

**Martha Holden Jennings Foundation
Characteristics of Excellent Teaching**

Definition

Excellent teaching can be described as motivating students, leading them in “academic discovery”, managing the classroom well, and connecting concepts with personal experience.

Examples

- Emphasizes critical inquiry within a discipline
- Ensures that all students have access to a world-class, intellectually challenging curriculum
- Is modeled by the school principal as the “lead teacher”
- Arises out of and fosters intellectual curiosity
- Becomes and remains thoughtful, creative and caring
- Understands the uses and applications of data
- Promotes high expectations
- Teaches students to understand content from a global perspective

Excellent Teaching

Impact on Learners

- Plays a pivotal role in student learning/achievement
- Helps students achieve the love of learning by going deeper rather than just skimming the surface
- Encourages learners to understand and practice life-long learning
- Promotes a sense of self-satisfaction in the learner
- Makes the learner know he/she is the primary reason for teaching
- Helps learners stretch beyond their comfort level
- Uses technology as a tool to help assure learning
- Provides learners with the tools, skills & processes of learning
- Connects learning to the learner’s frame of reference

Requirements in an Educational Setting

Teachers understand student learning, respect the diversity of their students, understand their content areas(s), use varied assessments, plan and deliver effective instruction, create learning environments that promote high levels of learning, collaborate and communicate with colleagues and parents, and assume responsibility for professional growth as a member of a learning community (Excerpted from the Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession)