom is safe, and the physical environment ensures the learning of all students, including those with special needs. Students contribute to the use or adaptation of the physical environment to advance learning.

DOMAIN 3 FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER INSTRUCTION				
COMPONENT	UNSATISFACTORY	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	PROFICIENT	EXCELLENT
3a Communicating with Students	Expectations for learning, directions and procedures, and explanations of content are unclear or confusing to students. The teacher's use of language contains errors or is inappropriate for students' cultures or levels of development.	Expectations for learning, directions and procedures, and explanations of content are clarified after initial confusion; the teacher's use of language is correct but may not be completely appropriate for students' cultures or levels of development.	Expectations for learning, directions and procedures, and explanations of content are clear to students. Communications are appropriate for students' cultures and levels of development.	Expectations for learning, directions and procedures, and explanations of content are clear to students. The teacher's oral and written communication is clear and expressive, appropriate for students' cultures and levels of development, and anticipates possible student misconceptions.
3b Using Questioning and Discussion Techniques	The teacher's questions are low-level or inappropriate, eliciting limited student participation and recitation rather than discussion.	Some of the teacher's questions are designed to elicit a thoughtful response, but most are low-level, posed in rapid succession. The teacher's attempts to engage all students in the discussion are only partially successful.	Most of the teacher's questions are designed to elicit a thoughtful response, and the teacher allows sufficient time for students to answer. All students participate in the discussion, with the teacher stepping aside when appropriate.	Questions reflect high expectations and are culturally and developmentally appropriate. Initial questions used to frame a discussion will be planned in advance. Students formulate high-level questions as appropriate and ensure that all voices are heard.
3c Engaging Students in Learning	Activities and assignments, materials, and groupings of students are inappropriate for the instructional outcomes or students' cultures or levels of understanding, resulting in little intellectual engagement. Lesson have minimal or no structure or is poorly paced.	Activities and assignments, materials, and groupings of students are partially appropriate to the instructional outcomes or students' cultures or levels of understanding, resulting in moderate intellectual engagement. Lessons have a recognizable structure, but that structure is not fully maintained.	Activities and assignments, materials, and groupings of students are fully appropriate for the instructional outcomes and students' cultures and levels of understanding. All students are engaged in work of a high level of rigor. Lesson's structure is coherent, with appropriate pace.	Students are highly intellectually engaged in significant learning, make contributions to the activities, and are actively involved with lesson materials. Lessons are adapted as necessary to the needs of individuals, and the structure and pacing allow for student reflection and closure.
3d Using Assessment in Instruction	Assessment is minimally or not used in instruction, either through monitoring of progress by the teacher or students, or through feedback to students. Students may be unaware of the assessment criteria used to evaluate their work.	Assessment is occasionally used in instruction, through some monitoring of progress of learning by the teacher and/or students. Feedback to students is uneven, and students are aware of only some of the assessment criteria used to evaluate their work.	Assessment is regularly used in instruction, monitoring of progress of learning by the teacher and/or students, and high-quality feedback to students. Students are fully aware of the assessment criteria used to evaluate their work.	Assessment is used in a sophisticated manner in instruction, through student involvement in establishing the assessment criteria (when appropriate), self-assessment by students, monitoring of progress by both students and teacher, and high-quality feedback to students from a variety of sources.
3e Demonstrating Flexibility and Responsiveness	The teacher adheres to the instruction plan, even when a change would improve the lesson or address students' lack of interest. The teacher may brush aside student questions; when students experience difficulty, the teacher may blame the students or their home environment.	The teacher attempts to modify the lesson when needed and to respond to student questions, with moderate success. The teacher accepts responsibility for student success, but has only a limited repertoire of strategies to draw upon. The teacher waits until the annual review to adjust goals that the student is struggling to meet or has mastered.	The teacher promotes the successful learning of all students, making adjustments as needed to instruction plans, IEPs, and accommodating student questions, needs, and interests.	The teacher seizes the opportunity to enhance learning, building on a spontaneous event or student interests. The teacher ensures the success of all students, using an extensive repertoire of instructional strategies and goals that are adequately challenging.

DOMAIN 4 FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER: PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

COMPONENT	UNSATISFACTORY	BASIC	PROFICIENT	DISTINGUISHED
4a Reflecting on Teaching	The teacher does not accurately assess the effectiveness of the lesson and has no ideas about how the lesson could be improved.	The teacher provides a partially accurate and objective description of the lesson but does not cite specific evidence. The teacher makes only general suggestions as to how the lesson might be improved.	The teacher provides an accurate and objective description of the lesson, citing specific evidence. The teacher makes some specific suggestions as to how the lesson might be improved.	The teacher's reflection on the lesson is thoughtful and accurate, citing specific evidence. The teacher draws on an extensive repertoire to suggest alternative strategies and predicts the likely success of each.
4b Maintaining Accurate Records	The teacher's systems for maintaining both instructional and non-instructional records are either nonexistent or in disarray, resulting in errors and confusion.	The teacher's systems for maintaining both instructional and non-instructional records are rudimentary and only partially effective.	The teacher's systems for maintaining both instructional and non-instructional records are accurate, efficient, and effective. Including but not limited to IEP paperwork and data collection on goals.	The teacher's systems for maintaining both instructional and non-instructional records are accurate, efficient, and effective, and students contribute to its maintenance. Goals are written with a high level of accuracy and specificity.
4c Communicating with Families	The teacher's communication with families about the instructional program or about individual students is sporadic or culturally inappropriate. The teacher makes no attempt to engage families in the instructional program.	The teacher adheres to school procedures for communicating with families such as parent teacher conference, IEP meeting and progress report time and/or communications are not always appropriate to the cultures of those families.	The teacher communicates frequently with families and successfully engages them in the instructional program. Information to families about individual students is conveyed in a culturally appropriate manner.	The teacher's communication with families is frequent and sensitive to cultural traditions; students participate in the communication. The teacher successfully engages families in the instructional program and the IEP process throughout the year.
4d Participating in a Professional Community	The teacher avoids participating in a professional community or in school and district events and projects; relationships with colleagues are negative or self-serving.	The teacher becomes involved in the professional community and in school and district events and projects when specifically asked; relationships with colleagues are cordial. Collaboration with special education team and paraprofessionals is limited.	The teacher participates actively in the professional community and in school and district events and projects, and maintains positive and productive relationships with colleagues. The teacher collaborates with the special education team and provides guidance to paraprofessionals supporting students.	The teacher makes a substantial contribution to the professional community and to school and district events and projects, and assumes a leadership role among the faculty. The teacher takes the lead role to facilitate communication amongst providers, paraprofessionals, classroom teachers and parents to ensure a cohesive implementation of services.
4e Growing and Developing Professionally	The teacher does not participate in professional development activities and makes no effort to share knowledge with colleagues. The teacher is resistant to feedback from supervisors or colleagues.	The teacher participates in professional development activities that are convenient or are required, and makes limited contributions to the profession. The teacher accepts, with some reluctance, feedback from supervisors and colleagues.	The teacher seeks out opportunities for professional development based on an individual assessment of need and actively shares expertise with others. The teacher welcomes feedback from supervisors and colleagues. Including staying up to date on legal issues in the field of special education.	The teacher actively pursues professional development opportunities and initiates activities to contribute to the profession. In addition, the teacher seeks feedback from supervisors and colleagues. Including sharing with the team or department new and relevant updates to the field of special education.
4f Showing Professionalism	The teacher has little sense of ethics and professionalism and contributes to practices that are self-serving or harmful to students. The teacher fails to comply with school and district regulations and time lines.	The teacher is honest and well intentioned in serving students and contributing to decisions in the school, but the teacher's attempts to serve students are limited. The teacher displays inconsistent professional and ethical conduct or complies minimally with school and district regulations.	The teacher displays a high level of ethics and professionalism in dealings with both students and colleagues and complies fully and voluntarily with school and district regulations.	The teacher is proactive and assumes a leadership role in making sure that school practices and procedures ensure that all students, particularly those traditionally underserved, are honored in the school. The teacher displays the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct and complies fully with school and district regulations; taking a leadership role with colleagues.