

## PLCs and the Common Core: Putting Data to Work in Delaware Webinar Fact Sheet

March 13, 2013

### Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

- **Definition:** Delaware defines a PLC as a group of collaborative educators that meet for a minimum of 90 minutes per week in either 2 45-minute sessions or 1 90-minute session.
- **Composition:** The makeup of PLCs is determined at the local level by the district or school. PLCs are scheduled by content, grade level, common focus (Rtl team, 9<sup>th</sup> grade Academy, etc.), or in some cases, they include those teachers and leaders that are available at that given time in their schedule.
- **Training:** Most of the schools have adopted and participated in the DuFour's model of PLCs or a similar model. Educators were provided the opportunity to participate in two separate state-wide trainings in PLCs prior to the project launch. Training was provided by the Solution Tree organization affiliated with Rebecca and Richard DuFour.
- **Coaches:** The PLC facilitators include both Wireless Generation Data Coaches and School Coaches trained by Wireless Generation Data Coaches. They use a coaching style of facilitation, rather than the typical stand and deliver (or sit and get) model. This builds the collaborative culture with the group.
- **Scheduling:** The scheduling of collaborative time for teachers and leaders is always a challenge and the DDOE continues to provide technical assistance in this area. The primary assistance requested is training and modeling of effective master schedules for K-12 schools.
- **Next Steps:** DE schools will continue with the 90 minute weekly PLCs and these sessions will provide the vehicle for deeper implementation of the Common Core, as well as an opportunity to continue to provide ongoing, embedded professional learning for educators. The next year will focus on the evaluation and efficacy of that professional learning. Delaware is following Thomas Guskey's model for evaluation of professional development in this work.
- **Related Resources:**
  - PLCs at Work: <http://www.solution-tree.com/plc-at-work>
  - DE educators respond to PLCs and Data Coaching in the first year of implementation: <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/news/2012/1001.shtml>
  - Thomas Guskey's 5 Levels of Professional Development Evaluation: <http://www.educationminnesota.org/en/professional-development/tall/5levels.aspx>

## Common Core State Standards

Delaware has increased the support and technical assistance to LEAs in implementing the common core.

- Each school district or charter school that has signed on to the “Common Ground for the Common Core” will participate in intensive professional learning for their guiding teams.
- Each participating school was to identify a team of administrators, leaders, teachers to participate in the professional learning over the course of the next year 2013-2014, starting with a workshop this weekend.

## Additional Questions and Resources

If your questions are not answered in the webinar, please check out the following resources, and feel free to connect with the presenters.

For more information on CCSS implementation in Delaware, please visit <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/commoncore>

For more information on Wireless Generation data coaching, call us at 1-800-823-1969, ext. 1 or visit our website: [www.wirelessgeneration.com](http://www.wirelessgeneration.com).