Articles on Professional Learning Communities

Getting Started

- **Building a Professional Learning Community**  

- **Can Star Teachers Create Learning Communities**  

- **Co-developers: Partners in a study of professional learning communities**  

- **Community: Caution--Teams at work**  

- **Community: Getting Everyone to Buy In**  

- **Community: How to Launch a Community**  

- **Creating a professional learning community: Cottonwood Creek School**  

- **Developing a Substantive Professional Learning Community**  

- **Educators Must Accept the Challenge to be Professional**  

- **From Closets to Community: Our PLC Saga**  

- **How We Formed Our Community**  

- **Issues in Restructuring Schools**  

- **Launching Professional Learning Communities: Beginning Actions**  

- **Leading Edge: Bring the Whole Staff on Board**  

- **Leading Edge: Culture Shift Doesn't Occur Overnight-Or Without Conflict**  

- **Leading Edge: One Clear Voice Is Needed in the Din**  
• **Leading Edge: Procrastination Can Sink Even the Best School Improvement Plan: A Few Simple Strategies Can Help Get Those Projects Moving Forward**

• **Leading in Professional Learning Communities**

• **Moving Toward the School as a Learning Community**

• **Multiple mirrors: Reflections on the creation of professional learning communities**

• **Professional Learning Communities Impact Student Success**

• **Professional learning communities: What are they and why are they important**

• **Promises kept -- Collective commitments to students become a catalyst for improved professional practice**

• **Pyramid Program Offers Hope, Help**

• **Restructuring Is Not Enough**

• **Schools as learning communities: Learning-centered schools grow from strong cultures**

• **Seeing with New Eyes**

• **Teaching approach pools instructors' skills, ideas to help students**

• **The Elements of a Professional Learning Community**

• **The Power of Professional Learning Communities**
• **The Role of Conversation, Contention, and Commitment in a Professional Learning Community**

• **The Three Stories of Education Reform**

• **Triad Journaling: A tool for creating professional learning communities**

• **What Is a Professional Learning Community?**

Teamwork/Collaboration

• **One step at a time: Many professional learning teams pass through these 7 stages**

• **'Collaboration Lite’ Puts Student Achievement on a Starvation Diet**

• **Autonomy: In the Midst of Community, There's Room for the Individual**

• **Can Collaboration be Taught**

• **Finding time for teams: Student achievement grows as district support boosts collaboration**

• **Four places to dig deep to find more time for teacher collaboration**

• **In the Real World: PLC--It's Not About "My Classroom"**

• **In the right context**

• **Learning Teams-When teachers work together, knowledge and rapport grow**

• **Learning with Blogs and Wikis**

• **Making Small Groups Productive**

• **Making Time for Collaboration. Adapted from Learning by Doing: A Professional Learning Community at work**

- **Professional Learning Communities: Exploring the power of teamwork**

- **Shared Vision, Team Learning, and Professional Learning Communities**

- **Striving for Success: Teacher Perspectives of a Vertical Team Initiative**

- **Teacher Collaboration in Raising Student Achievement**

- **Teachers Working Together to Improve Instruction**

- **Working Smarter by Working Together**

**Assessment**

- **Assessing a school staff as a community of professional learners.**

- **Assessing and Reporting Progress Through Student-Led Portfolio Conferences**

- **Assessment Crisis: The Absence Of Assessment FOR Learning**

- **Assessment without victims: An interview with Rick Stiggins**
  Sparks, Dennis (1999). Journal of Staff Development. 20(2).

- **Assessment, Student Confidence, and School Success**
• **Enhancing Student Learning: Create profound achievement gains through formative assessments**  

• **Formative and Summative Assessments in the Classroom**  

• **Helping Students Understand Assessment**  

• **Inside the Black Box: Raising Standards Through Classroom Assessment**  

• **Matching Classroom with Common Assessments**  

• **Research Matters/Challenges of Value-Added Assessment. Assessment to Promote Learning:**  

• **Skill Shop: Beyond pencil and paper. Today's needs assessment must be customized, informal, and repetitive**  

• **Teams**  

• **Teamwork on Assessments Creates Powerful Professional Development**  

• **The age of our accountability: Evaluation must become an integral part of staff development**  

• **Transforming Student Assessment**  

• **Up and away: The formula is well-known, now we need to follow it.**  
  Schmoker, Mike (2002). Journal of Staff Development. 23(2).

• **What a difference a word makes: Assessment FOR learning rather than assessment OF learning helps students succeed**  
• "Breakfast with a Purpose for School Administrators"

• A shift in school culture: Collective commitments focus on change that benefits student learning

• A Steadily Flowing Stream of Information

• A story of five superintendents trying to transform the organizational culture

• Analysis of the Influence of Principal-Teacher Relationships on Student Academic Achievement: A National Focus

• Art Education and the Effective Schools Research: Practical Strategies for Including Art in School Improvement Efforts.

• Ask for More, but Focus on Doing Better with What's at Hand.

• Beyond Instructional Leadership: The Learning-Centered Principal

• Building Educational Professionals

• Central-Office Support for Learning Communities

• Challenging Role-Playing the Part of the Principal Stretches One's Talents

• Clear Connections

• Community: Change That Counts.

• Community: Data Put a Face on Shared Vision

• Community: That's Our Mission?

• Daily Mentoring: The Fast Track to Strong Teaching Skills

• Data Delivers a Wake-up Call
• *Do We Believe They Can Learn?*

• *Don't Ask, Don't Tell About the A.C.T.*

• *Effective Instructional Leadership: How to CRAFT Meaningful Evaluations for Administrators and Educators*

• *Engaging Reluctant Learners At ALL Levels: The Tripod Project*

• *Faculty Learning Communities and Teaching Portfolios as a Mentoring Model*

• *Functioning as Learning Communities Enables Schools to Focus on Student Achievement*

• *How Deep Is Your Support System*

• *How the Best Gets Better*

• *If We are to Call Ourselves Professionals, We Are Obligated to Use the Best Practices. Anything Less Is Unacceptable*

• *Improving Relationships Within the Schoolhouse*

• *In Praise of Top-Down Leadership*

• *Keep the leadership pipeline flowing: Districts can adopt these 5 strategies to streamline succession planning*

• *Leadership Development: The Critical Element in Sustaining the Cultural Changes of a Professional Learning Community*

• *Leadership is a Beach*

• *Leadership Is an Affair of the Heart*

• *Leading Edge: How to Get the Best Return on the Minute*
- **Linking Research and Practice: The Consumer Validation Approach**  

- **Looking Outside**  

- **Make the Words of Mission Statements Come to Life**  

- **Needed: Curriculum and Instruction for a Culturally Pluralistic Society.**  

- **Peter Senge on Organizational Learning**  

- **Principals and teachers: Continuous learners**  

- **Principles of Leadership-Good Principals Know all Children can Learn and Grow**  

- **Professional learning communities and the eight-year study**  

- **Professional Learning Communities and the Positive Effects on Student Achievement: A National Agenda for School Improvement.**  

- **Professional Learning Communities, Leadership, and Student Learning**  

- **Professional Learning Communities: A Bandwagon, an Idea Worth Considering, or Our Best Hope for High Levels of Learning?**  

- **Professional learning communities: Communities of continuous inquiry and improvement**  

- **Professional Learning Communities: Guidance for High School Principals**  

- **Professional Learning Communities: Reigniting Passion and Purpose**  

- **Professional learning communities: An ongoing exploration**  
- **Pull Out Negativity by Its Roots**

- **Reality Check: Clarify Your Current Reality with an Audit of PLC Practices.**

- **Schools as Learning Communities**

- **Seven Practices for Effective Learning**

- **Shaping the Workday**

- **Taking on Loneliness**

- **Teacher Perceptions of Dissemination of Research on Teaching Findings**

- **The best staff development is in the workplace, not in a workshop**

- **The Flywheel Effect**

- **The Parable of the Blind Squirrel**

- **The Primacy of Superintendent Leadership**

- **The Principal as Staff Developer**

- **The Teacher Education Alliance for Metro: An Alternative Approach to Student Teaching**

- **Tipping Point**

- **What drives your school improvement efforts — evidence of best practice or the pursuit of universal buy-in?**

- **What Might Be: Open the Door to a Better Future**

- **Why Celebrate? It Sends a Vivid Message About What Is Valued.**
• **Why Look Elsewhere?: Improving Schools From Within**  

• **Why Teach? If You Believe We Must Have an Educated Citizenry...**  

• **You Won't Find This on Any Checklist**  

In the News

• "**Aldine Independent School District Again Named Finalist for $1 Million Broad Prize; One of Top Districts in Country for Student Gains**"  

• "**Pioneer Middle School sets the bar high.**"  