**Observing and Providing Feedback**

# adapted from Pennsylvania State Education Association webpage on “Mentoring Student Teachers and Pre-Student Teachers” <http://www.psea.org/general.aspx?id=8546>

**Observing the Student Teacher**

* Review the student teacher’s lesson plan prior to the lesson, possibly during a collaborative planning session.
* Determine the need for a “sign” in case your student teacher needs you to join the lesson! However, try not to step in unless necessary.
* Determine a focus for the observation (e.g. questioning strategies, attention signals, transitions). Watch both your student teacher and the students.
* As you take notes, identify strengths and suggestions for improvement. Try to limit your suggestions and provide at least one with the possibility of immediate success.

**Providing Feedback**

* Start and end on a positive note.
* During your debriefing, help the student teacher to recognize the cause/effect relationship between the teaching and the student responses. For example, “When you gave the attention signal at the beginning of the lesson, most of the students stopped talking and looked at you…”
* Use some of the following stems to guide the discussion. These stems can be used for either strengths or areas for improvement.
  + What do you think would happen if …
  + What happened when you …
  + How did you know to …
  + Tell me about …
  + When the students started the activity …
  + What did you like best about this lesson?
  + What do you want to learn more about?
* Avoid using:
  + I liked …
  + What you should have done …
  + Next time you should …
  + You lost me when …
  + If I were you …
* Determine the focus/goal for the next observation.