

## Alabama Teacher Observation Tool – Quick Guide

Dimension		Key Terms	
<b>Culture/Climate</b>	A learning environment that is created and sustained in which each learner is cared for, is safe, has a sense of belonging, and feels secure to share their thoughts	Environment	Context in which student learning occurs within a classroom setting or learning situation
		Equitably, equity	Access to resources and support based on individual need
		Diverse thinkers	Learners that express varying ideas and insights that could be based on their backgrounds and experiences; with an environment that should foster tolerance, respect, and understanding
<b>Learning</b>	Processes established to ensure learners have opportunities to demonstrate an understanding of the content and apply that knowledge and acquisition of skills	Higher order thinking skills	Also referred to as critical thinking skills, this type of thinking is based on a concept of education reform (e.g., Bloom's Taxonomy) that pushed learners to go beyond the memorization of facts to comprehending information
<b>Essentials</b>	Core competencies demonstrated by an effective teacher, such as presence and disposition, pedagogical knowledge, content knowledge, and management of the learning environment	Resources	Assets and capacity to fulfill the needs of and support for the learning environment and each learner; generally considered as material, digital, and human resources
		Actively Engage Learners	Learning that allows students to generate knowledge or make meaning via such behaviors as clarifying, asking questions, comparing, and applying new information
<b>Agency</b>	Actions that foster learners' ability to self-direct and self-regulate their learning	Empowers	Allowing and encouraging learners to have a voice in making decisions about their learning progress and types of activities and topics that interest them
		Growth mindset	Instilling in learners the belief that they can achieve, thrive, and overcome challenges
		Self-efficacy	A learner's belief in their capacity to execute behaviors necessary to overcome challenges, "stay the course," and realize success
<b>Relationship</b>	Actions that foster healthy, positive connections between the teacher and learners	Collaboration	Learners who might or might not have the same interests, abilities, or backgrounds to focus on a common goal and work together to accomplish the goal (a goal can mean an activity or task)
		Inclusivity	Intentionally not excluding any learner from activities, tasks, discussions, etc., due to their background, ability level, and/or physical impairment