

## **Observation Guide**

Listed below are potential questions to guide your discussions during your school visits..

### **Curriculum**

- How does the culture impact the education system?
- Describe the curriculum of Sweden/Holland. How is the curriculum developed?

### **Organization**

- What is the funding structure of the school system?
- What is the organizational structure? school, local, state, national
- What is class size and are there any regulations regarding class size?
- What is the pay structure for teachers including benefits? Do teachers have tenure?
- Who makes policy decisions for their school?
- What schooling and training are necessary to become a teacher?
- When does the school year start and end?
- When are students moved to next level?
- Are primary grades multiage?
- When do students begin school?
- How do teachers and students dress?

### **Instruction**

- Do students have homework? If so, how much?
- What is the level/type of parental involvement?
- What type of assessment systems are in place? Standardized tests, etc.
- What are special education services that are provided?
- What other services are provided in the school system? Counseling? Media Specialist? Music? Gifted? P.E? Remediation? How are these services provided?
- How is diversity addressed in the classroom.

### **Administration**

- How are teachers and administrators selected for schools?
- What is the role(s) of the building administrator?
- How does one become an administrator?

These are the types of things you will want to observe for while in your lab setting.

**The type of materials being used.**

- Who published the materials?
- Who selected the materials?
- What types of materials are displayed on the walls?
- Is technology use evident?
- Is student work prominently displayed?

**Classroom Management techniques**

- Types of behavior problems.
- What are teachers doing when students need to have behavior corrected?
- Do students even need to be corrected?
- How many students are in the classroom?

**Approaches to Instructional Delivery**

- What is the method of instruction that you see?
- Hands on? Lecture?
- Student centered? Teacher centered? Etc.
- Culturally relevant pedagogy