

1/30/2015

To Whom It May Concern,

 Over the course of the program, Christine Mercado has made significant progress in improving her instruction. First of all, Christine has improved in the area of effectively communicating specific behavioral expectations for her students during each phase of instruction. Christine used the CHAMPS protocol to explicitly define her behavioral expectations for students during direct instruction, independent practice, and testing. She has consistently been communicating these expectations to students on a daily basis, which has improved the amount of time students are on-task, as well as reduced the need for behavioral interventions.

 Secondly, Christine has changed the layout of her classroom in order to support collaborative work. She has grouped student desks so that each student is part of a group of four. By giving students specific group tasks and roles, and encouraging them to use each other as a resource, Christine has taught her students how to work together more effectively to learn the class material. This process has taken her a while to get working, but it is clear that students now feel comfortable asking each other questions and providing help to each other.

 Finally, Christine has improved the manner in which she asks questions. For example, she makes sure to provide adequate processing time, or “wait time” after asking a question, so that all students have the opportunity to consider the answer before she calls on someone to reply. Christine also provides students with more pair-share opportunities, which allow students to process a question with the help of their neighbor before sharing with the overall class. These practices have helped her break up the direct instruction into meaningful chunks, and has noticeably encouraged all students in her classes to take risks and share potential answers with less hesitation.

 Overall, Christine has done an excellent job of being reflective in her practice and has worked diligently to improve the areas mentioned above. I am proud of her drive to improve, in spite of already having many years of experience behind her.

I look forward to seeing her continue to grow in her instructional abilities and to become a more effective teacher each and every day.

Sincerely,

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