

Common PLC Concepts and Terms

Collaborative Culture:

- **PLC Teams:** Educators committed to working collaboratively and interdependently to improve student achievement.
- **Collaboration:** A systematic process in which people work together, interdependently, to analyze and impact professional practice in order to improve student achievement, for which members are held mutually accountable.
- **Team Norms:** Guidelines developed by team members to increase team productivity and effectiveness, ensure all members have opportunity to contribute and keep dialogue open and respectful.
- **Team Roles:** Roles assigned to team members to share the workload fairly and equitably and to ensure that PLC meetings are productive and effective.

Focus on Learning:

- **Critical Questions:**
 - What knowledge and skills do we expect our students to learn?
 - How will we know if our students have learned expected outcomes?
 - How will we respond, individually and collectively, when our students have difficulty learning expected outcomes?
 - How will we respond, individually and collectively, when our students have already learned expected outcomes?
 - How can we use the evidence of student learning to inform and improve our practice?
- **Power Standards:** The knowledge and skills that are essential in preparing students for the next level in school, life, and on the State assessments.
- **SMART Goals:** Goals that are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Results-oriented, and Timebound.
- **Common Pacing:** Teachers have agreed to devote a certain amount of instructional time to specific content.
- **Systematic Intervention:** A schoolwide plan that ensures every student will receive additional time and support as soon as he or she experiences difficulty in acquiring essential knowledge and skills.

Focus on Results:

- **Formative Assessment:** An assessment is formative when all of the following occur:
 - The assessment is used to identify students who are experiencing difficulty
 - Those students are provided additional time and support to acquire the skill
 - The students are given another opportunity to demonstrate their learning
- **Summative Assessment:** Assessments designed to provide a final measure (proficient/not proficient).
- **Common Assessment:** Student learning will be assessed using the same instrument or process and according to the same criteria.