



# St. Johns Unified School District Programs and Methods Professional Learning Communities

## Professional Learning Communities

A **professional learning community**, or *PLC*, is a group of educators that meets regularly, shares expertise, and works collaboratively to improve teaching skills and the academic performance of students.



The PLC model explained by the father of learning communities, Rick DuFour.

“The Professional Learning Community at Work (PLC) model offers a systems approach to school improvement. Teachers are organized into grade level, course specific, or interdisciplinary collaborative teams in which educators *work interdependently to achieve common goals for which members are mutually accountable*. A process is put in place to ensure teams clarify the essential learnings for each course, grade level, and unit of instruction; establish consistent pacing; create frequent common assessments to monitor



professional development  
collaborative culture  
effective instruction  
consistent curriculum

student learning, and agree on the criteria they will use to judge the quality of student work. Each team then uses the evidence of student learning to identify individual students who need additional time and support, to discover problematic areas of the curriculum that require the attention of the team, and to help each member become aware of his or her instructional strengths and weaknesses.”

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In our District the PLC model is used primarily in grades k-8. Teachers meet weekly, usually on Friday during early release time but they often meet during their prep period or other times as needed.

Teachers coordinate the teaching sequence of curriculum, plan and design common, grade-level assessments and share class-level assessment outcomes. Teaching methods and ideas are shared and plans for re-teaching are addressed as needed.

[http://www.washougal.k12.wa.us/teach\\_learn/images/plc\\_article.pdf](http://www.washougal.k12.wa.us/teach_learn/images/plc_article.pdf)