

LEVEL I LICENSURE PORTFOLIO

Part I

Entry 1: Analyzing the Learning Environment	
Purpose	Candidates analyze the learning environment using knowledge of human development and individual differences to provide learning opportunities for all students.
Principles to Be Addressed	<p>Principle # 2: The educator understands how individuals learn and grow and provides learning opportunities that support intellectual, physical, social, and emotional development.</p> <p>Principle # 3: The educator understands how individuals and groups differ and creates equitable instructional opportunities that respond to the needs of all students.</p> <p>Principle # 5: The educator creates a classroom climate that encourages respect for self and others, positive social interaction and personal health and safety.</p> <p>Principle # 10: The educator understands conditions and actions, which would tend to discriminate against students on the basis of sex, race, color, creed, age, sexual orientation, disability, or national origin, and takes proactive steps to address discrimination.</p>
Required Documentation	Dated field notes
Directions	<p>Observe a classroom over time and engage in a conversation with the classroom teacher. Describe the classroom context including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demographics • number of students • variety and types of learners including abilities • physical space/room arrangement • classroom management systems (rules, homework policies, etc) • classroom structure (looped, multi-age, departmentalized, other) • types of instruction and activities • scope and sequence/standards for content area(s) (curricular maps, textbooks, etc) • resources available (technology and human resources) • students' responses to instruction • student-student interactions • student-teacher interactions • teacher-parent interactions <p>Describe the school context including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical plant • philosophy, climate, and culture

Entry 1: Analyzing the Learning Environment

Directions

- behavior management system
- connections with the community

Analyze the information gathered from your observations, research and conversation with the teacher. Discuss these relevant factors and how they affect the teaching/learning process. Include any supports and challenges that affect instruction and student learning. Within the context of your analysis consider the following questions:

- What factors in the school impact the classroom context?
- How does what you learned relate to your understanding of learning theory and human development (emotional, social, physical, and intellectual)?
- How are the needs of all students being met?
- What is conducive to student learning and what interferes?

Reflect on your experiences. Within the context of your self-reflection consider the following questions:

- How have your initial impressions of this learning environment changed or stayed the same over the period of time you have spent in the classroom?
- What have you learned about the process of creating an effective learning environment?
- As a teacher, what actions would you take to address issues of discrimination in your classroom?
- What proactive steps would you take to provide equitable learning opportunities in your classroom?
- What would be your strengths and challenges in creating such learning opportunities for all students?