SMSU Candidate Observational Notes Guide

Observational Notes:

Consider the New Teacher Center's Optimal Learning Environment.

Pay attention to student engagement, responsiveness to student needs, expectations, routines and transitions.

Note inclusive practices, planned supports, differentiation.

Document evidence students met objectives, checking for understanding, and feedback to students.

Actionable Feedback:

Share ideas, strategies, and resources for improving teaching practice. Teacher candidate should have clear and specific expectations for how to demonstrate growth.

Post Observation Conference:

Clarification: "Tell me more about…" Following a classroom observation the US or CT asks clarifying questions for supporting their feedback; the candidate makes clarifications.

Affirmations: "I saw…" The US or CT begins the conversation by validating good teaching practice and sharing what they saw in alignment with performance expectations.

Sharing Concerns: "I wonder…" US or CT shares concerns. "Here is what I would like to see…."

Reflection and Open Conversation: The candidate expresses what they heard from the US and CT and dictates the steps they will take to make improvements. "I could have done …. differently". The US, CT and Candidate engage in open conversation.