

Let's hear more from our teachers:

"We know that no one teacher can do on their own, what can be done together. As a team we have 5 strong minds working together to help each and every student be successful. I think it is important to remember, also, that as an individual teacher I can reach 20-30 students a year, but as a team that works together we can reach 100-150 students a year. As a team we will always have someone to help us when we struggle, someone to support us in our growth, and someone who will inspire us to do more." 3rd Grade Teacher

"This gives us the opportunity to share strategy, use other building's equipment, and learn about what other teachers are accomplishing throughout the district. I have seen myself, my team, and the other PE teachers grow as professionals more in the last year than the rest of my time with NSSD combined. I can't say enough about PLCs." Middle School Teacher

Professional Learning Communities/Late Starts

What do PLCs mean to your child?

"We have been able to develop a K-12 infrastructure for a curriculum guide, for health curriculum mandated by the state to be taught from the kindergarten level through graduation. Having time to coordinate this instructional requirement has been critical to consistent instructional content and delivery to our students." High School Teacher

"The work we have done in our PLC's this year has not only had a positive effect on student learning but it has empowered us to work together and to achieve common goals. The learning is more focused and our teaching has become better. I am looking forward to continuing our work in helping our students to reach their highest learning potential." 3rd Grade Teacher



A word from our Associate Superintendent

During the past two years, I have facilitated the implementation of a theory of practice in our district called Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Last spring, I met with several parent groups and made several presentations to the school board requesting additional time for our staff to fully engage in the practices of a PLC. The Board and our parent groups supported the continuation of this work by the implementation of Late Starts this school year. I thank all of the families in our district for the adjustments you have made to your Monday schedules to enable us to increase your students' learning and for the opportunity given for professional growth experienced by our teachers.

Dave Bolin
Associate Superintendent
North Sanitiam School District



Professional Learning Community Teams

PLC teams help to establish a philosophy that all teachers are concerned about the success of every student in their school.

PLC teams are committed to success and strive to obtain professional growth and improve student learning as evidenced by routine assessments.

PLC teams develop assessments to enhance students' mastery of skills.

PLC teams analyze student assessment data to develop specific action plans for students in each classroom and determine whether students are reaching learning goals.

PLC teams work together to create a timeline of teaching standards, learning goals and intervention and extension activities to ensure students transition from grade level to grade level with all the necessary skills.

We believe it works because...

The district's reading and math scale scores, often referred to as RIT scores, equal the average number of points scored on the OAKS (Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills). The district's reading and math scores for the 2012-13 year indicate that 80% of all grade levels performed higher than 2011-2012.

Straight from the Teachers

"It's nice to have an hour of uninterrupted time where we can dive deeper into what we are working on." 2nd Grade Teacher

"As a new teacher having a PLC team is helping me to really intensely learn the standards and learn how to integrate them into my teaching." 3rd Grade Teacher

"Having a PLC team has increased collaboration and team work. It has helped us have a more positive environment that has been passed on to the kids." 2nd Grade Teacher

"It gives us time to discuss and plan ideas using multiple ideas. It also gives us time to use data to guide our planning and instruction." Consensus quote from lunch discussion.

"The time spent collaborating with fellow teachers has paid dividends in student learning and success. We have been sharing ideas, activities, and assessments that improve our ability to teach." High School Teacher

"In our PLC, we now have time to discuss common concerns, and common goals for our students. It makes teaching much more effective, and allows us to look at student progress as a group, and make adjustments in the classroom to better meet their needs." High School Teacher