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SEEK UNDERSTANDING

GOAL: Teaching Artists garner the necessary knowledge and understanding to customize quality instruction for students, communities, and schools.

Understand the School

Teaching Artists develop an understanding of the school's resources, practices, and unique needs as they develop programs. This includes awareness regarding:

- Resources available within the school community
- Referral processes when students disclose experiences that suggest they are in need of further support or monitoring
- Organizations working in the same schools and communities who may be available to assist and/or collaborate as opportunities arise

Understand the Community

Teaching Artists seek deeper knowledge of students, families, and communities as they develop programs by:

- Grounding curriculum in what communities and students value
- Building on existing expertise, ideas, and knowledge
- Preparing for differentiated learning based on individual students in the class
- Designing intentional groupings of students to reinforce peer-to-peer learning

Understand the Students

Teaching Artists solicit regular and open communication about student needs and desires, including:

- Linguistic needs
- Individual Education Programs (IEPs)
- Ability levels
- Challenges facing individuals and communities
- Inter-student dynamics
- Specific learning needs
- Shared measures of student learning and program success