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A CHECKLIST IN SCIENCE EDUCATION FOR EVALUATING STUDENT TEACHING

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Have you noticed how little some cooperating teachers let their student teachers do? If "learning is by doing," a lot of student teachers aren't learning very much. I've seen student teachers teach only one or two weeks out of nine. Student teachers and supervisors should have a common checklist of activities that they can include as part of the student teaching experience. This may help the teacher who lectures frequently to do something besides talk. The aim would be mutual improvement and increased competence.

Some teachers miss participating in the wide variety of methods a professional instructor would ordinarily use. How much one allows a student teacher to do and how much one encourages a student teacher to use a variety of equipment and methods can have a net result in the competency of the novice, and this should be the primary concern of both the education department and the supervisory instructor. The following points should be considered in evaluating the experienced teacher/student teacher interaction:

1. Objectives

Have we allowed at least four-five weeks of full-time teaching for the student teacher?

Are the objectives of this particular teaching assignment clearly stated, both for the student teacher and for the classes instructed?

2. Media

Is the student teacher encouraged to use all equipment available at the host school (charts, films, tapes, records, TV, computers, etc.)?

Does the student teacher have encouragement and opportunity to develop and use materials of his own device?

3. Methods

Did class interest and cooperation reflect the teacher's enthusiasm?

Were lessons well planned?

Were labs chosen appropriate to the instructional topics?

Was a field trip planned and successfully executed?

Were a variety of tests given?

Did tests reflect objectives and the results show satisfactory attainment?

4. Personal attitudes

Is the student teacher prompt and ready for classes each day?

Is the student teacher usually neatly dressed and courteous to both students and faculty?