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# Building Sustainable Special Education Professional Learning Communities

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Developed by the IESE Network in Partnership with ISBE and OSEP

The contents of this power point were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #MY21533. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer, Jennifer Coffey.

# IESE Network Grant Objectives:

- To enhance the effectiveness of staff who support students with disabilities through **research-based professional development**.
- To deliver mentoring to increase the **retention of early career special education teachers** to address the Illinois special education teacher shortage.
- To increase the **engagement of families** as partners in the educational process and decision making.
- To deliver professional learning and technical assistance to build **seamless and sustainable delivery systems** for specialized populations of learners.

# Introductions

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# Agenda

- Participant Introductions
- Why PLCs?
- Setting Up
- PLC Organization
- PLC Follow Up

# Outcomes

To better understand how PLCs can be used in conjunction with mentoring and induction programs.

To gain knowledge on ways in which to organize PLCs.

To discuss how PLCs are currently used in your district, and how you might use PLCs.

# What is a PLC?

In your district or school how do you define PLC?

How do you utilize PLC in your schools?

# Why Professional Learning Communities?

- PLCs allow educators opportunities to directly improve teaching and learning. ...
- PLCs build stronger relationships between team members. ...
- PLCs help teachers stay on top of new research and emerging technology tools for the classroom. ...
- PLCs help teachers reflect on ideas.
- PLC members are able to create an environment of competence and confidence, developed through support of their principal and other facilitators, which enables them to make important and reasoned decisions about their work for their students.

(Serviss, 2021)

# Initial Set-Up

- Teacher Lists
- Needs Assessment
  - Scheduling
  - Topics





# Our PLCs

- Monthly
- Quarterly
- Smaller Groups
- Coffee and Conversation



# PLC Follow Up

- [Resources](#)
- [Mentoring Conversations](#)
- [Coaching](#)
- Larger Group/District Connections



## Your Turn

How can you transform what you are currently doing to create more effective and efficient spaces for teachers?



# References

Serviss, J. (2021, May 13). *4 benefits of an active professional learning community*. ISTE. Retrieved February 17, 2022, from <https://www.iste.org/explore/professional-development/4-benefits-active-professional-learning-community>