



Recommendations for Members Using the NEE

Recently, I was asked by some members about my thoughts and recommendations on what NEE indicators might be appropriate for use as we go into this new school year. The information below is for our members that use the NEE as their observation/evaluation platform.

If you are thinking about effective and meaningful observation and evaluation entering a different looking school year, you are not alone. If you are a current user of the NEE, the program has some very specific and appropriate indicators to choose that may fit your needs.

Knowing that it is quite possible that we will enter the school year in an altered state (social distancing, adjusted schedule, virtual), it behooves us to have teachers focus on instruction instead of other indicators. Not to say that *cognitive engagement* is not important, however, engagement will come if instruction is meaningful and “engaging.” Take a look below at some indicators that you may wish to use as the basis for your observations:

Indicator 2.5: ...builds on students’ prior knowledge, experiences, learning strengths and needs.

Since students are returning with weeks of instructional loss, teachers will need to focus on what skills and knowledge the student re-enters the “classroom”. What experiences, strengths, etc. So, what would that look like in the classroom or online?

Indicator 3.1: ...implements curriculum standards.

Now more than ever, we are going to have to adjust curriculum and weave in what was lost or missing from last year. It is important that we begin the school year with the understanding that we must make sure that students get current level instruction while weaving review of what was missed. If we spend weeks at the beginning of the year in review, we will lose precious current grade level material. We must use our chosen priority standards well to do this.

Indicator 4.2: ...effectively used appropriate instructional resources to enhance student learning.

Indicator 4.2b ... use of technology

Since we may not have seen the last of our “at home” venues for instruction, perhaps it may be time to focus our attention on just what teachers know and are able to in instruction in all different scenarios. We have learned that teachers need PD in effective use of Technology.

These are my thoughts and recommendations for your consideration. Since indicators are supposed to be about the growth of teachers, in my opinion, these are good samples of where we would want teachers to grow. We cannot keep doing the same things and expecting different results. Let SMCAA know if we can assist you as you move into your new school year!