

Wichita Public Schools

PLC Best Practices

Professional Learning Communities (PLC) are a structure or framework that supports the development of a learning organization that results in collaborative application of the district's curriculum, instruction and assessments.

Framework

- The core intent of this time is to improve teaching and learning with an explicit focus on students using the following four questions:
 - 1) What do we expect students to learn?
Curriculum, academic goals, etc.
 - 2) How will we know students have learned?
Monitoring, data analysis and use, etc.
 - 3) How will we respond when students do not learn?
Intervention, adjustment, etc.
 - 4) How will we respond when students do learn?
Rigor, enrichment
- Individual planning of lessons, grading papers, and other similar individual tasks shall not be undertaken during PLC time.
- Building leadership teams, representative of the entire staff, will collaborate to provide general direction for PLC based on building priorities and feedback from building staff.
- The make-up of PLC Teams should include the following structures:
 - Cross curricular
 - Curriculum area
 - Grade level
 - Vertical
- All teachers, administrators and paraeducators will participate in PLCs in a professional manner.
- Start date is August 26, 2009. PLCs will be held every Wednesday beginning 40 minutes prior to the beginning of the teacher work day with the following exceptions:
 - PT Conference week in both Fall and Spring
 - January 6, 2010 - start of second semester

Agenda

- PLCs will determine their own agenda based on one of the four questions and the general direction provided by the building leadership teams.

Accountability

- Accountability reports for PLC sessions can be electronic or paper, should be brief, and should not result in additional work outside PLC time
- Use of data must support PLC work.