

Professional Learning Communities Provide Academic Success at Wayland Union Schools

Wayland Union Schools is able to provide high quality educational programming to students because of all the work our teaching staff does within Professional Learning Communities, or PLCs. Much of this work takes place during our professional development days or during a series of one-hour PLC meetings before or after school. The teaching staff of each school is divided into PLCs based on grade level, similar academic subjects, or other initiatives.

Productive collaboration is a key to success for most organizations—including WUS. PLC team members combine their strengths and skills to bring out the best in everyone and everything for the success of our students. Curriculum improvements, instructional approaches, behavioral management efforts, data analysis, and overall evaluation are just a few of the many things going on during PLC team meetings. Specifically, PLC teams center their work on four guiding questions:

1. What is it that we want our students to learn?
2. How will we know if our students are learning?
3. How will we respond when students do not learn?
4. How will we enrich and extend the learning for students who are proficient?

Additionally, the focus on results leads each PLC team to develop and pursue measurable improvement goals that are aligned to school and district goals for learning. Professional Learning Communities provide our district with a model for continual improvement and help fulfill our district vision and mission for all students.