Building Sustainable Special Education Professional Learning Communities

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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

Melinda Miethe, Area 4 Program Advisor



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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.



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
- <u>Needs Assessment</u>
 - Scheduling
 - Topics



Our PLCs

- <u>Monthly</u>
- Quarterly
- Smaller Groups
- <u>Coffee and Conversation</u>



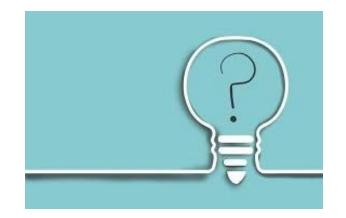
PLC Follow Up

- <u>Resources</u>
- Mentoring Conversations
- <u>Coaching</u>
- Larger Group/District Connections





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





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-profes sional-learning-community