

The Principles of Learning and Teaching P-12

Students learn best when:

1 The learning environment is supportive and productive.

In learning environments that reflect this principle the teacher:

- 1.1 builds positive relationships through knowing and valuing each student
- 1.2 promotes a culture of value and respect for individuals and their communities
- 1.3 uses strategies that promote students' self-confidence and willingness to take risks with their learning
- 1.4 ensures each student experiences success through structured support, the valuing of effort, and recognition of their work.

2 The learning environment promotes independence, interdependence and self motivation.

In learning environments that reflect this principle the teacher:

- 2.1 encourages and supports students to take responsibility for their learning
- 2.2 uses strategies that build skills of productive collaboration.

3 Students' needs, backgrounds, perspectives and interests are reflected in the learning program.

In learning environments that reflect this principle the teacher:

- 3.1 uses strategies that are flexible and responsive to the values, needs and interests of individual students
- 3.2 uses a range of strategies that support the different ways of thinking and learning
- 3.3 builds on students' prior experiences, knowledge and skills
- 3.4 capitalises on students' experience of a technology rich world.

4 Students are challenged and supported to develop deep levels of thinking and application.

In learning environments that reflect this principle the teacher:

- 4.1 plans sequences to promote sustained learning that builds over time and emphasises connections between ideas
- 4.2 promotes substantive discussion of ideas
- 4.3 emphasises the quality of learning with high expectations of achievement
- 4.4 uses strategies that challenge and support students to question and reflect
- 4.5 uses strategies to develop investigating and problem solving skills
- 4.6 uses strategies to foster imagination and creativity.

5 Assessment practices are an integral part of teaching and learning.

In learning environments that reflect this principle the teacher:

- 5.1 designs assessment practices that reflect the full range of learning program objectives
- 5.2 ensures that students receive frequent constructive feedback that supports further learning
- 5.3 makes assessment criteria explicit
- 5.4 uses assessment practices that encourage reflection and self assessment
- 5.5 uses evidence from assessment to inform planning and teaching.

6 Learning connects strongly with communities and practice beyond the classroom.

In learning environments that reflect this principle the teacher:

- 6.1 supports students to engage with contemporary knowledge and practice
- 6.2 plans for students to interact with local and broader communities and community practices
- 6.3 uses technologies in ways that reflect professional and community practices.