



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORTHEAST ELEMENTARY RECOGNIZED AS A MODEL PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY AT WORK®

One of About 200 Schools and Districts in the US and Canada to Receive This Honor

Parker, Colorado, December 1, 2022—Northeast Elementary was recently recognized by Solution Tree for its sustained success in raising student achievement. The school’s successful implementation of the Professional Learning Communities at Work® process was a major contributing factor in the improved achievement of its students.

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) are schools and districts in which educators recognize the key to improved learning for students is on-going, job-embedded learning for the adults who serve those students. The three big ideas of a PLC call upon educators to:

1. Focus on learning.
2. Build a collaborative culture.
3. Create a results orientation.

Responding to news of the recognition, Principal Kara Tidemann said, “We are honored to receive this distinction. Our team’s commitment to functioning as a professional learning community has improved our ability to serve and support the success of our learners.”

Over the last three and a half years, Northeast has committed to these three concepts and redesigned how it functions as collaborative teams. This included clearly defining collective commitments as a team, identifying what students must know and be able to do at each grade level, developing a Tier 1 and 2 Intervention protocol and redesigning the school’s master schedule to build in a dedicated 50-minute EAGLE (enhancing academic grade-level essentials) time to support intervention and extension at each grade level, without creating an overlap for the school’s learning specialists and interventionist.

Schools are recognized based on strict criteria, including demonstration of a commitment to PLC concepts, implementation of these concepts for at least three years, and clear evidence of improved student learning over that period. Once measurable results can be seen, the school must explain its practices, structures, and culture and submit its application for consideration by the PLC Review Committee.

According to the Champions of PLC at Work®, educators in the schools and districts selected for this recognition have shown “a sustained commitment to helping all of their students achieve at high levels. They have been willing to alter the structure and culture of the organization to reflect their commitment. We applaud them and congratulate them for achieving this very significant milestone on the never-ending PLC journey.”

“The positive impact of this work on our school culture can not be overstated,” said Tidemann. “Early on in this initiative

we adopted the hashtag, WE>ME. This collaborative effort has deepened the connection across our entire staff. Staff report seeing the power of functioning this way to support student learning transfer in the data they are seeing across their grade level. They often wonder aloud how they ever served in the role of educator prior to our work to develop into a high functioning professional learning community. Our collective commitment to this work helps support our students' learning at high levels and provides a system and structure that ensures this.”

Recognized model PLC schools are listed on allthingsplc.info, where they share implementation strategies, structures, and performance with other educators interested in improving their schools. Tools for team collaboration, articles and research about PLCs, blog posts, and other related resources are also available on the site. The site was developed and is maintained by Solution Tree, a leading provider of educational strategies and tools that improve staff and student performance. For more than 20 years, Solution Tree resources have helped K–12 teachers and administrators create schools where all children succeed.

###

For more information, please contact:

Ann Hriso, Backup Public Information Officer

Douglas County School District

720-215-2709

ahriso2@dcsdk12.org

