Effective Learning Environments Observation Tool® (eleot®)

Environment C: Supportive Learning

Why It Matters: The culture of learning in a remote classroom can have important implications for student outcomes. Aspects of classroom culture that have demonstrable effects on student achievement are student-teacher relationships, student self-concept, and the extent to which learning supports are available during instruction and application of learning (activities, assignments and tasks).

What to Understand

- Hattie (2009) found that "the most critical aspects contributed by the teacher are the quality of the teacher and the nature of teacher-student relationships." Though important, it is not sufficient that classroom interactions are positive; the focus of classroom interactions should be productive student learning.

- Dweck (2010) recommends that educators take an active role in "creating a culture of risk-taking" that emphasizes "challenge, not success". Intellectual risk-taking can occur within many contexts stemming from a variety of sources, but students must have opportunities for productive struggle appropriate to their own levels of need.

What Learners Do

- Speak and interact with peers and the teacher in constructive and meaningful ways.

- Provide support for others regarding understanding of content and expectations, as well as in accomplishing individual and/or group tasks.

- Focus attention, energy, and conversation on learning objectives, assignments, or tasks.

- Demonstrate willingness to move beyond their comfort zones to ask/answer questions or share ideas of which they are uncertain.

What Observers Do

- Take note of how students respond to the norms established, such as being on time, paying attention, and staying focused.

- Listen for comments and verbal exchanges in which students share feelings/attitudes about the remote learning environment.

- Check for ways students are challenged and supported and the role of the teacher in this process.

- Pay attention to students' comfort level for sharing an answer or idea, even if they are not sure it is correct.