

“A Professional Learning Community (PLC) is educators committed to working collaboratively in ongoing processes of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better results for the students they serve. PLCs operate under the assumption that the key to improved learning for students is continuous, job-embedded learning for educators.” -taken from Solution Tree A Big Picture Look at Professional Learning Communities

In the Petal School District, our mission is to empower all students. We believe that Professional Learning Communities are so important in helping us accomplish this mission that this time for teachers to learn from one another and to focus on student learning is a cornerstone for our district. We believe that teachers working collaboratively on common goals can impact their individual classrooms and lead to better results for their school. Team members work together to establish what students should learn and then monitor student progress towards that goal. Adjustments can then be made to the instructional plan based on how students respond and perform. By focusing on continuous student improvement and assessing our progress by results rather than intentions, we believe that teachers grow as educators and refine their instructional toolbox and that all students are afforded the opportunity to an excellent education.

To accomplish the shared goals, teachers working in community must focus their time and energy on the right things. Therefore, four questions guide the work of each Professional Learning Community:

1. What do we want our students to learn?
2. How will we know if/when each student has learned it?
3. How will we respond when a student doesn't learn it?
4. How can we extend and enrich the learning for each student who has already demonstrated proficiency?