Section 3

Co-Teaching Considerations

**Time for Planning**

* + How much time do we need?
  + Where will we find the time that we need?
  + How will we use our time together?
  + What records can we keep to facilitate our planning?

**Instruction**

* + What content will we include?
  + Who plans what content?
  + How will we share teaching responsibility?
  + Who adapts the curriculum & instructional and assessment procedures for select students?
  + What are our strengths in the area of instruction & assessment?
  + How will the content of the lesson be presented – will one person teach and the other arrange & facilitate follow-up activities, or will all members share in the teaching of the lesson?
  + How will we arrange to share our expertise? How can we arrange to observe one another & practice peer coaching?
  + Do we rotate responsibilities?
  + How will we assess the effectiveness of our instruction?

**Evaluation**

* + How will we monitor students’ progress?
  + How will we assess and grade student performance?
  + Who evaluates which group of students – do co-teachers collaborate in evaluating all students’ performance, or is each co- teacher primarily responsible for evaluating a subset of students?

**Student Behavior**

* + What are our class guidelines and rules?
  + Who determines the disciplinary procedures?
  + Who carries out the disciplinary procedures & delivers the consequences?
  + How will we be consistent in dealing with behavior?
  + How will we proactively address behavior?

**Communication**

* + What types & frequency of communication do we like to have with parents?
  + How will we explain this co-teaching arrangement to parents?
  + Who will communicate with parents? Will there be shared responsibility for communication with parents of students who have identified special education or other specialized needs, or will particular members of the co-teaching team have this responsibility?
  + Which types of communication do we each like to have with students? With what frequency do we like to communicate with students?
  + Who will communicate with students?
  + How will we ensure regular communication with each other?
  + Who communicates with administrators?

**Logistics**

* + How will we explain our co-teaching arrangement to the students and convey that we are equals in the classroom?
  + How will we refer to each other in front of the students?
* How will teacher space be shared?
* How will the room be arranged?
* How is paper work completed for students identified as eligible for special education?
* How will a balance of decision-making power be maintained among co-teachers?

**Questions to Ask Yourself**

* What are my professional strengths?
* What are my co-teacher’s professional strengths?
* What personal gifts do I bring to the classroom?
* What situations do I find stressful?
* Where do I want to grow as a professional?

Adapted & modified from *A Guide to Co-Teaching: Practical Tips for Facilitating Student Learning*, by Richard A. Villa, Jacqueline S. Thousand, & Ann I. Nevin. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, 2004.