

EDU 210  
Amy Williams  
2/6/2022

## What is a Teacher?

We evolve, grow, adapt and thrive through observation and demonstration. We see this in all types of life. It's ingrained into life, it's how many different forms of life evolve. How can we live without learning? Throughout human history there have been various roles that people take on. A parent teaches their children, A craftsman takes on an apprentice. Religious leaders take on scribes to write and read scriptures. It seems that those who are masters of their domain, teach others. " According to our textbook, "Teaching was not viewed not as a career, but as temporary employment". As we moved into the modern world, more education and training was needed as specetalitics and higher education was a part of modern life, and the role of teacher as a professional educator emerged. According to the Merriam Webster Dictionary, "The first known use of the word "Teacher" was in the 14th century." The definition of teacher simply is "one that *teaches especially* : one whose occupation is to instruct." By the 19th century, most teachers faced scrunninty and not ideal treatment, Thus came organizations that advocated for the voice of the teacher. Today the role of Teacher is that of a professional. We have a general global consensus of what that is, and each country, state, region, school and classroom will have different rules, regulations and understanding of that consensus. Here in our community of North Carolina,

the State Board of Education, and the Department of Public Instruction have outlined the North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards, as what is expected of a professional teacher who has obtained a teaching license. I will talk about each one and what it means

### **1)Teachers Demonstrate Leadership.**

What this means is that teachers lead students to success in their life in the 21st century, secondary education, careers, and personal development. To understand the options they have and to explore these options. Teachers will assess student progress and understanding, and adapt as needed, by assessing data, to evaluate progress and to set goals. They will establish a safe learning environment and empower students to have goals, and have strategies to achieve those goals. Teachers will collaborate with colleagues, contribute to the positive working conditions in their school and strive to improve the profession as well as advocate for positive changes in policy that impact student learning. Teachers should demonstrate high ethical standards, such as honesty, integrity, and respect for others. Teachers uphold the Code of Ethics for NC Educators, and the Standards for Professional Conduct.

## **2) Teachers Establish a Respectful Environment of a Diverse Population of Students.**

What this means is encouraging an environment that is inviting, respectful, supportive, inclusive, and flexible. Student populations are diverse, and have many types of cultural and neurodivergent backgrounds that all will have a voice in the classroom. A teacher demonstrates an understanding of the history and relevance of these different backgrounds in our current world today. They will actively select materials that counteract stereotypes and incorporate histories and contributions of all cultures, and recognize the impact this has on a child's personal development. A teacher will always expect a child to graduate high school and build and maintain positive appropriate relationships with students. A teacher will collaborate with family and specialists to collectively work together to meet the unique needs of each child, and work to overcome obstacles that stand as barriers to communication and involvement.

## **3) Teachers know the content they teach.**

Teachers are expected to teach the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, and to adapt to make the curriculum relevant to their unique student population. They should know their subject beyond the content they teach so they can spark curiosity and interest in learning.

Elementary school teachers will have broad knowledge across disciplines and middle and high

school teachers will have more specific concentrations. They also are expected to recognize the interconnectedness of how their speciality relates to others and promote global awareness. There are life skills that will be incorporated into learning, such as leadership, ethics, accountability, adaptability, personal productivity, personal responsibility, people skills, self-direction, and social responsibility. Also to demonstrate content that includes relevance to global awareness; financial, economic, business and entrepreneurial literacy; civic literacy; and health and wellness awareness.

#### **4) Teachers facilitate learning for their students**

What this means is that teachers understand how students think and learn, keep up to date on most recent research and data pertaining to learning, and adapt resources to support students accordingly. It asks that Teachers make the curriculum reflective of the cultural diversity and individual learnings needs of the student population. Teachers must use a variety of learning styles and technology in instruction. Teachers help students develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, as well as how to work in collaborations with others in group environments. Teachers continually evaluate and adapt the learning process.

#### **5) Teachers reflect on their practice**

Teachers can reflect on their practice by thinking systematically and critically about learning in their classroom, and what can be done to improve student achievement. Teachers collect and analyze student performance data to improve effectiveness. They are expected to continue their education, in both their speciality and the practice of teaching.

#### **6) Teachers Contribute to the Academic Success of Students**

Teachers must also be evaluated for effectiveness. A teacher's rating is determined by a student's growth value as calculated by the statewide growth model for educator effectiveness. This rating will be collected over a three year period to produce an average for the teachers overall effectiveness.

In conclusion, there are many expectations and well thought out approaches to teaching, many people have contributed to the practice of teaching, to work with lawmakers, communities, families, and specialists to facilitate learning that is relevant in the 21st century. Educators face many challenges, It is an always changing and ever evolving practice.