THE TEACHER AND ASSESSMENT

by:
GERALDINE C. FLORES, Ed.D.
Assistant School Principal II, Balsik National High School-SHS

A teacher is a facilitator of learning and poses a never-ending challenge of producing effective teaching-learning outcomes with the learners. It is expected that there is a successful transmission of learning among his/her students. The key to find out if learners truly have learned is to conduct an assessment. The question is, how could an assessment become effective? Assessment measures not just what the students have learned but also the teacher’s strategies upon conducting it. As both students’ learning and teacher’s teaching respond to the information it provides, assessment’s primary purpose is to improve students’ knowledge and skills with proper monitoring and giving of feedbacks about their progress in order for the teacher to come up with enhanced teaching methods and strategies for the next plan. The traditional concept of education is putting emphasis on the techniques and activities of the teacher but the present trend focuses on the learners, where a student is able to satisfactorily learn from instructions in his own pace and style. Assessment is any method used to better understand the current level of proficiency of the student.

The school head as an instructional leader must provide a learning environment that makes effective teaching and maximal learning possible. There are different ways on how principals can incorporate student learning in the teacher assessment.

1. Frequent Classroom Visits- Informal visits and being visible in the classroom is important for a productive environment. It is important not just for the students but for the teachers as well and the principal determines what is actually happening in the classroom.
2. Post-Visit check in- in post observation conference, principal and teacher discuss and embrace what went well and if there’s something that needs to be improved, they brainstorm together. Best ideas come from good communication.

3. Curriculum Planning Meetings- student assessment is an integral part of the teaching and learning process and such must be thoughtfully integrated in the planning and delivery of curriculum.

4. Collaborative Data Meeting- the principal or school head assists in implementing an existing, coherent and responsive school-wide curriculum.

5. Goal Setting- Develop/adapt a research–based school program in line with assessment.

With so many tasks of a principal nowadays, he/she may be reluctant to get involved in instruction. He lets the department heads or master teachers to do the job. But it should not be the case. They must be team captains- they need to show to teachers and students that this is important to them. According to Whitaker, Principals can find a million reason not be in classrooms. But the tone it sets in a building when the principal starts to show interest in instruction is very much amazing.

Reference: