

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

Definition

“A Professional Learning Community is an ongoing process in which educators work collaboratively in recurring cycles of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better results for the students they serve.” *Learning by Doing*, 2010, p. 11

Fundamental Assumptions

- We can make a difference: Our schools can be more effective.
- Improving our people is the key to improving our schools.
- Significant school improvement will impact teaching and learning.

3 “Big Ideas” of Being a PLC

1. Focus on Learning

We accept high levels of **learning** for **all** students as the fundamental purpose of our school and therefore are willing to examine all practices in light of their impact on learning.

2. Collaborative Culture

We can achieve our fundamental purpose of high levels of learning for all students only through the collaborative and collective effort of high performing teams,

3. Focus on Results

We assess our effectiveness on the basis of results rather than intentions. Individuals, teams, schools, and districts seek relevant data and information and use that information to promote continuous improvement in student achievement and teaching practice.

Four Key Questions

- What is it we expect our students to learn?
- How will we know when they have learned it?
- How will we respond when they don't learn?
- How will we respond when they already know it?