

The Observation Post-Conference

The post-conference should take place after every formal observation. Ideally, it should be held within 48 hours of an observation but not directly after an observation. Both the teacher candidate and the observer need time to process the lesson taught and reflect on its effectiveness in meeting the lesson goals and to think about next steps.

However, even though immediate feedback is not ideal, observer schedules may call for the observation post-conference to be held directly following the observation. If this is the case, the observer needs to allow the teacher candidate some quiet time at the beginning of the conference to process the lesson and note any areas where they have questions or need support from the observer.

During the conference, the candidate discusses impressions of the lesson taught, reflects on possible factors which led to lesson effectiveness or lack of effectiveness in meeting lesson goals, and uses lesson data to determine goals for moving forward.

The list of questions below can serve as a guide, however, the observer should tailor the conversation to meet the teacher candidate's needs.

- How do you feel the lesson went? Did it go as planned?
- If you were to implement this lesson again, what would you do differently and what would you repeat? Why?
- Which instructional strategies worked well during the lesson? Which didn't work out so well?
- What other strategies could you have tried during the lesson?
- Did your students reach the goals you set? How do you know?
- What did you learn about your students during this lesson?
- Were there any parts of the lesson that the students found to be very difficult or confusing? Were you able to address questions or make clarifications?
- How did your lesson closure go? Why do you feel this way?
- What will the students need to do next?
- Is there any way I can best support you in moving forward?